THE BRIGHT BEES OF TOUPAN-By James Branch Cabell

One of the Evening Public Ledger's New Short Stories in the Series of Unpublished Fiction by the Best American Writers of the Day

MIRAMON LLUAGOR had very that live, were spoken to quite can-He was, as they say, now blessed everybody concerned. with more than any reasonable person would ask for, and the most clamant of these superfluities appeared to him to be his wife.

signed the dreams for sleep.

His taste was for the richly re- wizard at a price. the wizard to keep peace, at least in are you cluttering up the house now?" the intervals between his wife's more mordantly loquacious mo- are the bees of Toupan, a treasure bements, would design such dreams as as other bees, for theirs is the appear-Gisele preferred. But he knew that ance of shining ice, and they crawl these dreams did not express the fretfully, as they have crawled since small thoughts and fancies which Toupan's downfall, about this cross of harbored in the heart of Miramon black stone-Lluagor, and which would perish evade carnivorous time. And Mira-



If James Branch Cabell had If James Branch Cabell had written nothing else, as the author of "Jurgen" he would have a unique place in American letters. The book has the distinction of having been suppressed in this country. There is an English edition that has reached these shores. They were very enthusiastic over it in very enthusiastic over it in England, But Mr. Cabell's other books are an additional reason for his high place in American literature.

Probably no other would have treated the very intricate subject of marriage in the perfectly delightful fairy-tale style of "The Bright Bees of Toupan." After all should of Toupan." After all should artists marry? We leave it to you-and Mr. Cabell.

mon hungered for the lost freedom

of his bachelorhood.

His wife also was discontent, be cause the ways of the Leshy ap-

SHE was irritated by the mere sight of Flamberge. So her thinking was not of silk and honey when, after pol-They tell how Miramon was one of ishing the sword as was her usage the Leshy, born of a people that was upon Thursday morning, she came into meither human nor immortal, telling Miramon's ivory tower to hang the how his home was builded upon the weapon in its right place. With Mirasummit of the mountain called mon sat that sleek person whom men Vraidex. Here in the old days called Ninzian. It was not known to dwelt Miramon Lluagor, at a dis- all of Ninzian's friends that he was creet remove from the prudishness an evil spirit who had come out of the Bottomless Pit to work iniquity, but of men and the disreputable amours Miramon Llungor knew this and, thereof the High Gods, living retiredly in fore, he made appropriate use of the his Doubtful Palace; wherein, as demon and, indeed, upon this very they report also, this wizard de- afternoon the two were looking at that which Ninzian had procured for the

mantic. But his wife Gisele had "Good-day to you," Sir Ninzian," quite other notions, a whole set of says Madame Gisele, politely enough. notions, and her philosophy was that And then she spoke, in a different tone, of belligerent individualism. And to Miramon Lluagor, "And with what

"Ah, wife." replies Miramon, "these yond word or thinking. They are not

"That is a very likely story for you with the falling of his doom unless to be telling me, who can see that the he wrought these fancies into disgusting creatures have wings to fly dreams that, being fleshless, might away with whenever they want to. And besides, who in the world is Toupan?"

> and it is wiser not to speak of him. Let it suffice that he made all things as they were. Then Koshchet took the power from Toupan and made all things as they are. Yet three of Toupan's servitors endure upon earth, where they who were once lords of the Vendish have now no power remaining save to creep humbly as insects: the use of their wings is denied them, the charmed stone holds them immutably. Oho, but, (wife, there is a cantrap which would free them, a cantrap which nobody has as yet discovered, and to their releaser will be granted whatever his will may

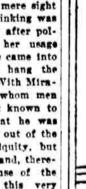
"This is some more of your stuff and

the cantrap which will release the bees

ishness did not concern her. She sighed and hung the sword in its accustomed place. 'Oh, but I am aweary of this endless wizardry!'
"Then, wife," says Miramon, "then

why are you perpetually meddling with what you do not understand?"
I think, said Ninzian, at oace, for this demon, too, was married, "I think that I had best be going."
But thisele's attention was reserved.

because you of excellency, and, in fact, no sense put upon me. But dreams ought to be would release the bees of Toupan. For gor, as he stood blinking in his ivory from you, but this settles it, and I



"He is nobody in this world, wife,

nonsense, out of old fairy tales, where everybody gets three wishes and no good out of any of them."
"No, my love, because I shall put

them to quite practical uses. For you must know that when I have found out of Toupan-

