

NINTH INSTALLMENT

WHAT HAPPENED SO PAR

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The Sheridan Dramatic Club, of which Tom Bilbeck, the narrator, Maryella, the girl he cares for, and Jim Cooper, his rival, are members, start a performance of Pygmalion and Galatea at the Old Soldiers Home, but are interrupted by a fire. During the rehearsals Tom Bilbeck is accused by the husband of one of the actors. Mr. Hemningway, of being in love with his wife. Riding away from the scene of the ill-fated play in their costumes and overcoats, the group of players is held up by two escaped convicts, one of whom is captured by Bilbeck after a struggle.

The captured thief is tied to a chair

struggle.

The captured thief is tied to a chair at the Old Soldiers' Home. Unable to leave the home as the car refuses to budge, the players must stay there, and Mr. Hemmingway, hearing this over the phone, says he is coming right to the nome—as he is suspicious of his wife and Bilbeck. Meanwhile the Sheriff arrives.

Hemmingway arrives just when Bil-beck is assisting Mrs. Hemmingway, who has fainted and of course thinks the worst. Meanwhile a disturbance is beard in the cellar, and all in the house work down to it. NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

The inference was that either the sheriff slept in the stable with the horse or the horse slept in the house with the sheriff. At any rate I had from my doze when I started on ill-fated expedition down-stairs tional mix-up with the Hemming-

While the sheriff and some of the

As I came up from the basement to the living-room, which was now beginning to get light with the first chill dawn of winter morning, I no-ticed Mr. and Mrs. Hemmingway in eager conversation. Apparently they

Tons of snow had been carelessly were approaching some sort of negotiation for peace because they hand of an inconceivable giant. In were standing quite close together and once or twice he made as if to take her in his arms.

Far be it from me to interrupt any reconciliation between the Hemmingways. There and there only lay my hope of retaining my job and incidentally the respect of

I was carefully tiptoeing across the living-room to the door which led to the stairway, perfectly willing to have my progress unnoted, when I was arrested, nay frozen in my tracks, by the piercing voice of Pilk Henwether cautiously subdued to a

longshoreman's hail. "Hey, Mr. Bilbeck!" he called. "I want to warn you. There's a feller here trying to steal your girl away from you the pretty blond one that was making eyes at you last night."
Mr. and Mrs. Hemmingway, who had reached the sobbing-on-shoul-der stage of their reconciliation, tening surface clear, and it lay a

anger at white heat once more. "My | some boys were rigging an ice-box suspicions were true after all! You One of them was up on the mast made such a fool of yourself that threading a halyard through a puleverybody noticed it. And to think that you would try to lure me back done that sort of thing on my first by soft words! You vampire!"
He struck his forehead a sharp

"My Heaven! To think I am married to you!"

Mrs. Hemmingway's eyes, usually clothed.

so placid, blazed in response to his

it takes to get a divorce," she ex-claimed, half-hysterical with anger. "If you're going to believe every-thing you hear we might as well separate and get it over with."

their faces what he missed in their speeches, and I with a chill horror | zled to find myself an outcast in my

at the seriousness of the breach. "I think she likes you best after all," vouchsafed Pilk. "He's a mite all," vouchsafed Pilk. "He's a mite ellogue on my prowess as a lady-'ve got a way with you that goes with the ladies, durned if you ain't."

wn circle.

by my arrival.

staring at his plate, but ate very

Maryella and Mrs. Lillielove con-

"And I haven't any intentions."

"It's all for the best, then.

"Not on your life. I haven't any

You fix it up and get all the

skin on my shins now just because

"I can do it. And all I ask is a little thanks."

That's the way with Jim. He's one of the best little fixers I know.

He is always eager to make some one happy. Whatever happens he likes to feel that he is the man who

And he likes to be thanked, too. Half a dozen thanks, and Jim will

go without his breakfast any day. It's a vice with him. He has to be

thanked for something about every so often or he gets terribly depress-

ed and thinks that he is not much

In an Anglo-Saxon community a confirmed thankomaniac is continu-

ally getting hurt. Since I have learned of his habit I always thank

a lad of his slender build against an

mended the mainspring.

se to the world.

It saves lots of trouble

and I must reconcile them."

I started away hastily.

Mrs. Hemmingway shrugged her shoulders helplessly and started from the room. Mr. Hemmingway followed to the door, which she slammed in his face.

I quickly gave up my intentions of going up-stairs, which involved passing through the living-room, and went back to the basement in stead, convinced that safety lay in sticking to the crowd

We went back to bed later for a morning nap. When they woke me up next time—this was for breakfast—I refused to arise until I was provided with some clothes.

It was all very well to prow around in white tights at night when I was hunting ghosts, but it "Well, I'm giggered!" exclaimed the sheriff. "There's a lot of life in the ordinary business of life, such as eating soft boiled eggs or bringing in an armful of wood.

"Is he frightened?" Mrs. Lillie-love asked.

"Is he frightened?" Mrs. Lillie-love asked.

love asked.

"No. He's just lonesome. He finding any that I would dare trust. ain't used to being alone at night, we had just about given it up as a lone was going to look bad job when some one suggested that Comrade Dreyenfurth very nearly my size.

