

SYNOPSIS.

"Mad" Dan Maitland, on reaching his few York bachelor club, met an attractive young woman at the door. Janttor D'Hagan assured him no one had been within that day. Dan discovered a woman's finger prints in dust on his desk, along with a letter from his attorney. Maitland dined with Bannerman, his attorney. Dan set out for Greenfields, to get his family jewels. During his walk to the country seat, he met the young woman in gray, whom he had seen leaving his bachelors' club. Her auto had broken down. He fixed it. By a ruse she "lost" him. Maitland, on reaching home, surprised lady in gray, cracking the safe containing his gems. She, apparently, took him for a well-known crook, Daniel Anisty.

CHAPTER III .- Continued. Did he catch a gleam of admiration

in the eyes behind the goggles? "Now, if ever they get hold of my portrait and print . . Well! sighed the girl wickedly, lifting slim, bare fingers in affected concern to the mass of ruddy hair, "in that event I suppose I shall have to become a natural blonde!"

Her humor, her splendid fearlessness, the lightness of her tone, combined with the half-laughing, half-serious look that she swept up at him, to ease the tension of his emotions. For the first time since entering the room, he smiled; then in silence for a time regarded her steadfastly, thinking.

So he resembled this burglar, Anisty, strongly enough to be mistaken for him-eh? Plainly enough the girl believed him to be Anisty. . . . Well, and why not? Why shouldn't he be Anisty for the time being, if it suited his purpose so to masquerade?

It might possibly suit his purpose. He thought his position one uncommonly difficult. 'As Maitland, he had on his hands a female thief, a hardened character, a common malefactor (strange that he got so little relish of the terms!), caught red-handed; as Maitland, his duty was to hand her over to the law, to be dealt with as-what she was. Yet, even while these considerations were urging themselves upon him, he knew his eyes appraised her with open admiration and interest. She stood before him, slight, delicate, pretty, appealing in her ingenuous candor; and at his mercy. How could he bring himself to deal with her as he might with-well, Anisty himself? She was a woman, he a gentleman.

assume that expert's identity for the with inward consternation. nonce-he would be placed at once on a plane of equality with the girl; from a fellow of her craft she could hardly refuse attentions. As Anisty, he would put himself in a position to earn her friendship, to gain-perhaps-her confidence, to learn something of her necessities, to aid and protect her from the consequences of her misdeeds; possibly-to sum up-to divert her footsteps to the paths of a calling less hazardous and more honorable.

Worthy ambition-to reform a burglar! Maitland regained something of his lost self-esteem, applauding himself for entertaining a motive so laudable. And he chose his course, for better or worse, in these few seconds. Thereby proving his incontestable title to the name and repute of Mad Maitland.

His face lightened; his manner changed; he assumed with avidity the role for which she had cast him and which he stood so ready to accept and

"Well and good," he conceded with an air. "I suppose I may as well own up-"

"Oh, I know you," she assured him, with a little, confident shake of her head. "There's no deceiving me, But," and her smile became rueful, "If only you'd waited ten minutes more! Of course I recognized you from the first -down there by the river; and knew very well what was your-lav: you! gave yourself away completely ay mentioning the distance from the river, to the Manor. And I did so want to get ahead of you on this job! What a feather in one's cap, to have forestalled Dan Anisty! . . . But hadn't you better be a little careful with those lights? You seem to forget that there are servants in the house. Really, you know, I find you most romantically audacious, Mr. Anistyquite in keeping with your reputation." "You overwhelm me," he murmured.

"Believe me, I have little concest in my fame, such as it is." And, crossing to the windows, he loosed the heavy velvet hangings and let them fall together, drawing their edges close so that no ray of light might escape. She watched him with interest, "You

seem well acquainted here." "Of course. Any man of imagination is at pains to study every house he enters. I have a map of the premtees-house and grounds-here." He indicated his forehead with a long

foreinger. Quite right, too-and worth one's while. If rumor is to be believed, you have ordinarily more than your labor for your pains. You have taught me something already. . . Ah, well!" she sighed. "I suppose I may as well acknowledge my inferiority—as neophyte to hierophant. Master!" She courtesied low. "I beg you proceed and let thy cheels profit through observation!" And a small white hand gestured significantly toward the collecof burgiar's tools-drills and

White Hand Gestured Significantly Toward the Collection of Burglar's Tools.

chisels, skeleton keys, putty, and all--neatly displayed upon the rug before the massive safe.

