GEORGE BARR McCUTCHEON. Author of "Beverly of Graustark," Etc.

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(HAPTER XXVI-Continued)

That's good of you, dear, but you topt your mother's statements and if that Rigby says all that. Oh, I've ne over all of it, and I am convinced. wender what has become of him. He afraid of-of-well, there was talk of an arrest before I left. I have not toked at a newspaper since I saw the badlines that awful morning. God. how they must have hurt you!"

I too, have not looked at a newspaper since then, Graydon," she said simply. He smiled wearily, and there was response in her eyes.

He took her hand in his, and they at silently side by side on the bench smiled Jane encouragingly.

aydon." she said at last, "are you going to remain in the army?" I am through with it. My discharge is to be recommended. I'm dis-

you will be as strong as ever, dear." no you want me to stick to the of I am only a private."

You can do greater things out in the world. I know. You will be a great in if you don't lose heart, Graydon."



"Jane, this can't go on any longer." "I can't be a soldier, dear, and support a wife on the pay I get," he said

"You shouldn't marry." "But I am going to marry," he said. I have decided to become a nurse.

It is my intention to give my whole "The Red Cross?"

"No. The hospitals at home the hospitals for the poor and homeless." Ethel Harbin was coming through the grounds toward them. Her face

was visibly excited.

"It's all off," she announced as she

"Where is the usual hero?" asked I'm through with the real army. bey've dismissed me. That is, father ad mother have. They are driving ie to the Salvation Army," she exmed, seating herself beside Gray-

on, "I wish I were Jane and my own Dear me, Ethel, what an ambition!" id Jane, "What has happened to set you so?"

should have asked who, not

I suppose they expect me to marry alvation Army man. They say Hary isn't good enough. I think he is a ery moral young man."

"Harry? Who is Harry?" Why, haven't you heard? Harry Soper. I'm engaged to him."

The lieutenant?" rtainly. He's going to be proaring line. It's not his fault that he has to do duty in the walled city. He's ng to get out and fight. But Here she paused, her lips Graydon." logether with a firmness that

He says Harry is a 'little pup.'

It's outrageous, Jane." "Don't cry, dear. The world is full "Not for me," said Ethel dolefully.

or more, and I think my discrimination ought to be considered. I'm the his two years. He inclosed a letter one to be satisfied. Father has no"back in New York? You used to say he charge of their New York office if he was the only one."

But look how far off he is! It takes fulness he never expected to feel weeks for his letters to get to me."

"But he writes every day." Jon, Jane, the voice has a good deal to aloud to Jane. When he had finished do with it. You like to hear a fellow the perusal of the long epistle he fold-May nice things. It beats ink all to ed it and stuck it away in his pocket. pleces. It will go hard with him perhaps, but he's young. He'll get over face drawn, but there was no word to

You are young too. That is why you the man who had denounced her.

n

have got over George." decided on Harry. If father doesn't urged him to go into business in the let us get married right away I'm liable to get over him too. It's stilly doing vide ample means with which to begin that all the time. One might rever get and carry on any enterprise he care! married, you know. But father is firm. to exploit. One paragraph cut Graydon He says I can't, and he says be'll kick to the quick: Father says I shall not merry into the cago. If they don't kill you in the Philregular army. He says they don't ippines you're better off there. They make good hostends. I've get the hate as here." loke on him, though. He appealed to

mother, and she forgot herself ame said the same thing. They were guerreling about it when I left the head-It was an awful jar to father. For two cents I'd elope with Harry."

"It would be pretty difficult for an officer on duty to elope, don't you think?" asked Graydon, amused.

"Not if he loved the girl. He does too. But I haven't told you the worst. Mother says I am being absolutely spoiled out here in Manils, and she mays flatly that she's soing to take me back to the States. Isn't it awful?" "Back to the fellow in New York?"

leve with some other girl," she said. It was true, as Jame soon learned. that Mrs. Harbin had concluded to return to the United States with Ethel. Jane's aunt had grown immeasurably tired of Manila-and perhaps a little more tired of the colonel. It was she looked shead with keen inquiry, specuwho aroused the colone's antipathy to lating on the uncertain whiri of for little Lieutenant Soper. She dwelt tune's wheel. upon the dire misfortune that was possible if Ethel continued to bask in the to his plendings. A certain light in her colonel developed a towering rage and his soul. He began to fear, with a for an instant. a great fear that Ethel might become fatally contaminated before she could be whisked off of the island. It was decided that Mrs. Harbin and Ethel bin and Ethel. There were other should return to the United States soon after the first of March to take up their residence in New York city.