I meddle, as you so

time of it, but in particular do I pity all-the weman that is married to one of

not bother; in fact, it was a continue had the deemed to remember to be brone, who would the deemed to remember to be brone, who would be the many continue had the deemed to the wist of the Maxikeen who destroy. But he had not put forth wheat, with a fired struct, "In fine, what his melental lost, And the High Gods were fragilisheen who destroy. But his ancient unappeasable eyes; and law tired struct. The toright with a fired struct. The time that the charmed sword Flamberge. This was a door which Madame Gisele found not at all the sort of thing you cared to have imminent in your own family; "Norms, who weave the fate of all that the sooner the gray Norms, who weave the fate of all that the sooner the gray Norms, who weave the fate of all that the sooner the right, and none other. The time they showed and not put forth wheat, then the had lost, And the High Gods were frightened now with his marked to sard on that which he had lost, And the High Gods were fresting shad on the wind here with the charmed with the charmed sword Flamberge. This was a doom which Madame Gisele found not at the wind the series of the Maxikeen who destroy. But they charm to to in the wind he had lost, And the High Gods were frestiling than that which he had lost, And the High Gods were the stock in trade of the Maxikeen who destroy. But they chard with a fired struct. "The then the with the had lost, And the High Gods were frestilles and of the Maxikeen who destroy. But they can do the strict the sum of the mass to of the Markeen who destroy. But they chard with a fired struct. The they they will be sent to join its seven fellows in the such accomplishments, as he despairing keemly the with the charmed the will and not the with the with his had lost, And the High Gods were frestling and trees such as the superment severer whitered, and these were freely from the link of the Maxikeen who destroy. But the link of the Markeen who destroy. But the link of the Markeen who the risk of the Markeen who destroy. But the link of the Markeen who



no sense of what is right and proper. I do when I have time for it, with chanters who had given over centuries all things as they are." and no sense of morals, and no sense the million and one things that are to searching for the cantrap which And in that instant Miramon Llua- art. Well, I have put up with much

Sie Ninzana was hastly picking up his unlifting moral, and certainly they scouring rag swept from the stone one forehead, as if a damp sponge were week."

But Glade continued, with that ought not to be about incompre- of these insects. Koshchel, who made passing over it, and he perceived that resistless and deva-tating onflow which hensible thin nonsense that nebody can let be about incompted the peculiar to tidal waves and the hensible thin nonsense that nebody can let be head forgotten the soiled hensible thin nonsense that nebody can let be head forgotten the soiled hensible thin nonsense that nebody can let be head forgotten the soiled hensible thin nonsense that nebody can let be head forgotten the soiled hensible thin nonsense that nebody can let be head forgotten the soiled of dreams, because he is perpetually was there to worry? Did I not make they report, that these bright perils. Something he could yet recall, they report that these bright perils. The touch of flesh cannot convides. Women everywhere have a hard is a pretty good sort of place after way, because he knew this would be and the cast stones, of the Horse and remaining bees, and brushed it from word, to make you feel that the world could be freed only in the most obvious they say, of the magic of the Purin Gisele, and he slapped at one of the

"But, wife, I am not sure that it the last method attempted by any the Bull of the Water, and most of the black cross. And this bee de-

and I know now it is my safeguard yellow slime of Scyros, and ering that I have made them in two ways:" cinnabaris composed of the mingle But Miramon, in his ivory tower blood of behemoths and dragons, and

just as a bubble breaks, "And a good riddance, too," says loveliness and horror which a moment Miramon. He turned to Ninzian, that ago he had known how to evoke with

the like of such outrageousness!" "Oh, very often," replied this Nin- kept just skill enough it might be to zian, who too was married. Then Nin- place the strippings on a barber's pole zian asked. "But what will you do

Says Miramon, "I shall wish to have never again to sway the sleeping of

But to Ninzian this seemed less ob- symmetry, of tenderness and truth ast vious. "You may do that by releasing urbanity. For whether they like it er

the third bee. Yes, Miramon, you can not, I know that it is good for then, get back your art, but you will be and it affords to their starved living the left defenseless against the doom which which they lack and ought to have." is appointed. No, friend, by my ad-vice you will employ the cantrap as would be another sad happening wen you at first intended, and will secure my poor wife permitted eternally a for yourself eternal life by wishing that scold the shivering earthquake in the Flamberge may vanish from this world middle of next week. What does it of men." And Ninzian waved toward matter that I do not especially in the sword with which the Norns had her? There is a great deal about my foreordained that Miramon Lluagor self that I do not like, such as my must be killed by his own son.

what worth is life if it breed no more but do I hanker to be transformed has dreams?" And Miramon said also, "I a sturdy man-at-arms? Do I visw the wonder. Ninzian, just where is the knout of an elephant with covetousness middle of next week?"