His other pants were comman leered. I have mentioned I believe. that Abel Dreyenfurth's west leg an explanation of the ghostly has been wilfully missing since Ansounds which had wakened me tietam. For that reason the Dreyenfurth trousers last twice as long as which had culminated in the sensa- in the extra leg to reenforce the

For that reason they did not give me all the protection I could have others captured the horse and tied wished. They were like the first in-him to a ring in the stone wall. I stallment of a magazine serial went back to the main floor. I good as far as they went, but tan-wanted to be alone and think.

Still they were better than nothing, so I got up.

The sun was bright and dazzling.

tossed over the map with the lavish some places were graceful drifts as high as a man, and against a shed in the yard it was piled up even with the roof.

It had been a tremendous storm. Inside we had not realized the mount of snow that had fallen.

City people never know what a nowstorm is like. It falls on strects that are shoveled clear alnost as fast as it comes down, and he little patches that remain ar almost immediattely soiled with tracks and the soot of countless chimneys. But out in the open it is different. There you can get an idea of the way the Lord intended the world to look in the winter time.

Strangely enough the lake, which lay peacefully crystallized at the foot of the hill where the Home stood, was comparatively free from now separated suddenly as if a clear black blot on a white universe, shell had exploded between them.

the husband shouted his dotted the lake, and near the shore ice-boat.

I sighed. I could never do it

The only one of our party who spoke to me was Jim Cooper. Mrs. "You needn't be any longer than Lillielove looked as if she were go-takes to get a divorce," she ex-ing to, but suddenly she blushed and lowered her eyes to her plate without saying anything.

"Good morning," Jim assured me cheerfully. "Isn't this a fine day?" Comrade Henwether and I were He rubbed his hands gleefully, as if observing the scene, he with appraising looks seeking to read in to be complimented for his skill. from the rug where he had landed and removed the cane chair seat which was around his neck

"I suppose it's all for the best," he "What?" I asked without enthu-

"Well, I had to agree that you would marry Mrs. Hemmingway," he explained painstakingly. "I tried to make him see differently, but he insisted. You ought to be glad. insisted. You ought to be glad, Tom. She's a very sweet woman and will make a fine wife."

"You agreed that I would marry her?" I demanded. "What in the name of Mike have you got to say about it?"
"Well," he explained, "I let him

think that you had sent me to patch it up. Maybe I did wrong, but I thought it was all for the best." "Oh, I see." What difference did killer, which had been interrupted Mrs. Hemmingway's eyes were red from weeping. Poor woman, it make after all? One tangle more

she had not had any sleep at all, I did not make it much worse, judged. Her husband sat moodily "People don't seem to app "People don't seem to appreciate it when a man goes out of his way with martyrlike resignation.

ersed with paniful animation about versed with paniful animation about crochet stitches and new fashions "Didn't I thank you? I certainly am After breakfast Jim Cooper got much obliged for your good inten-"Are you really in love with Mrs.

"It was nothing at all, Tom. I'd do it again for you any day. When-Hemmingway?" he demanded, fixing my eye with a look that de-manded an honest reply. "Are your intentions honorable?" ever you get in a tight hole send for me. I'm always willing to help. A little thanks is all the pay I want."

Immensely cheered, he left me. It "Of course I'm not in love with her!" I replied with bitter emphasis. vas all for the best-I had located a paper weight to throw at him if he You

offered to do anything more for me I picked up an old magazine and tried to read. The story I started proved to be a serial. I asked Comrade Dreyenfurth, who happened through, if they had a copy of the I mixed up in trying to help Mrs. Hemmingway. You do the reconcilnumber containing the next install-

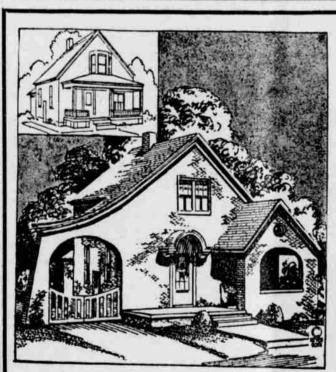
"I will," he declared confidently.

"No," he replied with aggravated bitterness. "We get all our magazines from people who sent 'em to us after they get through reading 'em. And nobody ever sent up a complete set yet. I gave up trying to read the serials five years ago."
"I can tell you what happens in the November number." offered Mrs. Lillielove, who had seated herself near and had overheard the conversation. "I read nearly all the magazines that come out. It's ter-ribly exciting when you get six or seven heroines in tight places all at

(Continued Next Week)

MINSTREL SHOW COMING.

The minstrel fans of this vicinity will be pleased to learn that one of him every time I see him, even if I the very best and largest minstrel can't think of anything he has done. Heppner. Friday, June 21, under So Jim agreed to fix up between canvas, according to advance notice, the Hemmingways. With elaborate formality he invited them into a ten that they are minstrel fans besmall room off from the living-room which served as an office for Colonel
They followed him won-Jim was back again even sooner will get them when Arthur Hock-than I expected. What chance had wald brings his Richards & Pringle's famous Georgia Minstrels to exasperated man as large as Hem-mingway? He picked himself up performance starts at 5 p. m.



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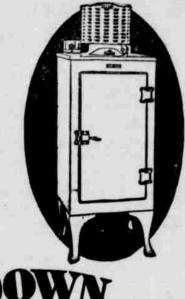
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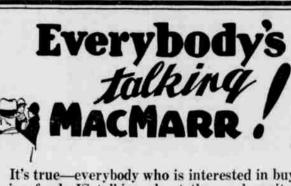
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