widow-on parole," sniffed Ethel, almost audibly enough for her father's

Letters of late from Mrs. Cable had been urging her to return to Chicago. David Cable was far from well, breaking fast, and he was wearing out his heart in silent longing for her return. both of our lives?" He wrote to her himself that he exwas clouded by a dark frown, and she pected to retire from active business You know I cannot" early in the year and that his time and voted to his family. He held out attractive visions of travel, of residence tbroad, of endless pleasure which they

could enjoy together. Jane had written to them that she would not live in Chicago-any place else in the world, she said-and they understood. There was no word of James Bansemer in all these letters. they were father and mother.

Graydon Bansemer one day received three letters, all from Chicago. He knew the handwriting on the envelope of each. Three men had written to him-his fatner, Elias Droom and Rig by. A dark scowl came over his face as he looked at the Rigby envelope. It was the first letter that he opened and rend. Jane was sitting near by watching the expression on his face.

"It's from Rigby," he said as he

"What does he say?" she asked aux-

"He says he is my devoted friend the sort of friend I want." "He thought it was for the best,

"Yes, and he may have thought be

"But how about that young fellow man promised to put Graydon in would take the place. This news sent "He is the only one in New York. his spirits bounding. Tears of a gratesprang to his eyes. Jane's happiness

was a reflection of his own. James Bansemer's letter was not read let ber know what had been written by

"He is well," was all he said. He T'm not as young as I was. But I've did not tell her that his father had

"Td advise you to steer clear of Chi-

CHAPTER XXVII.

ARLY in March a great transpert salied from Mawith buy laden with sick and dhabled soldiers the iame, the healthiose and the mad. It was not a

merry shiplend, although hundreds were rejoicing in the excape from the hardships of fife in the islands. Graydon Bansemer was among them, weak and distrustful of his own future, albeit a medal of bonor and the prospect of an excellent position were shead of ii. His discharge was assured. He sat silently side by their thoughts far the significant laurest and to respect the significant laurest and to respect the "I hope he hasn't gone and fallen in driven him late service. In his heart he felt that time would make him as strong as ever, despite the ugly scar in his side. It was a question with him, however, whether time could revive the ambiton that had been smothered during the first days of despair. He

Jane was obduracy itself in respect mighty pain, that she would not retreat from the stand she had taken.

wives on board who had found tem- pected it." porary release from irksome but volun-"Mother wants to be a soldier's from the Red Cross society deprived her of the privileges which would have permitted her to see much of Graydon. They were kept separated by the Mrs. Harbin at once informed Jane transport's regulations—he was a comthat she was expected to return with mon soldler, she of the officers' mess. them. She demurred at first, purely The restrictions were cruel and relentfor the sake of appearances, but in the less. They saw but little of one anend agreed to tender her resignation to other during the thirty days, but their the Red Cross society. The knowledge thoughts were busy with the days to that Graydon Bansemer's discharge come. Graydon grew stronger and was soon forthcoming and that he in- more confident as the ship forged neartended to return to America in the er to the Golden Gate, Jane more wistspring had more to do with this decision than she was willing to admit. which was to give life another color-She therefore announced her ambition ing. if possible. They were but one to become a trained nurse and gave no day out from San Francisco when he heed to Mrs. Harbin's insinuating found the opportunity to converse with her as she passed through the quarters of the luckless ones.

"Jane, I won't take no for an answer this time," he whispered eagerly. "You must consent. Do you want to ruin

"Why will you persist, Graydon?

"You can. Consider me as well as on shore. I have many things to do before I am liberty to go my way, you will lose her as a wife." cisco. Mr. and Mrs. Cable are to meet life. She loves me, I'm sure." the same.

"Dear Graydon, I am sorry, I am heartsick, but I cannot, I dare not." Graydon Bansemer was a man as "Come up to our apartments. from the bottom of his tried soul:

"It's d-d nonsense, Jane!" He said of a private is not great." called, repentant and anxious.

