House of Mystery

OR, THE GIRL IN BLUE

THAIRES XIX TO THE THE WORLD THE "Carnival!" she snorted. "A disgraceful exhibition of a town's lawlessness. A miserable pageant got up merely to attract the unsuspecting foreigner into the web spread for him by extertionate hotel-keepers. All the so-called fun is performed by paid mountebanks; the cars are not only inartistic, but there 's always something extremely offensive in their character, while the orgies which take place at the masked balls a; the Casino are absolutely disgraceful. The whole thing is artificial, and deserves no support at all from winter visitors."

Mrs. Anson, for once, did not agree with this sweeping condemnation, while Mabel declared that she always enjoyed the fun of the battles of flowers and paper confetti, although she admitted that she never had the courage to go out on those days when the pellets a lime, er "hard confetti," are permitted. Both Hickman and myself supported Mabel in defence of the annual fetes at Nice as being unique in all the world.

But the Irritating Woman was not to be convinced that her opinions were either ill-formed or in the least distorted. She had never been present at a Carnival ball, she admitted, but it had been described to her by two estimable ladies who had, and that was, for her, sufficient. They were a pair of plous souls, and would, of course, never exaggerate to the length of a lie.

Dinner over, the ladies retired, and Hickman and myself were left to smoke and gossip. He was certainly a very ugly man, and at times asserted an overbearing superiority in conversation; but having watched him very closely, I at length arrived at the conclusion that claimed, turning upon the piano-stool, this was his natural manner, and was ever since that first moment when I had long," I answered, sinking into a low without attracting any attention, and not intended to be offensive. Indeed. shown himself to be very pleasant and apologize. The fact is, that Mr. Hick- of inspecting an object which I well reentered and been introduced, he had affable towards me.

the door had closed. "She's so infernally positive about everything. would be as good as an entertainment I'll try it when we go to the Rivie: a." to induce her to expound her views upon religious matters."

"Any argument seems utlerly useless, I remarked as I lit a cigar.

"Do you know Nice well?" he inquired, after reflecting a moment, "I've spent three winters there," I an-

swered. "And at Monte Carlo, I suppose?"

ing. "I suppose scarcely any man goes just as he had explained it to me. - to Nice without going over to Monty and risking a few louis."

the whole season. I've always left the rigid, as one held motionless in terror; ed to persuade myself that the whole dis-

system at roulette?"

promptly.

one based on the law of averages, which to form mental impressions of places must turn up in your favor if you're and things, and the general character that moment in use, there was a mignifionly patient enough. The reason why of this apartment I had riveted upon cent candelabra suspended from the it is so difficult is because it's such a my mind with the fidelity of a photo- ceiling, and in th's were e'ectr'c lamps. long and tedious affair."

greatest interest. I had, in the days be cred with a rich brocade in wide stripes fore leaving the house. fore my blindness, made a study of the of art green and dull red-brown-an chances at roulette, and had played extremely handsome pattern; the carpet sclding-doors, now concealed by curcarefully upon principles which had, to was dark, with a pile so thick that one's tains. It was through those very doors me, ap eared most natural. The result feet fell noiselessly; the three long win- that Edna, my mysterious protectress, had been that with care I had won- dows, covered by heavy curtains of bro- had passed and repassed to that inner not much, it was true—but it was bet- cade to match the furniture, reached room whence had come the sound of brain to find some means of entering ter than leaving one's money to swell from the high-painted ceiling to the champagne being uncorked and the wo-

the company's dividends. at all a complicated one. If you study in trays beneath which were collections I had previously occupied. She began terest in the house might, I reflected, the permanences of any table—you can of choice bric-a-brac, including some to chat, but although her beautiful eyes arouse some suspicion. To be successfind that each day the largest number while before the fireplace was spread more handsome than any I had ever the most extreme caution. of times either color comes up in suc- the great tiger-skin, with paws and seen, the diamonds in her hair dazzled cession is nine. Now, all you have to head preserved, which I so well rememdo is to go to a table at the opening of bered. the play, and taking one color, red or | I sat there speechless, breathless. Not black, it makes no difference, stake up- a single detail was there wanting. Never on it, and allow your money to accumu- before, in all my life, had amazement late until it is swept away. If the color | held me so absolutely dumfounded. you stake upon comes up eight times | Close to where I sat was a spacious | well?" in succession, and you have originally couch, over the centre of which was staked twenty francs, your gains lying thrown an antimacassar of silken croon the table will amount to two thou- chet-work. It was covered with the sand five hundred and sixty francs. same brocade as the rest of the furni-Even then, don't touch it. The color ture, and I stretched forth my hand with as I could. "A sught headache. But it must, in the law of averages, come up feigned carelessness and touched it. Its nine times in succession each day, tak- centact was the same, its shape exact; ing the week through. If comes up, its position in the room identical. you'll win five thousand and twenty Upon that very couch I had reclined

never had patience to try it, he admit- the low swish of a woman's skirts, the and fell. She had, it seemed, been striv- sive.