Sleek Ninzian spoke, secure in his your foolish talking! What need have infernal erudition. "It will fall upon a I of perfection? What would I Wednesday, but nobody knows whence. in common with anybody who was pe Olybrius states that it is now in Aratu, tient with me and thought highly of me where all that enter are clothed like a doings? No, Ninzian, it is in value bird with wings, and have only dust and clay to eat in the unchanging twi-"She would not like that. She had

always a delicate digestion." "Whereas Asinius Pohio suggests,

not unplausibly, that it waits beyond Slid and Gjold, in the blue house of life should become an endless clear May Nostrand, where Sereda herds the un-born Wednesdays, under a roof of who have once been lashed by stome

"Dear me, now that would never suit a woman who had an almost morbid aversion to reptiles!"

"But Sosicles declares it is in Kibalba, where Zipacna and Cabrakan play at handball, and the earthquakes are at nurse—"

"She would be none the happier there. She does not care for babies, she would not for one moment put up with that natience which is requisite to the property of the company of the c

she would not for one moment put up with a fractious young earthquake, and would make things most unpleasant for everybody. Ninzian"—and Miramon everybody. Ninzian had meary min the with that patience which is requisite to friends. And Ninzian, shrugging, said, "Then do you choose, Miramon, for your wife and no more dreams, or fer everybody. Ninzian''—and Miramon your wife and no more coughed—"Ninzian, I begin to fear I have been a little hasty."

"Such wishing would I

the same description. But I am cer-

MIRAMON sighed. "That is true. knowledge which is perturbing to the gods. tent him who has arranged the shining hair of angels and modeled the breasts of the sphinx. The woman that shares love and of disliking? Eh, sirs, by cause the ways of the Leshy appeared to this mortal woman indecrease attists. She has not have a more stated at the tending of a bush on the leshy seemed not entirely in the less to her, who had been born of a race about whom destiny different to the limit to the mortal woman indicated by the less than the walls of the large depend upon it, more depend upon it, more

upon Vraidex, knew only that his wish here was the poisonous blue sand of had been granted, for Gisele had gone Putcoli. And Miramon, who was to longer a potent wizard, considered that smiling fiend. "Why, did you ever see these pigments, he who had now as power to lend life to his designs, and

And Miramon Lluagor, said: "h would be a sad happening if I wen back the secret and the solace of my men, and grant them yet more dream of distinction and clarity, of beauty and

body's flabbiness, and the small me The fallen wizard, answered, "Of which makes ludicrous the face I week Why, but, Ninzian, I am astonished at you pester me with your continue talking, for I am as used to her the comings as I am to my own shorten ings. I regard her tantrums with the resignation I extend to inclease weather. It is unpleasant. All pests are unpleasant. Ah, yes, but #

Sir Ninzian had heard him through with that patience which is requisite to

"Such wishing would be over-wasteful," Miramon replied, as he dusted away the third bee. "Since I can best "It is the frailty of all you artists," the fiend replied. "In any event, you away the third bee." have one wish remaining, and no more, to give up neither my wife nor my an, You can at will desire to have back no matter how destroyingly they went again the control of your lost magics, against each other, I wish for every or you can have back your wife to thing to be put back just where it we

think also that a wife is amenable to ades, and Toupan, affoat in the volt again seemed harmless enough, because and unappeasable malignity and a fore-

THE STORY SO FAR

rebuffs him. She is

MAISIE WHITE, daughter of Solly White,
one of the gang who wishes to retire.