"Yes!" The next day they landed. Graydon quick, searching look. waved an anxious farewell to her as he was hurried off with the lame, the Chicago, strange as it may seem," said fluently and in a new light. She saw twenty-nine, does she?" spite of himself be could not repel an road is all right." eager, half fearful glance through the was my friend too. This letter says as dreaded the thought that he might be Elias Droom-old Elias." Droom after a moment's hesitation wave his scrawled a few words of cheer to the hand to him, the utmost friendship in As the soldiers moved away Cable

> though compassionate expression in his eyes. He and Jane were ready to con- the coach. front the customs officers.

they were trying to shield her. The following morning Graydon re-

tape restrictions. the latter having neked him to notify exfle. him as soon as he reached fon Pro-

cisco. Graydon was not a little pur the insistence, "it is not just to him. zied by the fact that the old clerk seemed strangely at variance with his ather in respect to the future. In telegrams he announced that he she said stubbo would start east as soon as possible.

Clegg and reiterated his pressing com-mand to the young man to stop for a "Waste your life in" few days in Chicago. In broad and characteristically uncouth sentences he tion for it. I can't be idle. I can't exno grudge against him and that the ist forever in your love and devotion." contrary—he would navise him to than you think. Everything we have choose New York. There was one is yours." Broadway" and another to "Gren- mean it in that way. It han't the seclusion that a great hotel can afford atteh," as he wrete it. In conclusion, he asked him to come to the office, home, either. No; you must let me which was still in the U- building, choose my own way of living the rest office, eager, yet half fearing, to meet adding that if he wiened to avoid the of my life. I came from a foundling the man who was responsible for the newspaper men he could find seclusion hospital. A good and tender nurse broken link in his life-this odd year at the old reoms in Wells street. "Your found me there and gave me the hapfather," he said, "has given up his plest years of my life. I shall go back that a full year had elapsed since he apartment and has taken lodgings. I there and give the rest of my years to spent that unforgettable night in Elias doubt very much if he will be willing children who are less fortunate than I Droom's uncauny home. Was he never to share them with you, in view of the was. I want to belp them, mother, just to forget that night—that night when position he has secumed in regard to as you did-only it is different with his soul seemed even more squalid your future, although he says you may me.' always call upon him for pecuniary assistance." A draft for \$500 was in said Mrs. Cable earnestly, clesed with the letter.

Grardon was relieved to find that eatted it, a mentiemanly pension attorney locked arms with him and hung on said firmly. like a leech until the irritated soldier shook him off with less consideration than vigor.

He went directly to the Palace hotel. where he knew the Cables were stopping. David Cable came down in response to his card. The two men shook society of "those young minnies." The eyes had at last brought conviction to hands, each eying the other inquiringly

"I want you to understand, Graydon, that I am your friend. Nothing has al-She went on board with Mrs. Har- tered my esteem for you."

"Thank you, Mr. Cable. I hardly ex-

to marry Jane. She says she cannot become my wife. You understand why, sir. I only want to tell you that her objections are not objections to me. She is Jane, and I love her, sir, be-

cause she is." "I hope you can win her over, Graydon. She seems determined, however, and she is unhappy. You can't blame her, either. If there were base or common blood in her, it wouldn't make much difference to her pride. But she's made of other material. She's serious about it, and I am sensible enough to get her point of view. She wouldn't want to marry you with the prospect of an eternal shadow that neither of you could get off of your minds. I sometimes wish that I knew who were

her parents." "It doesn't matter, so far as I am concerned."

"I know, my boy. You'll never know fortune from that day on would be deyourself. I want you. Isn't that how it hurt me to find that I had no "Good Lord, child, don't be foolish!" and the foolish of the fo enough? You can't ask for more love daughter. It hurts her worse a thouthan I will give. Tomorrow we'll be sandfold to learn that she has no moth- going to demand some of your devoer. I trust it may not happen that tion for my own sake before that time all. They belong to Mr. Bansemer

Won't you wait for me? It won't be "If I really thought I couldn't win life"long. We can be married in San Fran- her, sir, it would ruin my ambition in "And I've loved you, daddy," she

you. Tell them, dearest, that you want | "By the way, Clegg tells me he has to go home with me. The home won't offered you the New York office. It is your nursing career by attending to ty-one next Tuesday." She was always daughter to them, and be in Chicago, but it will be home just a splendid chance for you. You will me. I'm sick for want of your love. take it, of course.'

Clegg when I get to Chicago."

well as a lover. He gave utterance to pardon me, Graydon, I want to ask take you with us. Right now is where how a fellow always gets stuck on a perfectly manlike expression, coming you if you have sufficient money to you begin your career as a nurse, girl older than himself. Still, she's a carry you through? I know the pay You've got to begin by taking care of right. I'm not saying a word against

it so feelingly that she smiled even as "Thank you. I have saved nearly she shook her head and moved away. all of it. My father has sent me a want a direct decision-at once: Will "I'll see you tomorrow on shore?" he draft for five hundred. I don't expect you take charge of two patients on a to use it, of course."