ted, but he had gone through a whole year's "permanences," and found that to stone? only on three or four occasions had it

failed. the game with the air of a practised sitting fortunately in the shadow, and ed, was not passive, and thus she stood from rust coagulated in 19 minutes and gambler. In these I became at once in- when Mabel commenced playing I rose terested—as every man is who believes | -unsteadily I think-and reseated myhe has found the secret of how to get | self upon the couch, as being more comthe right side of the bank; but we were fortable. Then, while the woman who at length compelled to put down our held me entranced played a selection cigars, and he led the way into the from the "Trovatore," I, unnoticed by

elegantly furnished, and lit by two great one, for one does not care to be detectlamps, which shed a soft, subdued light | ed tearing the furniture of one's hosfrom beneath their huge shades of silk less. Nevertheless, after ten minutes or and lace. Mabel was sitting at the open so I succeeded in loosening it, and then, grand piano, the shaded candlelight as if by the natural movement of my causing the beautiful diamond star in body, commenced to work it aside. the colls of her dark brown hair to flash with a dazzling irridescence, and as I all my attention was not centred upon entered she turned and gave me a sweet my investigations, I congratulated smile of welcome.

spacious apartment, then next instant together they began to search for some stood breathless-transfixed.

truth was reyond all doubt.

handsome salon, the home of the woman I so dearly loved, I recognized the very room which I had once explored with my keen sense of touch—the room in which had been committed that ghastly, mysterious, midnight crime!

CHAPTER XV.

" How you men gossip!" Mabel exand laughing merrily.

armchair near her. "If so, I'm sure I passed across the room with the motive man was explaining a new system of "Poor Miss Wells!" he laughed, after how to break the bank at Monte Carlo." "Oh, Mr. Hickman!" she cried, turn-

It ing at once to him. "Do explain it, and "Mabel, my dear," exclaimed her mother, scandalized, "you'll do nothing of the kind. You know I don't approve of passed. It was exactly as I had felt it,

gambling." "Oh, I think it's awfully good fun," her night. daughter declared.

again to Hickman, she induced him to "Yes, of course," I responded, laugh- explain his new and infallible system ugly stain of blood upon the carpet.

all sound, and now that I reflect I am evening quietly, as became a respectable turn out books on the most unwhole-'So, so. One season I won five thou- surprised that I succeeded in retaining household! The thing seemed absolute- some themes they can imagine, and may be given the system. Heating to sand francs. In fact, I've never lost on my self-possession. I know I sat there ly incredible. A dozen times I endeaver-Riviera with some of the bank's money. I only replied in monosyllables to any ocevery was but a chimera, arising from for bank's money. I only replied in monosyllables to any ocevery was but a chimera, arising from for bank's money. "Then you can hearlily congratulate remark addressed to me, and I knew my disordered imagination. Nevertheyourself." he said. "I'm the reverse. I instinctively that the color had left my less, it was impossible to disguise from

"Except one," he interposed. "There's with their keen sense of touch, are quick mained as evidence of the truth.

tem that was infallible was, to me, of detected from its smoothness, and cov- had heard turned off by the assassin beground, exactly as I had found them man's piercing scream. "The system," he said, tossing off his in my blind gropings. About the room