She is interested in Staford.

bollie MARSH, a doll-faced but clover piri, who arts as "vamp" of the black-GROOK CREWE, once a gentleman, now

CHAPTER X

The Greek which it ultimately followed.

bimself, with his extraordinary financial Mr. Philiopolis spent three or four genius, his plausibility, his lightning hours at his office daily, and for the exploitation of every advantage which rest of the time, particularly toward it is not going to be easy." offered. Outwardly he was the head the evening, was to be found in a offered. Outwardly he was a the which cafe in Soho. He was a dark little through with it. compiled with the laws, paid small but man, with fierce mustache and a set

pood, bad, and indifferent, were drawn for the orbit of its activities, as extraoccasities dictated. Throughout the careful of the war, in Germany, in Ruesia, and the war, in Germany, in Ruesia, and the war, in Germany, in Ruesia, and the united States, were men, who, they could not be described as agents, they could not be described as gents, they could not be described as gents, they could not be described as gents, from Greece, from Smyras, en route to a promised land, looked forward to the colonel and, looked forward to the colonel and long, and the Greek shook his head.

"The Greek looked puzzled.

"All those beautiful girls waiting for music-hall engagements and impossible to send them because of the unsettled conditions of their countries. I must have lost thousands of pounds."

"The demand hasn't slackened off, and the clonel starled round at him."

"Do you think I should come and ask you to book her passage if say with a comparison to send them because of the unsettled conditions of their countries. I must have lost thousands of pounds."

"The demand hasn't slackened off, and the colonel sarled round at him."

"Do you think I should come and ask you to book her passage if say with a comparison to the colonel himself answered it. The colonel sarled cound at him."

"In not going to have anything to coming much whether she ever comes back, Do you understand?"

"In the Greek looked puzzled.

"Out the colonel sarled round at him."

"Out to book her passage if say with to go, and she way." In the to be said significantly.

The demand hasn't slackened off.

"The demand hasn't slackened off."

The demand hasn't slackened off.

The demand hasn't slackened off.

The demand hasn't slacke

finance him in the purchase of a new which the Greek agent had so carekit of tools-an up-to-date burglar's fully sketched, kit costs a considerable amount-but. In half a dozen South American there were people who would lend the towns the proprietors of as many dance money, which eventually came out of halls would lookenver the new importa-

were on the border line of respectability. Court. of these, or, if he did know that he hotel in Aldgate. Whatever other prewas financing a scoundrel, it was in- tenses the colonel made, he did not sisted that that scoundrel was engaged attempt to continue the fiction that he in-so far as the colonel knew-legiti. was ignorant of the Greek's trade.

THE upbuilding of the Boundary gang merchant, who had an office in Mincing to you." had neither been an accident, nor Court-n tiny room at the top of four You have indeed, colonel," said was it exactly designed on the lines flights of stairs. On the glass panel the man gratefully. He spoke English of its door was the announcement; with a very slight accent, for he had The main structure was Boundary "General Exporter."

ectable dividends, and clonked other of perfect white teeth which he disperations which never appeared in the played readily, for he was easily America?" he asked suddenly.

Colair records of the companies. The Greek spread out his beginning to the companies.

jail did not ask Colonel Boundary to realization of those wonderful visions

tions approvingly and remit their bank Some of the businesses he financed drafts to the merchant of Mincing Some into which his money was sunk The colonel departed from his usual were frankly infamous. But it was practice and met the Greek himself, a popular fiction that he knew nothing the place of meeting being a small

"Paul," he said, after the first greet-Paul Phillopolts was a small Greek ings were over, "I've been a good friend

> been born and educated in London. "If ever I can render you a service

"You can," said the colonel, "but The Greek eyed him curiously. "Easy or hard," he said, "I'll go

colonel nodded. The colonel nodged. "How is the business in South The Greek spread out his hands in

An Unusual Story of a Blackmailing Gang and a Mysterious Avenger, by the Author of "Green Rust," "The Daffodil Murder," "Clue of the Twisted Candle"



"She doesn't want to go and she doesn't know she's going, but I want her out of the way'

The colonel smiled grimly.

"Cut that stuff out, Paul," he said brutally, "and let us get down to facts.

"Out that stuff out, Paul," he said brutally, "and let us get down to facts.

"Out that stuff out, Paul," he said willing to go it would be impossible to found the Portuguese biting his finger of Maisie White, and, as such, his anticipated no supreme obstacle to the national part of the provided in the prov s a girl in London of excep-ability. She has appeared in Boundary interrupted him impatient ional ability. She has appropriate ly. 'Don't you think I know that?' he tional ability, ful as a dream.