"You mean that you wish me to As Anisty, however-if he chose to crack this safe for you?" he inquired,

> mit is mine; but not for the loss I sustain. In the presence of the master I am content to stand humbly to one side, as befits one of my lowly state in -in the ranks of our profession. I resign, I abdicate in your favor; claiming nothing by right of priority."

"You are too generous," he mumbled, confused by her thinly veiled ridicule.

"Not at all," she replied briskly. "I am entirely serious. My loss of today will prove my gain to-morrow. I look for incalculable benefit through study of your methods. My own, I confess," with a contemptuous toss of her head toward the burglar's kit, "are clumsy, antiquated, out of date. . . But then, I'm only an ama-

"Oh, but a woman-" he began to apologize on her behalf.

"Oh, but a woman!" she rapped out, smartly. "I wish you to understand that this woman, at least, is no mean-" And she hesitated.

"Thief?" he supplied, crudely. "Yes, thief! We're two of a feather,

at that."

"True enough. . But you were first in the field; I fail to see why I should reap any reward for tardiness. The spoils must be yours."

It was a test; Maitland watched her keenly, fascinated by the subtlety of the game.

out I refuse, Mr. Anisty-pos tively



crack the safe, but upon conditions." She drew back imperceptibly, amused, but asserting her dignity. 'Yes?" she led him on, though in no accent of encouragement.

"Back there, in the river," he drawled deliberately, forcing the pace, 'I found you-beautiful." She flushed, lip curling. "And, back

there, in the river, I thought you-a gentleman!"

"Although a burglar?"

"A gentleman for all that!" "I promise you I mean no harm," he prefaced. "But don't you see how I am putting myself in your power? Every moment you know me better, while I have not yet even looked into your face with the light full upon it. Honor among thieves, little woman!" She chose to ignore the intimate note in his voice. "You're wasting time," she hinted, crisply.

"I am aware of that fact. Permit me to remind you that you are helping me to waste it. I will not go shead until I have seen your face. It is simply an ordinary precaution."

'Oh, if it's a matter of business-

"Self-preservation," he corrected, with magnificent gravity.

ishment.

"Unkind!"

lyze the sensation.

"Yes?"

liberty-?"

est and genuine.

too. Besides-'

"Besides-?"

shall I-?"

sist.

importunities.

must be the profits."

countryside, if you will."

He shook his head.

"A partnership?"

Dan Anisty and I!"

'I'm not worthy the honor."

"Will you accept my aid?"

"Ah, but-"

'Halvers?"

was firm.

-ah-lavs."

drooped ever so slightly.

"No-but-but-"

"You're not angry?" she asked.

Dan Anisty! Positively, sir, you are

delightful! You grow more danger-

ously original every minute! Your

scruples, your consideration, your sym-

pathy-they are touching-in you!"

She wasged ber head daintily in pre-

tense of disamprobation. "But shall

this sort of thing, since you must

danger, the excitement, the exercise of

The corners of her adorable mouth

"Why . . . But this is not busi-

A crisis had been passed; Maitland

understood that he must wait until a

more favorable time to renew his

"I will," he said, dropping on his

The job is now yours; yours

knees by the safe, "In my lady's service!"

with your nitroglycerin, your rags,

"On conditions, only," she stipulated.

"Half shares, or not at all!" She

This educed a moue of doubt, with.

"But," he promised rashly, "I can

the tools out of his way, and bent an

The girl swept across the room, and

there followed a click simultaneous

Startled, "Why-?" he demanded.