"Your father?" asked Cable, with a "And then I did save something in

though, if he ever gets on the for life," replied Graydon bitterly. "I halt and the blind. He saw David Ca-Bansemer, with a smile. "I have a what it was that he considered that cannot forget, though. Jane. He is not ble and his wife on the pier, and in few of your 5 per cents. I trust the she owed to them—the love of a daugh-

The Cables left San Francisco on was no mistaking the joy which lay much. But I like an enemy better, there, after all. To his surprise, as he under restraint in the faces and attidear. You know what to expect of an stood waiting with his comrades he tude of the Cables. David Cable had down the rails that slipped out behind dear. You know the late and less gray it them, saw David Cable turn suddenly and grown younger and less gray, it seemed, and his wife was glowing he remarked. with a new and subdued happiness. young soldier, urging him not to re- his now haggard face. His heart Graydon, sitting with the excited Tre picked Harry out of a hundred enlist, but to come home at the and of thumped jeyously at this sign of amity. Ethel, who was rejoicing in the prose his two years. He inclosed a letter paused and looked after him, a grim man, studied the faces of the three pect of New York and the other young

people who sat at the other end of

breath and looked at him with some never left the face of Jane, who was great good, and it will be a joy to RAYMOND HITCHCOCK thing like terror in her eyes. He talking in an earnest, impassioned them. I'll miss you," abruptly changed the subject, deploring manner, as was her wont in these "And I shall miss you, Graydon," his lapse into the past from which days. Frances Cable's face was a she said, her eyes very solemn and study in transition. She had lost the wistful. color and vivacity of a year ago, alceived a note from Cable, a frank but thought the change was not apparent promise I want, Jane?" he asked eagercarefully worded message, in which to the casual observer. Graydon could ly. She placed her hand upon his and he was invited to take the trip east in see that she had suffered in many shook her head. the private car of the president of the ways. The keen, eager appeal for ap-Pacific, Lakes and Atlantic. Mrs. Ca- preciation was gone from her eyes; Don't make it so hard for me. Please, tion. One of the sore spots in Gray- and contentedness. Happiness, now me. don's conscience was healed by this struggling against the smarting of a exhibition of kindness. Morever, Ca- sober pain, was giving a sweetness to ble stated that his party would delay her eyes that had been lost in the amdeparture until Graydon's papers were bitions glitter of other days. Ethel passed upon and he was free from red | bored him, a most unusual condition He longed to be under the tender, quiet-The young man on landing sent tale. ing influence at the opposite end of the grams to his father and Elias Droom, car. He even resented his temporary

the right thing by him." "You'll find I am right in the end."

There was a letter from Droom ing out as a trained nurse, dear." "I can't bear the thought of your goawaiting him at headquarters. It was tested Frances Cable, "There is no ne accept the place proposed by Mr cessity. You can have the best of homes and in any place you like. Why

"Good Lord, child, don't be foolish!" young men would welcome him with open arms his groundless fears to the

> "I'm sorry I said ft, daddy. I did not both he and his wife retiring into the mency, you know, and it isn't the when necessary.

> "You'll see it differently some day." All of his baggage except a suit case

foundlings, Jane," said Cable, "but 1 longings in the former home of his fadon't see why you have to be a nurse ther, nor, for that matter, did he care tending his official discharge. When he walked out a "free man," as he

"Then why, in the name of hoaven, costomary aloofness. Graydon foun were you so unkind as to keep that himself hoping that he would not mee poor boy over there allve when he Bobby Rigby. He also wondered as might have died and ended his misery? the car shot up how his father had You nursed him back to life only to managed to escape from the meshes

give him a wound that cannot be heal- that were drawn about him on the eve ed. You would ruin his life, Jane. Is of his departure. His chances had it fair? I'm uncouth and hard in many looked black and hopeless enough then, ways-I had a hard, unkind beginning yet he still maintained the same old -but I really believe I've got more offices in the building. His name was heart in me than you have."

tary enlistment. Jane's resignation let all that pass. Mrs. Cable wants to love that I give to you; you owe Gray- charwoman, all of whom were tolling



gasped. "And I'm going to ask you to begin "Say, talking about time, I'll be twen-I'm giving up business for the sake of Oh, for our health, and we are going to is. She's twenty-nine. Gee, it's funn the love that is sick and miserable. her. She wouldn't be twenty-nine if We want it to live, my dear. Now, 1 she could help it." long contemplated trip in search of "I don't know about that either. We love and rest-wages paid in advance?" She looked at him, white faced and look like it's off, does it? Four sixtystunned. He was putting it before her five, including the tip. She don't look

An hour later she stood with Graycrowd of faces. Although he did not expect his father to meet him, he Harbins and Graydon Bansemer. There country through which they were rushing, and she was looking pensively,

"We'll be in Chicago in three days,"

"Graydon, I have decided to go abroad for five or six months before fice one day," with a dry cackle, starting upon my work. They want me so much, you see," she said, her voice a triffe uncertain.