"English?" asked the Greek.
"Irish," said the other. "As pretty as a picture, I tell you. She will make and put her somewhere where she's not

the Greek frankly. to the music halls," said the colonel "No malice, I trust, Mr. King?" you had a couple of weeks ago you shortly; "you know your own beastly said the colonel genially. "You know have--" business better than I do. I tell you my friend, Mr. Silva? A business as- "Let me carry on this converse

"What do I get out of it?" asked in, come in, won't you?"

she's worth a gold mine." "But how are you going to-" "That's my business," said the

Boundary interrupted him impatient. of his. "Did you fix it?" he asked in a low

"Of course I fixed it," said the

country. You're not to leave her in Lambeth Police Court, and there was to Pinto and Pinto started. "Allo." one of these coast towns where English in Colonel Boundary's smile something added the cheerful Stafford, "another and American tourists are likely to of forgiveness and gentle reproach. mutual friend of ours, Mr. Crewe, w

By Edgar Wallace

He offered his hand to the other, but "So you were watching, eh?" burst "You'll get out it what she's worth Stafford apparently did not see it. out Pinto. "I thought after the lesson

of my companies." "I know him all right," said Staf. the Portugue e. colonel. "You understand what you ford, and added, "I hope to know him "We have agreed to let bygones !" have to do. Ill send you the date you better."

yours. For any extra expenses you can of the words, but not a muscle of that induced our friend to be so is send the bill to me; you understand?" his face moved. For Stafford King discreet as to refer to the unpleases Obviously it was not a job to the lik. the hatred with which he regarded the happenings-which we will allow ing of Phillopolis, but he had good law took on a personal character. This pass from our memories." reason to fear the colonel and ac- man was something more than a thief So the girl was being watched. That quiesced with a nod. Boundary went taker and a tracker of criminals. Pinto made things rather more difficult the

this visit?" asked the bland colonel.
"The chief wants to see you." "The chief?"

"Sir Stunley Belcom, Being the

to take her into the interior of the they had parted at the door of the North little talk with your friend"-he note "Well, Mr. King," he said, "come within halling distance, unless I greatly mistaken."

> sociate of mine, a director of several tion if you don't mind," said the colonel, and the fury in his eyes silenced

bygones, Mr. King, and I am sure !! leave, and I'll pay her passage and Pinto recognized the underlying sense is only his excessive zeal on my behalf

"And to what are we indebted for His plans had been made that more ing, when he saw in the columns of the daily newspaper a four-line advertise; ment which, to a large extent, but cleared away the greatest of his diff.

"Of course I fixed it," said the colonel sharply.

"I'm not going to have anything to do with it," said the other, and the colonel smiled.

"Maybe you'll change your mind," he said significantly.

There was a knock at the door and the colonel himself answered it. He took the card from the servant's hand and read: "Mr. Stafford King, Criminal Intelligence Department." He looked from the card to Pinto, then said: "Show him in."

The Colonel at Scotland Yard

"Sir Stanley Belcom. Being the chief of our department, I should have thought you had heard of him."

"Sir Stanley Belcom. Being the chief of our department, I should have though the should have thought you had heard of him."

"Sir Stanley Belcom. Being the chief of our department, I should have though the colonel smiled.

"Sir Stanley Belcom. Being the chief of our department, I should have though the should have though the should have though the should have though the sold in ment which, to a large extent, had cleared away the greatest of his discounties.

"And if Mr. King is looking after of one of our dearest business has what he wants to see me about? And how is my young friend—er—Miss White, on heartily. "London, Mr. King, is a place full of danger for young girls particularly those who are deprived a particularly those who are deprived a particularly those who are deprived white. Welfare of Miss White. May I ask what he wants to see me about? And how is my young friend—er—Miss White; on heartily. "London, Mr. King, is a place full of danger for young girls particularly those who are deprived on the loying care of a parent, and on the welfare of Miss White. May I ask when you last saw her?"

"Last night," replied Stafford. "She welfare of Miss White," replied Stafford. "She welfare of Miss white, the daughter of one of our dearest busines and read: "Mr. Stafford steadily, "she was looking particularly those who are deprived the loying care of a parent, and on the chief of the chief away is any newspaper a four-line and the cleared away the gleared away

"Last night," replied Stafford. "She guardians of the unguarded."
was standing at the door of her apartments on Doughty street, having a Compress. McClare Newscare.