"The risk," she replied. "We have

been frightfully careless and thought-

Helplessly Maitland twirled the com-

biration dial; without the light he was

wholly at a loss. But a breath later

skirts rustled near him; the slide of

circle of illumination thrown upon the

lock. He bent his head again, pretend-

ing to listen to the fall of the tum-

blers as the dial was turned, but in

point of fact covertly watching the

the faintly regular respiration of the

girl who bent near his shoulder. Her

The consciousness of her propinquity

that Maitland prolonged the counter-

feit study of the combination unneces-

amazed by the ease with which he

solved it. "Wonderful!" she ap-

In his veins that night madness was

running riot, swaying him at its will,

With never a doubt, never a thought

of hesitancy, he forged ahead, willfully

blind to consequences. On the face

of it he was playing a fool's part; he

knew it; the truth is simply that he

could not have done other than as he

did. Consciously he believed himself

to be merely testing the girl; subcon-

sciously he was plastic in the grip of

clay upon the potter's whirling wheel.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

swung outward without a jar.

"Hush!" he cautioned her.

One fears

The room grew very silent, save for

letters and figures upon it.

almost stifled him. . .

sarily.

attentive ear to the combination.

with the total extinction of light.

"Not at all," she interposed.

ness! We must hurry. Will you, or

"The thief apologizes to the thief

She hesitated but a moment longer, then with a quick gesture removed her mask. Maitland's breath came fast as he bent forward, peering into her 'Not for me. Disappointment I ad- face; though he schooled his own features to an expression of intent and inoffensive studiousness, he feared the loud thumping of his heart would betray him. As he looked it became evident that the witchery of moonlight had not served to exaggerate the sensitive, the almost miniature, beauty of her. If anything, its charm was greater there in the full glare of the electric chandelier, as she faced him, giving him glance for glance, quite undismayed by the intentness of his scrutiny.

In the clear light her eyes shone lustrous, pool's of tawny flame; her hair showed itself of a rich and luminous coppery hue, spun to immeasurable fineness; a faint color burned in her cheeks, but in contrast her forehead was as snow-the pure, white, close-grained skin that is the heritage of red-headed women the world over, and their chiefest charm as well; while her lips-

As for her lips, the most coherent statement to be extracted from Mr. Maitland is to the effect that they were altogether desirable, from the very first.

The hauteur of her pose, the sympathy and laughter that lurked in her mouth, the manifest breeding in the delicate modeling of her nostrils, and the firms straight arch of her nose, the astonishing allurement of her eyes, combined with their spirited womanliness-these, while they completed the conquest of the young man, abashed him. He found himself of a sudden endowed with a painful appreciation of his own imperfections, the littleness of his ego, the inherent coarseness of his masculine fiber, the poor futility of his ways, contrasted with her perfections. He felt as if rebuked for some unwarrantable presumption. . . . For he had looked into eyes that were windows of a soul; and the soul was that of a child, unsullied and immaculate,

You may smile; but as for Maitland, he deemed it no laughing matter. From that moment his perception was clear that, whatever she might claim to be, however damning the circumstances in which she appeared to him, there was no evil in her.

But what he did not know, and did not even guess, was that, from the same instant, his being was in bondage to her will. So Love comes, strangely masked.

CHAPTER IV. Midsummer Night's Madness.

At length, awed and not a little shamefaced, "I beg your pardon," he stammered, wretchedly. "For what?" she demanded, quickly,

head up and eyes alight. "For insisting. It wasn't-ahcourteous. I'm sorry."

It was her turn now to wonder; delicacy of perception such as this an emotion stronger than he-moist was not ordinarily looked for in the person of a burgiar. With a laugh and

DAILY DOINGS OF OREGON STATE LAWMAKERS AT SAID Salem, Feb. 28. Governor Oswald lify a law passed by the people of

Salem, Feb. 28.—Governor Osward IIIy a law passed by the people, west and State Treasurer Kay restate at the last general deturned today to Salem from their visit whereby the Rogue river was the site for the to commercial fishing. turned today to Salem from the to commercial fishing. The to commercial fishing. The to branch asylum at Pendleton. The governor says that though the site years been controlled by me who, through riparian was said river to commercial fishing. The total fishing on the said river to commercial fishing. The total fishing on the said river to commercial fishing. recommended by the legislative investigating committee does not accord maintained a complete men with the views as to the proper loca-tion of the buildings held by himself of this monopoly he grew wer and Mr. Kay, he considers the matter was absolute dictator so far settled, since the legislature accepted stream was concerned. De the report of the joint committee and revenue from Oregon, he sp the report of the juilding the Eastern California, where his family Oregon asylum will be carried on as and his supplies were purchase expeditiously as possible and Eastern money he spent for the propar Organ will get the finest institution fish was spent because it would to be had for the money.

