Men, Women, and the Vote.

PAGE 1.



Our Ladies' Page.



Commercial Travellers at Dinner,

PAGE.

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HE SUPPOSED TOO MUCH.

parishioners in the lane one morning. After a desultory conversation, her emarked :-"I hope, Giles, you make a practice of sav- help in discovering the perpetrator of the

away for a rainy day. "Indeed, no, sir," answered Giles respect- Gourley says he would rather commit suicide, appearances of a struggle in the room, the said casually. fully; "I make it a rule never to spend more and leave a note confessing to the crime, reason why nothing was likely to have been | "Shrewd?" repeated my comthan two-thirds of me wages a week." "Ah, that's the way-that's the way!" said the inquest Rentmain is talking to Marna I suppose the rest of it you put in the savings comes upon them. Rentmain feels sure that

"Oh, dear, no, sir!" answered Farmer Giles that he will be a source of danger to himself complacently. The rest I gives to the missis and his friends. on which to keep 'ouse.

Pat was trying to give a definition of the thinness of an acquaintance. "Shure," he remarked to a friend, "you're thin and I'm thin, but he's thinner than the both of us put to-

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THE SHOT IN THE DARK.

OUR NEW STORY.

By ARTHUR W. MARCHMONT,

Author of "By Right of Sword," 'For Love of Crown," "The Case of Lady Broadstone,"
"In the Name of the People," &c., &c.

NEW READERS BEGIN HERE:

Oliver Rentmain, a rising novelist, who ells the story, meets a girl on a Mediterranean trip and falls in love with her although she refuses to divulge her surname. Marna her baptismal name. On his return to London his friend Winford tells him that Hoffgang, a moneylender, is getting nasty about the Peterson affair. Years before the friends had been present with Sir Richard Gourley. a member of the Government, when the latter's brother Manuel, had killed one, Peterson, in a gambling quarrel. Hoffgang had disposed of ever since. He now asks them to meet at his table. indignantly refuse, and after a violent scene, identification, the cause of death, and the so great a friend. MONEY FROM £10 TO £5,000. the lights are switched off. A shot is fired in the darkness, and when the lights are turned

on Hoffgang is seen to be dead. Leaving Hoffgang's house, Rentmain and Winford go to their club, while Sir Richard Rentmain tells Winford that he saw the let- been self-inflicted, both agreed that it most he was her father. ter of invitation which Hoffgang sent to Sir | certainly could. room, and he fears that the police will get it. Sir Richard is horrified to find that he has left the letter somewhere. Rentmain stays at Hva Deshorough's house, which is situated

is Clifford, and not Hoffgang, as she had always thought. Before leaving Miss Vian's house, Marna gets Rentmain to promise to "And when Hoffgang's secretary. Simeon Aranak, Aranak knows something of the murder, and

CHAPTER VII.

THE STORY OF THE CRIME.

Mr. Harvey asked me to walk with him to the coroner's court. "There are some matters I should like to discuss with you," he

I agreed, not very willingly, and, as we dropped behind the others, I did not fail to observe that the secretary kept very close bed is. I was in the former, and did not knew of rascality in the abstract, but with to Marna's side.

gang's daughter?" had only just learnt the fact."

him at all intimately?" "No; quite the reverse."

his financial circumstances ?" "I can scarcely say that I did."

requested me to be frank with you."

not only inexcusable, but illegal; in point room last night?"

to obtain the money it was necessary for on the score of burglars." produced in his favour."

"Then that was why he passed her off as bave been." his child, I suppose!"

had about ten thousand pounds, and all the police and I myself have searched the a corner. but some two thousand have gone Here, room most carefully and thoroughly." of the forged will must come out. I believe likely to take his own life!" she is going to consult you about that."

she may be in need of the money."

straits for money, but in dread of-well, I the story suggested anything of the sort. Nor as I can make out, his attitude was about lowed when cutting out. had better speak plainly-he feared prosecu- was it told too glibly. A pause here and this, be with him when he was in a most depressed with now and then a repetition, appeared to merely murmured some commonplace. Tootache of the sort, and declared that on the previous sincerely spoken truth. suicide constantly in mind."