"I wish I could have some power to Time had wrought its penalties. Ca. persuade you," he said. Changing his "I wonder if he knows about his ble was thin and his face had lost its tone to one of brisk interest, he went father," mused he. Jane caught her virility, but not its power. His eyes on. "It is right, dear. It will do you

"Won't you-won't you give me the

"Won't you be good to me, Graydon? ble joined her husband in the invita- in its stead was the appeal for love please don't tell me again that you love





CHAPTER XXVIII.



HE spring floods delayed the eastern express bringing the party Chicago nearly a da: late. The Cables and the Harbins went at once

the Annex, where David Cable ha taken rooms. They had given up their north side home some months before

Grayden hurried off to his father

than the home of the recluse?

bed been left at the station. He did "I don't object to your helping the net know what had become of his be-"It's my way, daddy, that's all," she whom he remembered. The boy looke at him quiezically and nodded with

on the directory board downstairs. "David" excisimed his wife. Jane Graydon's heart gave a quick bound to perfect health, but I am now a proud looked at the exasperated man in sur- with the thought that his father had mother." proved the charges false after all. "Now, here's what I intend you to Elias Droom was busy directing the "Now, here's what I intend you to do: You owe me something for the labors of two ablebodied men and a ham's Vegetable Compound, made don something for keeping him from as they had never tolled before. The standard remedy for female ills, "Before we go any farther I want to dying. If you want to go into the woman was dusting law books, and and has positively cured thousands of make myself clear to you. I still hope nursing business, all right. But I'm the men were packing them away in women who have been troubled with boxes. The front room of the suit was displacements, inflammation, ulceran a state of devastation. A dozen tion, fibroid tumors, irregularities,

> 'secondhand man;" the floor was littered with paper. Droom was directing operations with a broken umbrella. It seemed like a lash to the tollers. "Now let's get through with this health. Address, Lynn, Mass. room," he was saying in his most impelling way. "The men will be here for the boxes at 4. I don't want 'em to walt. This back room stuff we'll

furniture were huddled in the most re-

mote corner awaiting the arrival of the

put in the trunks. Look out there! Don't you see that nail?" Mddie Deever, with his usual indolence, was seated upon the edge of the writing table in the corner, smoking his cigarette and commenting with rash freedom upon the efforts of the per-

spiring slaves. "How long are you going to keep these things in the warehouse?" h asked of Droom.

"I'm not going to keep them there at

comes. I've loved you all of your He'll take them out when he has the time. "He's getting all the time he wants

new, I guess," commented Eddle.

"Old enough to marry." "I don't know about that. I'm get-"I expect to talk it over with Mr. enjoying it unrestrained. Your mother ting pretty wise. Do you know, I've and I expect it. We are going abroad just found out how old Rosle Kenting

> "I suppose it's off between you then." lunched at Rector's today. That don't

"I've never noticed her." "Never! Well, holy mackerel! You must be blind then. She says she's seen you in the elevator a thousand times. Never noticed her? Gee!"

"I mean I've never noticed any one who looked less than twenty-nine. By the way, do you ever see Mr. Rigby? I believe she is in his office." "I don't go to Rigby's any more,

said Eddie, with sudden stiffness. "He's "I heard he threw you out of the of-"He did not! We couldn't agree in certain things regarding the Bansemer

(Continued next week.)

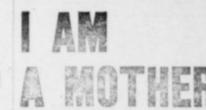
devil, or words to that effect."

affair, that's all. I told him to go to the

THE ACTOR MAY NEVER BE TRIED

New York, Nov. 13 .- Raymond Hitchcock, the comedian, will probably never be tried on the two indictments as the result of the charge preferred by three young girls. court today that there is no hope of conviction and upon his recommen dation his ball of \$7500 was discharged. It is likely that Hitchcock's attorneys in a few days will move the dismissal of the indictments. Hitchcock has been acquitted on two in-

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