Briefly hesitant, with an impulsive More land will be necessary, the gesture she flung out a generous hand. governor thinks, in order to acquire "You're right; I was unkind. Forgive me. Won't you shake hands? I necessary water rights, intake and right of way for water for power pur-. . I do want to be a good composes. Though the matter is not yet rade, since it has pleased Fate to throw us together like this, so-so fully determined, all the buildings at Pendleton will probably be of conoddly." Her tone was almost plaintive; unquestionably it was appealing. crete. They will be arranged in a Maitland was curlously moved by crescent shape, with the administration building in the center and frontthe touch of the slim, cool fingers that lay in his palm. Not unpleasantly. He ing, with two retreating wings on either side and the other buildings frowned in perplexity, unable to anawill be in the rear.

Regarding the Eastern Oregon institution, the governor says:

"The tract selected by the old board United States Forest series is about equally divided between hill "Why do you do this, little woman? and bottom land, the latter being sep-Why do you stoop to this-this trade arated from the former by the O. R. & engineering work of the of yo-of ours? Why sully your hands N. tracks and the county road. The this district. -and not only your hands-imperil proposed building site was upon the your good name, to say nothing of your hill tract, but the present board, after state, 296,791,900 feet were the careful investigation, decided that the the wood-using industries. She drew her hand away quickly, insaid site was unsuitable and their the wood-using industries into terrupting him with a laugh that rang findings were borne out by the reports respective lines of manufacture both of the special committee appoint-ed by the board and the legislative 367,600 feet; boxes, 77,90 true as a coin new from the mint, hon-"And this," she cried, "this from

committee.

"The legislative committee, however, reported that the bottom tract 20,685,000; furniture many afforded a suitable site for the buildings, and this report was adopted by the legislature.

Salem, Feb. 27.-Baker's demand I tell you?" more seriously, doubtfully. for greater consideration at the hands "I think I shall . . . truly. I do of the Oregon & Washington Railroad & Navigation company in the way of know, because-imprimis, because I distributive and special commodity like it. Indeed and I do! I like the rates was taken up for investigation officially today by the railroad comcunning and-and I like the rewards, mission. Baker has made a demand similar to the one made by the city of Medford for distributive rates as favorable as those enjoyed by the larger having reached Albany. The shipping centers such as Portland,

Spokane and Seattle. Attorney Arthur C. Spencer of Portland, is conducting the case for the railroad company. Attorney F. H. McCune of Portland, is attorney for lights and power from the line. the Baker Commercial club, the plain- line, however, cannot be used for tiff bringing the complaint against time yet, because the subsuit the rariroad company. At 11 o'clock Albany and other points are when the case opened before the commission Attorney Spencer put on the and is said to be one of their stand General Freight Agent F. W. on the Coast. It was built still Robinson, of the Oregon & Washing- of \$2,000 a mile. The poles we ton railroad company and he read into are all over 40 feet high, are the the records a stupendous amount of jest obtainable and the big part "Then I wash my hands of the whole statistics and figures showing the bus- insulators cost over \$1 apiers affair," he stated in accents of finality. iness relation of the business of the heavy copper wire is almost an I refuse, I shall go, and you can do road to the different cities and centers of an inch thick. It is suit as you will-blunder on," scornfully, of population in Oregon.

E. H. Flagg, chief clerk of the is quite heavy. and drills and-and rouse the entire state senate, and John P. Hunt, assistant clerk, were prominent figures in and Junction City are already the recent controversy over the revision of the senate journal. Flagg went the plant at Springfield our into the courts to prevent Hunt and transmission I'ne and the compa Colonel Mercer from revising the journal, as they had been directed by a ties to the other villages and ha senate resolution to do, and won his communities in this part of the point

This incident was of more importance than the average reader may suppose. A record of every bill enacted into law must be kept and set forth from the time of its introducsave you-oh, heaps of trouble in other tion, and unless this record is correct in every detail the law may be as- has decided that preliminary She shrugged helplessly. "If I must sailed in the courts. Legal authorithe drainage of 1,000 acres of then I do accept. We are partners, ties differ as to whether a law can under the Owyhee ditch be taled stand if it is not backed by a complete- that the engineer start the wall He nodded mute satisfaction, brushed ly accurate record.