> has happened now." ing ruin-some friends who had helped him the latter view. considerably in the past; and if these failed

him, there was no other loophole." differently, but with an inward quake.

siderable sums at times." "I know Gourley very well," I said in the same tone, despite the fact that the circle Rentmain?" asked Mr. Harvey as we went "Well, that doesn't shake my conviction," was gradually narrowing.

"It is possible that he might be able to throw some light on the affair. In my opinion, Hoffgange probably applied to him frown and a shake of the head. "Do you Armenian standing in the doorway, listen- visible. for assistance, which was refused, and that believe in instincts?" this last night's business was the conse-

quence. "But isn't it supposed to have been the them," I said with a smile. work of thieves?

"To tell you the truth, my firm conviction right with them!" is that Hoffgang shot himself. That no weapon was found doesn't alter my opinion. any more than the fact that all the signs of As for the absence of a revolver, the point is, you know." certain cases where men had shot themselves certainly clever. I should say."

tance from the weapon. I did not listen attentively to his theory, another. Always the same-too cool and too. The lawyer grented, and with a glance at for my mind was busy with this fresh proof clever by half. I label that sort dangerous, his watch declared he must be going.

Here was testimony which would have gone | what I meant about instinct. When "True, quite true, of course. Still, you

joined the other three at the entrance.

Richard lying on a chair in the dead man's "I should like to add something bearing could see something else-why Marna had for the express purpose of telling me this opposite to Hoffgang's. Later Eva sees sev. my opinion, for anyone who had been shot, Armenian devil. Suddenly her vigit is interrupted by the girl the weapon. In my view, that would be momentary reverie. It'll be rather inter- threat of the consequences should I dare to

any conclusions." Then Simeon Aranak was called, and the I had my own reasons for not agreeing with ing. There is nothing like putting something crime. Later Winiford proposes that they secretary described how he and Marna had him, but naturally kept them to myself.

obvious readiness for removal. nad occurred."

that?" asked the coroner. tary. "That in which I work, and a very | That this information made me profoundly small one, really a dressing-room, where my uncomfortable will be readily understood. leave it until I was called. My task was a concrete examples I had had very little to

hour afterwards. I think the same servant would be heavily against me from the start, "I heard it only this morning, and it came brought it each time, for some remark was for the Armenian had in his possession the as a great surprise. We have always been passed about my being still at work. I men- incriminating letter on which my safety, and led to regard her as his child. Did you know tion that because she must have passed perhaps my life, might depend. It looked through the house, and would therefore very much like a duel between a couple of have a greater chance of hearing any die men, one of whom was armed to the teeth. "Anything about his-his circumstances; turbance than any of the other servants." | while the other had nothing more than his A perfectly plausible story, told with fists. There might be a few exciting remarkable skill. He had managed in this moments, but the fight could only end in "Well, of course we are speaking in confi- way to account for his own actions-to sug- one way.

in the solution of the problem. deceased had had one, and if so, whether main." he said. "I am speaking by her desire, as I said. there was any particular place in which it I experienced a qualm of repugnance as As a matter of fact, Mr. Hoffgang was des- had been kept. "I know that there was a I crossed the threshold of the room, and

perately embarrassed financially, and unfor- revolver in the house," he replied. "I have stood once more on the scene of the tragedy, tunately he had made use of Miss Clifford's seen it in the study in a drawer in the table, and it was fortunate that my companion money, nearly the whole of which he has and also in Mr. Hoffgang's bedroom. I could not read the thoughts which brought lost. He was in the position of trustee, and know that in certain moods he was nervous me to a momentary halt at the entrance and

him to-well to do certain things which were "Then the weapon may have been in the room of fact, criminal. Miss Clifford was repre- The witness slightly shrugged his shoul- not placed as before, and there were abunsented to us as being dead, and a will was ders, as if to suggest that any reply could oant evidences of the drastic search which

"But none has been found?"

which Gourtey had left behind, I should not have entertained a doubt about us was no more than a cobweb of alarmed and then flop forward to the table here." stand that he had just one chance of escap- evidence, I was all but compelled to accept voluntarily, and could almost have bitten my

When the inquiry was adjourned, there did I knew of the darkness, between two such different men, but I know two exceptions were myself-who knew have hidden the weapon?" Sir Richard Gourley helped him with con- better-and the lawyer, who stuck to his "Yes, I should think so, at least I don't

theory of suicide. "Well, what do you think of it all, Mr. | none has been found." back to Fagrave-square. "It seems pretty clear, doesn't it?"

