

The Diamond Boy

BY LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE

PICTURES BY M. WEIL

COPYRIGHT 1907—THE BOBBS-MERRILL CO.

SYNOPSIS.

"Mad" Dan Mattland, on reaching his New York bachelor club, met an attractive young woman at the door. Janitor O'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. Mattland dined with Hannerman, his attorney. Dan set out for Greenfield, 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 bachelor's club. Her auto had broken down. He fixed it. By a ruse she "lost" him. Mattland, on reaching home, surprised lady in gray, cracking the safe containing his gems. She, apparently, took him for a well-known crook. Daniel Anisly, half-hypnotized, Mattland opened his safe, took therefrom the jewels, and gave them to her, first forming a partnership in crime. The real Dan Anisly, sought by police of the world, appeared on the same mission. Mattland overcame him. He met the girl outside the house and they sped on to New York in her auto. He had the jewels and she promised to meet him that day. Mattland received a "Mr. Smith," introducing himself as a detective. To shield the girl in gray, Mattland, about to show him the jewels, supposedly lost, was felled by a blow from "Smith's" cane. The letter proved to be Anisly himself and he secured the gems. Anisly, who was Mattland's double, masqueraded as the latter. The criminal kept Mattland's engagement with the girl in gray. He gave her the gems, after falling in love at first sight. They were to meet and divide the loot. Mattland revived and regretted missing his engagement. Anisly, masquerading as Mattland, narrowly avoided capture through mysterious tip. The girl in gray visited Mattland's apartments during his absence and returned gems, being discovered on return. Mattland, without cash, called up his home and heard a woman's voice expostulating. Anisly, disguised as Mattland, told her his real identity and realizing himself tricked, tried to bring from her the location of the gems.

CHAPTER X.—Continued.

"By the powers, I forgot for a moment! So you thought me Mattland, eh? Well, I'm sorry I didn't understand that from the first. You're so quick, as a rule, you know—I confess you duped me neatly this afternoon—that I supposed you were wise and only afraid that I'd give you what you deserve. If they had sent any one but that stupid ass, Hickey, to nab me, I'd be in the cooler now. As it was, you kindly selected the very best kind of a house for my purpose; I went straight up to the roofs and out through a building round the corner."

But the shock of discovery, with its attendant revulsion of feeling, had been too much for her. She collapsed suddenly in the chair, eyes half closed, face pallid as a mask of death.

Anisly regarded her in silence for a meditative instant, then, taking up the lamp, strode down the hall to the pantry, returning presently with a glass brimming with an amber-tinted, effervescent liquid.

"Champagne," he announced, licking his lips. "Wish I had Mattland's means to gratify my palate. He knows good wine. Here, my dear, gulp this down," placing the glass to the girl's lips and raising her head that she might swallow without strangling.

As it was, she choked and gasped, but after a moment began to show some signs of having benefited by the draught, a faint color dawning in her cheeks.

"That's some better," commended the burglar, not unkindly. "Now, if you please, we'll stop talking pretty and get down to brass tacks. Buck up, now, and answer my questions. And don't be afraid; I'm holding no great grudge for what you did this afternoon. I appreciate pluck and grit as much as anybody, I guess, though I do think you ran it pretty close, peeping on a pal after you'd lifted the jewels. By the way, why did you do it?"

"Because—But you wouldn't understand if I told you."

"I suppose not. I'm not much good at sentimental hair. But Mattland must have been pretty decent to you to make you go so far. Speaking of which, where are they?"

"They?"

"Don't sidestep. We understand one another. I know you've brought back the jewels. Where have you stowed them?"

"The wine had fulfilled its mission, endowed her with fresh strength and renewed spirit. She was thinking quickly, every wit alert.



His Voice Took On an Ugly Tone.

subdued herself and fell back, eying him fixedly.

"They're here," he nodded thoughtfully. "You wouldn't have stood for that if they weren't. And since they are, I can find them without your assistance. Sit down. I shan't touch you again."

She had scant choice other than to obey. Desperate as she was, her strength had been severely overtaxed, and she might not presume upon it too greatly. Fascinated with terror, she let herself down into an easy chair.

Anisly thought for a moment, then went over to the desk and sat himself before it.

"Keys," he commented, rapidly inventorying what he saw. "How'd you get hold of them?"

"They are Mr. Mattland's. He must have forgotten them."

"The burglar chuckled grimly. "Coincidences multiply. It is odd. That harp, O'Hagan, was coming in with a can of beer while I was picking the lock, and caught me. He wanted to know if I'd missed my train for Greenfield, and I gave him my word of honor. I had. Moreover, I'd mislaid my keys and had been ringing for him for the past ten minutes. He swallowed every word of it. By the way, here's a glove of yours. You certainly managed to leave enough clues about to insure your being nabbed even by a New York detective."