> Salem, Feb. 25.—Of the 725 bills the greater portion is as yet in that were introduced in the two houses condition. of the legislature, 275 of them have necessity of drainage and the stop been allowed to become laws. The taken to prevent the land from legislature itself failed to pass or in- waterlogged. Some of the set definitely postponed 386 bills, or more owned by what is commonly than half the number introduced, and "road grant company," and the the governor by the exercise of his taken depend a great deal on the veto power, stopped a total of 64 these people look at the project bills, which is the largest number of The engineer is preparing to bills of any one session that has ever men in the field to sound the been vetoed by a governor of this to run the preliminary sarregion

the bull's-eye was jerked back, and a By these vetoes and by other arrangements whereby only a portion of the sums appropriated by the legislature are to be used, the governor has a large crew of men will so turned back into the pockets of the work next week setting policy taxpayers approximately \$600,000, or stringing wire for two power more than half a million dollars which be projected into the counts will make the appropriations voted by and west of Milton. The line and west of Milton. the legislature aggregate a total of built at once, while another is about \$4,300,000, instead of \$4,900,- be built on the east side of the breath was fragrant upon his cheek. 000, as previously estimated.

governor's disapproval was the Rogue those built by the city two year River fish bill, upon which the gover- and which have been in nor for some time has intimated his since. The past two years have action. He says the people have expressed themselves without qualifica- cheapness of electricity for tion on the matter and left nothing for the legislature or himself to do other than follow their will. In the message accompanying this water has a sage accompanying this water has a sage accompanying this water has a sage accompanying the sa Notwithstanding this, she seemed plauded, whispering, as the heavy door "The purpose of this bill is to nul- largement of the municipal plant sage accompanying this veto he says:

Shelburn Wants Waiting Room. received by the railroad commission lands involving about this morning for this morning from citizens who live in closed here when H. the vicinity of Shelburn, where the George E, Pike and R. E. Corvallis & Eastern railroad inter- to the Pulaski Coal & Naviga sects with the Springfield branch of pany 329 acres of coal land at the Southern Pacific company that the commission investigate condithe Southern Pacific company, asking near tidewater. tions, and, if it is found necessary, to of about \$75,000 for the demander of the design of about \$75,000 for the demander of the design of about \$75,000 for the design of the design o make an order requiring these roads of the property on an extensi jointly to build a depot or waiting and the shipment of cost station at the point of ict. station at the point of intersection.

mately add to his revenue."

MUCH LUMBER USED HERE

Oregon Industries Required is 800,000,000 Feet,

Out of the 2,000,000,000 feet) measure, of timber cut in the m Oregon during the year of 1966, 000,000 feet were used in This fact is shown in a report sued by the Oregon Conservation mission and the United States service. Howard B. Oakleaf, at pared the data under the dise

Of the 800,000,000 feet used in sashes and doors, 43,158,500; finish work, 22,660,000; mor 9,835,350; excelsior, 4,320,000; ets and veneers, 3,102,000 and minor lines make up the balance

POWER LINE PROGRESSES

Big Plant at Springfield Will Seet liver Current Through Ville Eugene-The transmission line

tending from the Oregon Power pany's big electric plant at he field down the valley as far male is practically complete, the in this line means the electrifical practically the entire Upper W ette valley, for numerous town cities besides Springfield, Eggs Albany will be supplied with less completed. The line is 45 mile that the cost of the transmission

The towns of Coburg, Harris supplied with light and power planning on farnishing these of

Owyhee Farmers Would Re

DRAIN 1,000 ACRES.

Moisture in Soil

Nyssa - A meeting of land once. Some of the land in que suffering from too much most The owners realis

right of way.

Extend Power Lines. Milton-City Electrician Co Walla river.

The new lines will be sin generated since the extension

Develop Coal in Coquille Coquille-A deal in Oregon points. It is of first-class qual