"People with imagination or inability to "Here is Mr. Aranak," I said to the talka-

"It isn't one of the subjects of examina- with which he was killed?" asked Aranak, thrown back and chest forward, arms hanging

tion, at any rate. "You're laughing at me. But haven't you and most melodious voice.

and had been found at a considerable dis- "Yes. Too cool and too clever by half, complete and exhaustive search has been I've seen a good dea! of him one time and made."

far to sustain the presumption of suicide, if you know a thing against all the proofs to might have some grounds," he persisted in we had only had the pinck to face the crisis the contrary. There's a lot behind his a languid tone. "As much, say, as even Mr. and tell the truth about the reason for our evidence. He knows a heap that he wouldn't Harvey! You are a writer of stories, I tell. Can't blame him, perhaps, for you believe, and are thus accustomed to study The lawyer had not finished his theorising can't blame a man for trying to whitewash such problems as this tragedy of which you when we reached the coroner's court and the character of the father of the girl he is are on the very scene." And he waved his

That the affair had aroused widespread The suddenness of this statement made me I resolved to put this calmness of his to interest was apparent from the number of catch my breath and cleuch my hands, but the test. "My interest in this terrible affair people present and the array of reporters, after a slight pause I succeeded in control- is only indirect, Mr. Aranak, due entirely to and we were at once the object of keen hing my voice, "Of course not," I replied, my friendship for Miss Clifford." the body and had blackmailed Sir Richard interest as we made our way to the solicitors' and my companion was too busy with his But the test failed. "She is indeed fortuthoughts to notice my momentary confusion. nate in having such a friend at this time," house. They agree reluctantly. Hoffgang The proceedings were not lengthy. The Or it may be that he thought I already knew he said, without the slightest change of man asks the friends to join in an oil swindle. They coroner explained that after the evidence of the fact, since Marna had represented me as ner. "Indeed, I am glad the subject has

found, there would be an adjournment. | much about Hoffgang's matters, and that entitled to speak for her in such a matter." The evidence of the two doctors followed that was why the latter agreed that the two "Mr. Harvey said something to that that of identification, and they described should marry. Those cool, clever devils get effect," I replied. spends the evening at the house of a Miss Vian, the position of the wound and the nature their own way in this world. He's mad aunt to his fiancee, Eva Desborough. Manuel of the injury to the brain caused by the about her, you know; but she only consented Gourley flees from the scene of the murder. bullet. Asked whether the wound could have because Hoffgang pressed it, and she believed veritable gauge of battle in my face his self

upon the suggestion which underlies that refused to tell me anything about herself, news, that he was warning me not to cross question," said Dr. Bascombe. "I have even her surname, during those days on the his path, or attempt to thwart his purpose, been asked whether it would be possible, in Euthasia. She was engaged to marry this and that his reference to the suicide and his eral people enter the house of the dead man. as in this case, to do anything to dispose of A chuckle from the lawyer broke in on this a deliberately chosen preface to his implied

Marna, who rushes into the room in an agi- extremely improbable-in fact, all but impos- esting to watch what happens now that Mr. sible. There have been remarkable cases Hoffgang is dead, and the young lady knows Marna states that Hoffgang has been where it has occurred, I know; but in the that she is not his daughter. I think I'd was certain, for a moment later a servant murdered, and also says that her real name absence of knowledge of the precise brain back the Armenian to get his way, and I injury as compared with this, I cannot draw shouldn't be a bit surprised if he has already asking me to go to her at once. planned out how to do it."