He faced about, tossing her the glove, and with it so keen and penetrating a glance that her heart sank for fear that he had guessed her secret. But as he continued she regained confidence.

"I could teach you a thing or two," he suggested, pleasantly. "You make about as many mistakes as the average beginner. And, on the other hand, you've got the majority beaten to a finish for 'cuteness. You're as quick as they make them."

She straightened up, uneasy, oppressed by a vague surmise as to whether this tended.

"Thank you," she said, breathlessly, "but hadn't you better—"

have lost them, long ago; else I shouldn't be—"

"Here and what you are. That's what I'm telling you."

She shuddered imperceptibly; looked down and up again, swiftly, her expression inscrutable, her voice a-tremble between laughter and tears: "Well?"

"Eh?" The directness of her query figuratively brought him up all standing, canvas flapping and wind out of his sails.

"What are you offering me in exchange for my silly dream?" she inquired, a trace of spirit quickening her tone.

"A fair exchange, I think—something that I wouldn't offer you if you hadn't been able to dream." He paused, doubtful, clumsy.

"Go on," she told him, faintly. Since it must come, as well be over with it. "See here." He took heart of desperation. "You took to Mattland when you thought he was me. Why not take to me for myself? I'm as good a man, better as a man, than he, if I do blow my own horn. You side with me, little woman, and—"

and I'll treat you square. I never went back on a pal yet. Why, brightening with enthusiasm as his gaze appraised her, "with your looks and your cleverness and my knowledge of the business, we can sweep the country, you and I."

"Oh!" she cried, breathlessly. "Well! start right now," he plunged on, misreading her; "right now, with last night's haul. You'll chuck this added sentimental pang-of-conscience lay, hand over the jewels, and—"

and I'll hand 'em back to you the day we're married, all set and—"

and as handsome a wedding present as any woman ever got."

She twisted in her chair to hide her face from him, faintly cornered at last, brain a-whirl devising a hundred maneuvers, each more helpless than the last, to cheat and divert him for the time, until—until—

tensely.

"How do I know? This afternoon I outwitted you, robbed and sold you for—"

"Oh, but little woman!" he laughed, tenderly, coming nearer. "It is because you did that, because you could hold those scruples and make a fool of me for their sake, that I want you. Don't think I'm capable of playing with you—it takes a woman to do that. Don't you know,—" he bent nearer and his breath was warm upon her cheek—"don't you know that you're too rare and fine and precious for a man to risk losing? Come now!"

"Not yet." She started to her feet and away. "Wait. There's a cab!"

The street without was echoing with the clattering drum of galloping hoofs. "At this hour!" she cried agitated. "Could it be—"

"No fear. Besides—there, it's stopped."

"In front of this house?"

"No, three doors up the street, at least. That's something you must learn, and I can teach you—to judge distance by sound in the darkness—"

"But I tell you," she insisted, retreating before him, "it's a risk. There did you hear that?"

"That" was the dull crash of the front door.

Anisly stepped to the table on the instant and plunged the room in darkness.

"Steady!" he told her evenly. "Steady. It can't be—but take no chances. Go to the trunk closet and get that window open. If it's Mattland,—grinly—"well, I'll follow."

"What do you mean? What are you going to do?"

"Leave that to me. I've never been caught yet."

Cold fear gripped her heart as, in a flash of intuition, she divined his intention.

"Quick!" he bade her, savagely. "Don't you want—"

"I can't see," she invented. "Where's the door? I can't see."

"Here."

FIRST COMPLETE SET OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF MEXICO'S NEW CABINET MINISTERS.



TEACHERS' TRAIN WRECKED IN EAST

Three Dead; Eight Missing and Many Injured.

Five Excursion Cars Demolished—Wreck Takes Fire and Wounded Die in Flames.

Easton, Pa., May 1.—Three persons lost their lives, eight are missing and are believed to be dead, and half a hundred others were injured this afternoon at Martin's Creek, N. J., in the wreck of an excursion train carrying 170 school teachers and friends from Utica and Syracuse, N. Y., and vicinity to Washington for a week's outing.

The train was one furnished by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad and the accident occurred while it was traveling at high speed over tracks controlled by the Pennsylvania railroad. The locomotive jumped the track, the cars toppled over and were set on fire by exploding oil, the wrecked coaches having struck an oil tank along the track when they left the rails.

The entire train was quickly enveloped in flames and completely consumed by the fire.

The eight missing persons, seven of whom were women and lived in Utica, are believed to have been burned to death in the wreckage. The finding of charred bodies led the railroad wrecking crews to the conclusion that they are dead.

The most seriously injured were removed to the Easton hospital, where three of them, Miss Eleanor E. Ruth, a Utica teacher; Charles M. Pearson, of Stroudsburg, Pa., a Pennsylvania railroad conductor, and William Vannoy, Trenton, N. J., engineer, died tonight.