should go and tell the police everything, but discovered the dead body, the confusion and "He is certainly a very shrewd fellow," I

than tell the police anything. On the day of heard in the house, the hole cut in the win- panion with mounting emphasis. "Why, dow pane, and the collection of valuables in about six months ago Hoffgang made up his mind to get rid of him. Couldn't put his He gave his evidence very clearly and with finger on a thing, mind you, to find fault consummate coolness and self-possession. about, but all the same was suspicious, Well "I saw Mr. Hoffgang alive for the last time the affair ended in an absolute triumph for Those concerned with nursery realms ar at about half-past seven in the evening. He | the Armenian, absolute triumph. Better children's apparel generally will, no doubt, b was then in his ordinary health, and dis- position, higher pay, closer relations, and a interested in the accompanying illustration of cussed some matters of business, and gave couple of months afterwards the engagement a child's nightgown and diagram of the same me some papers of which he asked me to to Miss Marna. It took my breath away. Of for the pattern serves equally well for a gi prepare a precis at once, as it would be course, my principal, Mr. Powell, never or for a little boy's night-shirt (about fiv wanted in the morning. His instructions talks, but he couldn't help it then. He was years). Dr. Bascombe and the lawyer were waiting were as full, clear, and precise as usual in giving me some instructions about the In the average home where there are chi for us in the hall, and as we left the house every respect. I took the papers away with matter, and when he saw my surprise, he let dren the young folk's clothes especially the me, and was still engaged upon the work out one of his dry chuckles. "That young underclothes-are usually made by th when I was called down and discovered what | Eastern scoundrel has him by the throat, Harvey. About as cunning and dangerous a "Did you leave your room at all before scamp as any in Europe. The old Jew is not a match for him," and Mr. Powell's a judge "I have two rooms," explained the secre- of seamps, too, Mr. Rentmain, I can tell you."

"You are, I believe, a great friend of that heavy one, and I had some food brought to do. I should have recarded Hoffgang as a young lady," began Mr. Harvey, gesturing me-some strong coffee and biscuits, merely; very clever one, and the fact that such an all that I take when I have a stiff night's expert in scamps as Mr. Harvey's principal "I am very pleased to consider myself work in prospect. I rang for it directly I placed the Armenian on a far higher pedestal reached my room, and it was brought about of cunning than his late employer, made the "And you know that she is not Mr. Hoff- a quarter of an hour later. That would be, prospect of a struggle with him extremely say, between ten minutes to eight and eight disquieting. "Yes, I heard it last night from her. She o'clock; and I had a fresh supply about an If my belief was well founded the odds

dence, Mr. Rentmain. Miss Clifford told me gest an alibi, indeed-and yet had so put it As these unpleasant considerations were I could do so; in fact, she particularly that his sole object appeared to be to help flashing across my thoughts, we reached the house in Eagrave-square, and Mr. Harvey "Certainly in strict confidence; but I do The coroner put a question on the subject asked me to go with him to the study. "I not wish to hear more than you think should of the revolver; whether he knew if the want to explain my theory to you, Mr. Rent-

sent my eyes roving uneasily round the

Most of the furniture was still there, but only be opinion. "I should say it might had been carried on by the police. The horeshoe table was in the same position as on the previous night, but the chairs which "Probably: an open inference anyway. She "None has been found, certainly, although we had occupied were clustered together in for night-gowns, which are not subject to

One change caught my eye instantly. On therefore, is the first question which will "One last question, Mr. Aranak. Have the previous evening I had noticed a curarise. She is certainly entitled to that sum; you any reason of any sort whatever to lead tained door to the left of the window and night-gown illustrated, consisting altogether of but if she claims it, of course the whole story you to suppose that the deceased was at all opposite to the table at which Hoffgang had six parts, namely, half the front of gown, No. sat The curtain was now pulled aside, and 1; half the back, No. 2; half the yoke, No. 3; "No. In my opinion he was about the last I saw that the door led into a rather deep one sleeve, No. 4; the front placket-strap, No. "At first blush I should advise her to drop man in the world to do such a thing." | cupbeard in which a large safe was con-W. MOSELEY, Borough Bakery, Accrington, it: but, of course, I do not know how far The coroner thanked him, with a compli- spicuous. The cupboard was large enough vards of 30-inch material, supposing the nightment upon the way he had given his for a man to have concealed himself easily. gown were intended for a child of five or six "I'm afraid very badly. And that brings evidence, and the secretary stood down. "That's his safe," said Mr. Harvey, follow- years; but before buying the matme to another point-the solution of this If my supposition about him was right, ing my gaze. "But what I want you to erial the pattern should be tested extraordinary affair. I have reason to know that testimony was a tissue of ingeniously notice particularly is this table. This is against the child for whom it is rethat our late client was not only in desperate involved lies and truth; but not a falter in where he was found lying dead, and, so far quired, in order that sufficient length be al-

> tion. Only a week or two ago I chanced to there, a correction or two in triffing details, I could have shown him precisely, but I the fold, which must not be slit up, for the mood, and he more than hinted at something stamp it with the hallmark of genuine and "Now the wound is here," he went on, as each be cut out in a single piece. if determined that the deed should be recon- The yoke must also be cut out in one piece, One omission struck me immediately, of stituted after the French manner, "and my his life. I know that he had the thought of course. He made no reference to the letter | cint is this. Assume that he was standing up at the time, say here," and by chance he "But it does not seem possible that that He was either the coolest-witted and most stood at the exact spot, "and that he had subtle liar I had ever met, or my belief that prepared some place in which he could drop "If a weapon had been found in the room, it was he who had been in the room after the weapon and conceal it, he could do that it, Mr. Rentmain. He gave me to under- imagination. And as I listened to his "What! In the dark?" I exclaimed in-

> tongue out for my blundering admission that not appear to be a soul in the place, with "Yes, in the dark, of course," replied the "Who were the friends" I asked in two exceptions, who did not accept the view lawyer in a matter-of-fact tone. I breathed a under the strap-facing. which Aranak suggested with such subtle sigh of relief at my escape. "Of course, it Gather the night-gown at the top, after front "I know of one-Sir Richard Gourley, the ingenuity, and without once stating it openly, must have been dark at the time. He cer- and back have been French-seamed, and insert M.P. for Bilsborough. One wouldn't have that Hoffgang had been done to death by tainly wouldn't have had time to switch the thought there would be much in common villains who had gone there to rob him. The lights off. But don't you agree that he might ing, finishing off with stitching. Gather the

> > replied the lawyer doggedly, and he was ener- the front strap. getically repeating the reasons for his belief The seams of the night-gown must be quite "Umph. I don't know," he said, with a when I chanced to glance round and saw the neat on the reverse side, no raw edges being

form a judgment generally think they have tive lawyer. "Have you told him your view," Mr. Harvey?" "I suppose you'd think a lawyer has no "Is it about the possibility of my unfortu- tised daily. nate employer having concealed the weapon

a robbery were present. He wouldn't want any in connection with this affair? I saw He addressed the question to me and it known that he had laid hands on his own you watching that secretary very closely all smiled as he spoke, without a trace in manlife, and would be quite likely to make it the time he was giving his evidence. What ner, tone, or feature of the anger which he til they closely approach one another above appear that the place had been broken into. do you make of him? He's an Armenian, had shown toward me before. Had he the head wished to ingratiate himself with me he whether he could possibly have got rid of "Rather an interesting personality, I think, could not have appeared more harmlessly the arms will be extended directly over the it after the shot." And he went on to cite Cool, self-possessed, resourceful, and most amiable. "Mr. Harvey has told me, and it head at the moment the lungs are completely is in consequence of his belief that such a filled

of our folly in having fled from the room. A very straight story that of his: but that's "I was immensely impressed by the in- cession.

genuity of the theory," continued Aranak, with his imperturable calm. "I should, of course, regard anything Mr. Harvey suggested on such a subject as of the utmost value, but there appears to be absolutely no ground to support this. What is your opinion, Mr. Rentmain? Were you also impressed? Do you take the view that it was