The physicians at the hospital said late tonight that most of those in the hospital will get well.

The cause of the wreck has not been determined. The place where the accident occurred had been undergoing repairs and unfinished work may have been responsible for the train leaving the track.

There was a terrific explosion at the scene of the wreck tonight. There is no communication with the wrecking party but local railroad men say either the boiler of the wrecked locomotive or a gas tank exploded.

DYNAMITE CASE DELAYED.

Attorney Darrow Hesitates to Take Charge of Defense.

Los Angeles, May 2.—Clarence Darrow has not promised definitely that he will undertake the defense of John and James McNamara, and lacking such assurances, those interested in the case of the accused dynamite conspirators said today they were "up in the air" regarding the arraignment of the prisoners.

Labor leaders who are arranging the preliminaries do not want the men arraigned until Darrow is on the scene.

Mazatlan Standing Siege.

Nogales, Mexico.—What is believed to be an authentic report has reached this city from Mazatlan, the big port on the western coast of the state of Sinaloa, saying it is completely surrounded by rebels. The Mexican gunboat began shelling the rebel position from the harbor, but yielded to the united protests of foreign consuls and ceased firing, and later put to sea. Trains are not running to Mazatlan from the north, the rebels having burned a bridge 18 miles out. Trains south to Culiacan are also stopped.

Run on Ship Explodes.

Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe.—When the French steamer Maroni was loading rum and sugar at the docks here, fire broke out in the cargo, and before it could be put out caused an explosion among the barrels of rum, which killed one fireman. The monetary loss is considerable. Following the explosion, it was impossible to stay the flames, and the vessel was towed out in the harbor and abandoned. The cargo already on board consisted of 4,000 barrels of rum and is also a total loss.

Big Families to Parade.

Paris.—Contrary to general belief there are some large families in this country, and they are being asked to parade in force some Sunday in Paris. Fathers, mothers and progeny are to muster on the Place des Invalides. They will then march with bands and banners to the chamber of deputies which they will not, however, invade with their children, pass by, tramping on to the Place de la Concorde, where they will disperse.

Famine Threatens Fez.

Fez, Morocco.—The city is quiet, but the stock of provisions is low and famine threatens the populace. There have been no further attacks by the rebels among whom dissensions appear to be springing up.



ABOVE: JOSE IVES LIMANTOUR, MINISTER OF FINANCE; M. MARROQUIN, OF RIVERA, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE; MANUEL GONZALEZ, MINISTER OF WAR AND MARINE; DEMETRIO SODI, MINISTER OF JUSTICE. BELOW: NORBERTO DOMINGUEZ, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC WORKS; JORGE VERA ESTANOL, MINISTER OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION; FRANCISCO VASQUEZ, MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.

ground, and the best information they had today was that the Chicago attorney, instead of coming personally to Los Angeles, has sent a confidential representative to look over the situation before he would agree to accept the task of chief counsel in such a momentous struggle.

In consequence the arraignment, which was scheduled to take place not later than next Wednesday, may be deferred, and the district attorney is expected to consent to the delay, as it is understood that he is not averse to having further time to adjust various technical points in the state's side of the case.

These points are said to concern the indictments against the accused men which were drawn hastily after Burns had taken James McNamara and McManigal into custody at Detroit.

It was also reported in official quarters that the arraignment might await the arrival of attorneys representing the National Erectors' association, who, it is said, will join District Attorney Fredericks and his assistants, W. J. Ford, in the prosecution of the McNamaras. Since his alleged confession to the prosecutor three days ago and his subsequent refusal to see attorneys for the defense, McManigal is no longer considered by the defense.

FIRE LOSS \$6,000,000.

One-Third of Bangor, Maine, Lies in Blackened Ruin.

Bangor, Me., May 2.—One-third of Bangor is in ruins, thousands of persons are homeless and a property loss estimated at \$6,000,000 has been sustained, as the result of a conflagration which raged for hours tonight.

Starting in a hay shed on Broad street, the fire swept along Broad and Exchange streets through the heart of the city, leaving residences, churches, schools, business blocks and all the

Crisis Comes at Ottawa.

Winnipeg, Can.—The critical situation at Ottawa has resulted in the sudden recall of Earl Grey to the capital from Winnipeg. The governor general has cancelled all his engagements for next week and will leave tonight for Ottawa. The determination of the opposition to fight reciprocity with the United States all summer, if necessary, as outlined by Mr. Borden, the conservative leader, thus preventing Sir Wilfrid Laurier from attending the imperial conference and coronation, has caused a crisis in politics.

Girls Play Baseball.

Montclair, N. J.—Baseball as a sport for girls has received the official approval of the high school authorities here. It is to replace basketball on the athletic calendar. Several teams have been organized and interclass games will be arranged as soon as they have engaged in sufficient practice. Games with other schools are a possibility later in the season. Baseball was introduced widely as a pastime for school girls several years ago, but the sport was decided to be too strenuous at that time.