Was there anything behind this! A commonplace question, asked in the suavest and most commonplace tone, and yet I believed that he intended me to read so much into it. "I am only an outsider, Mr. Aranak, and, of course, have no means of forming an opinion, or even a theory,

thin, taner hand round the room.

been mentioned that I may offer you a word cifeumstances in which the dead man was "In my view, that secretary knew a lot too of thanks. I am, as perhaps you know,

"Yes, we are betrothed, Mr. Rentmain." Even when flaunting what he knew to be a control was so perfect that I marvelled at "I see," I replied. Indeed, I thought I his coolness I knew now that he had come question about my interest in the theory was risk a struggle with him.

And that I should have to make my choice came for me with a message from Marns (To be continued next Saturday.)

発売があるがいがいがいがいます Ladies' Chain. 希ピオピラ By "STELLA." ビビビラス



mother or the nurse, and it is always useful to keep at hand a good pattern of a nightgown, since as a child grows the pattern only needs to be enlarged on to suit it for years and years, and to suit also any materialeither long-cloth, flannel, and so on-preferred changes of fashion after the manner of frocks.

-+*-The diagram shows the paper pattern of the disposed, after the manner indicated, on 23

back and the front of the night-gown must is marked out on the diagram for the yoke lining, also to be cut out in a single piece, the

straight edges of back and front patterns to

yoke pattern serving for this The sleeve and cuff patterns are cut out in duplicate, but no duplicate will be required of the placket strap pattern. The front of the night-gown must be eplit open from neck to waist to form a placket and the base of the opening must eventually be strengthened by a fold-over of the material; but first the left edge must be provided with a false hem and the right one finished neatly

the gathered edges between the yoke and linsleeves at the wrists, double each cuff, and insert the gathered edges between the double thickness of the cuffs. Stitch the sleeves in know," I answered at random. "At any rate, the armholes, bind the latter, also the neck. hem the night-gown at the foot, and finish off with frilling at the neck, wrists, and around

A DEEP BREATHING EXERCISE.

The following deep breathing exercises are useful in helping to expand the lungs, if prac-Stand as erect as possible, with shoulders

coming forward and speaking in his softest close to the body, the head up, and lips firmly Inhalation should now be taken very slowly. and at the same time the arms must be gradually raised, the back of the bands inwards, un-

The movement should be so regulated that

This position should be maintained for a few seconds, before the reverse process is begun, and as the arms are gradually lowered, the breath is exhaled slowly. Repeat the exercise five or six times in suc-

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ress of the procer or oilman concerned. Bounty Soap, 3 sizes.
Bounty Carbolated Soap, 3 sizes. # Soap, 4 sizes. Soap. Snowdown Soap, 4 sizes. Snowdown Carbolated Soap, 4 sizes. rimrose Soap, 2 sizes. Robin's Soap Powder. Robin's Finest Soft Soap, 1 lb., 2 lb., 4 lb. and 7 lb. tins. sashing Powder. tle Soup. 2 sizes. arbolic Soup. 2 sizes. Robin's "Clan" Toilet Soap, assorted Honey Soap, 2 sizes. Carbolic Soap, 2 sizes. (Cleanser and Polisher) Pobin's Snowdown Aerated Candles tin Blakentan Boot Polish (black and e Aerated Candles (in cartons) Spector (Cleanser and Polisher), 2 sizes. Cracker (Soap Flakes).

baving Srick. e Transparent Toiler Sonp ay Toilet Soup. 1 Acrated Candles (in cartons) mplexion Soap. aving Stick. Toilet Soan, 2 sizes ; "Visitors" Toilet Soap. Shaving Stick.

ranser. I Toilet Soap. osp, 3 sizes. Cleanser Soap, 3 sizes. Carbolic Soap, 3 sizes. Special Pure Soap, 2 sizes. old Water Soap. Paraffin Soap. Soap Powder. Pinest Soft Soap, 1 lb., 2 lb., and 7 ib, tins. Toilet Soap (assorted per-

luttermilk Toilet Soap.

ht Aerated Candles (in

Polish (black and brown),

m), 2 sizes.

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