Turin Exposition Open.

Turin.—The International Exhibition of Industries and Labor, the biggest affair of its kind ever attempted in Italy, opened here Saturday. The exhibition occupies 12,000,000 square feet, extending on either side of the River Po, the two parts being joined by four bridges, two built especially for this occasion. The American display comprises the largest exhibit ever made abroad by that government. In all there were 15,000 exhibitors.

American Gunboat to Rescues.

Washington, D. C.—The United States gunboat Wilmington has sailed from Hongkong for Canton to render any assistance necessary to American citizens on account of the disturbed conditions at the latter place.

public buildings with the exception of the city hall a mass of smoking ashes.

For many hours the firemen, assisted by men and apparatus from other Maine cities, battled against the blaze before they conquered it. Dynamite proved of little avail. Buildings were blown up, but it was not until the wind, which had been blowing almost a gale during the night, shifted and a light rain fell, that there was any indication that the firemen would win.

Cheered by the help from this unexpected quarter, the fire-fighting forces were concentrated near the corner of Hammond and Central streets, nearly two miles from the place where the blaze started, and there the spread of flames was checked at midnight.

But while the rain and the shifting of the wind to the east saved the rest of the city, it only added to the discomforts of thousands who had seen their homes go up in flames, and who were huddled together in the streets. The burning of churches and public buildings left many of the unfortunate without shelter. Three lives are known to have been lost, although the names of the dead have not been learned.

Bones of Eight Found.

Easton, Pa., May 2.—As far as it is possible to ascertain here and at the scene of the accident, eight persons were burned to death, three fatally injured, two others so seriously injured that their lives are despaired of and scores of persons were cut, burned and bruised in the wreck of the teachers' special from Utica to Washington on the Belvedere-Delaware division of the Pennsylvania railroad at Martins Creek, N. J. yesterday.

The line was reopened for traffic today. Bones of eight persons have been taken from the debris and the wrecking crew has quit work.

Five Legislators Trapped.

Columbus, O.—Admissions were made here by three men arrested Monday night as alleged lobbyists in the general assembly that they had successfully manipulated a trap for the legislators suspected of bribery. Five legislators were named, including one representative and four senators. It is admitted by Prosecutor Turner that a device to record conversations was placed under a couch in the hotel rooms occupied by the detectives and that incriminating evidence is in process of presentation to the grand jury.

Rebel to Fight Extradition.

Los Angeles.—Francisco Vasquez Salinas, late commander of the Mexican Liberal forces in Lower California, who was arrested in this city on a charge of robbery, declared he was innocent of the offense named, and that the charge had been framed up for the purpose of securing his person by the Mexican government so that he might be punished for his participation in the rebellion. The Mexican Liberal junta of Los Angeles has employed lawyers to help defend Salinas.

Motorcycle Hits Train.

Tacoma, Wash.—Lewis Priest, of Seattle, after racing across the country for several miles on a motorcycle of which he had lost complete control, crashed into a fast interurban train at Orilla, near Kent, Washington, Sunday, and was almost instantly killed. Both machine and train were going at a terrific rate of speed. The victim was riding his cycle from Tacoma to Seattle, as he had been notified during his ride by several people.

Rebels Are Active in Sonora.

Douglas, Ariz.—Despite peace negotiations at El Paso, the rebel activity in the state of Sonora, across the border from here, continues unabated. A band of insurgents numbering between 500 and 1,000 are reported marching southward toward Mochizuma from the country around Nacoazari, 75 miles southwest of Douglas.

PRICE OF LAMARTINE'S POEM

Pecuniary Value Which the French Poet Put Upon His Work.

The Paris Gaulois tells a good story of Lamartine's estimate of the pecuniary value of his poetry.

It was in 1848, when he was at the acme of his glory, and a cabinet minister. He had just contributed "La Marsaillaise de la Paix" to the Revue des Deux Mondes, and Bulox, the editor, called on him at the ministry. "I believe I owe you £80. Here is the money," said Lamartine, producing a bundle of banknotes.

"Pray deduct the amount of the Revue's indebtedness to you for your poem," said the editor.

"How much?"

"Your own price, whatever it may be."

"Ah, well; if you will have it so I must oblige you," said Lamartine; and with a magnificent gesture he swept up the whole bundle of notes representing the £80 and restored them, with solemn dignity, to his pocket.

No Need To.

"Do you know that Mr. Thompson I was just speaking to?" asked the lady at the tea party of the one standing next to her.

"Oh, yes."

"I suppose he says those sweet things to all the women he meets?"

"No; he never says them to me."

"Indeed! And you know him?"

"Oh, yes; I'm his wife!"—Stray Stories.