francs for the louis you staked, and while the foul tragedy had been enactthen at once leave the table, for it will ed in that room .- My head swam; I Of course, this may occur almost at the with its pendulum representing the figure I had formed. Her tiny square of lawn really too bad to thus make a servant not come up nine times again that day. | closed my eyes. The great gilt clock, opening of play, or not till the table is of a girl swinging beneath the trees, and lace exhaled a sweet odor. It was of you. I'll ring for Arnold." near closing, therefore it requires great standing on the mantelshelf, ticked out that of peau d'Espagne, the same subtle "No, no," I protested, and at once patience and constant attendance. To- low and musically, just as it had done day it may not come up nine times, but on that fateful night. In an instant, as it will probably come up nine times on I sat with head turned from my comtwo occasions to-morrow, and so the panions and my eyes shut, the whole her beauty. His theory was certainly a novel one, heard the crash, the woman's scream, as she sat chatting to me with that seen for years. "Did she know you?" and impressed me. There might, I the awe-stricken exclamation that folthought, be something in it. He had lowed in the inner room. I heard, too, charming, her white neck slowly heaved hat." Then the silence became oppres-

on my hand. Mabel suddenly ran her while fingers her. over the keys, and the music brought As she gossiped with me, now and mes back to a realization of my true po- then waving her big feather fan, she sition. I had at length discovered the conveyed to my mind an impression of actual house in which the mysterious extreme simplicity in the midst of the tragedy had been enacted, and it became most wonderful complexity. She seemimpressed upon me that by the exercise | cd to take the peculiar traits from many of greatest care I might further be en- characters, and so mingle them that, coms n Experimental Station some valuabled to prosecute secret investigations like the combination of hues in a sunto a successful issue, and at length solve | team, the effect was as one to the eye. | effect of different metals on the action the enigma.

couch. It was the very spot where I had something of the romantic enthusiasm rested, sightless and helpless, while of a Juliet, of the truth and constancy cans may require from 3 to 40 minutes those strange events had taken place of a Helen, of the dignified purity of an longer to coagulate than milk that is about me. Was it any wonder that I Isabel, of the tender sweetness of a V.ola, kept at the same temperature, the same became filled with apprehensions, or of the self-possession and intellect of a length of time in cans free from rust. that I sat there petrified as one turned Portia—combined together so equally It was shown that milk placed in a

The square, dark-green antimacassar For half an hour or so he sat lucidly of the couch, and sewed down in order to keep it in its place. Where I was sive; her submission, though unbound- the same length of time in a vessel free drawing-room, where the ladies awaited the others, succeeded in breaking the stitches which tacked the antimacassar The room was a large, handsome one, to the brocade. The feat was a difficult

The music coased, and even though Mabel upon her accurate execution. A second time I glanced around that Hickman was standing beside her, and row?" I said in deep disappointment. piece he had requested her to play, while I could not believe my own eyes. It Miss Wells, with her hearts and eleseemed absolutely incredible. Yet the phants jingling, turned to me and commenced to talk. By this I was, of you are free?" I urged earnestly. turned back to straighten the rumpled to lift it and glance beneath.

In an instant the truth was plain. Concealed beneath that square of green crochet-work was a large dark-brown stain upon the brocade. It was the mark of the life-blood of that thin, welldressed, unknown victim, who had, in an instant, been struck to the heart!

The shock of its discovery caused me-Ic start, but next instant I smoothed out "I wasn't aware that we had been very the antimacassar into its former place my blind search. Upon a pedestal of black marbel stood an exquisite litile statuette of a Neapolitan dancing-woman, undoubtedly the work of some Italian master. Without pausing to examine it, I took in its every detail as I and in the selfsame spot as on that fatal

Beside the couch, as I turned again to look, I saw that a large skin rug had 'Of course," she added; then, turning been thrown down. Without doubt it some grit in them," she declared.

And yet there, on the scene of one of The trend of the conversation was, the foulest and most cowardly assassintruth was borne out. In that very made in trying to follow the French is before the whey has started to take generally loss. Do you believe in any countenance. The discovery was as be- myself the fact that in every detail the "No; they are all frauds," I answered | Every detail of that handsome room | room the unknown man had been struck | style, and are returning to the real le on any more acid than what it had at was exactly as I pic'ured it. The bl'nd, dead. The marks of his blood still re-

I saw that beside the high lamps at "Explain it," I urged, for a new sys- The furniture was of gilt, just as I had and knew that it was the same which I

At the end of the room, too, were the

Makel leaned over and spoke to me, whereupon I sank again into the chair an invitation. Besides, to betray any inheld me fixed, and her face seemed ful in these inquiries would necessitate were scarcely intelligible.

"You are not quite yourself to-night, I think," she remarked at last, rising from the piano, and taking the low chair bell, and been re-echoed by another that I drew up for her. "Are you un-

"Why?' I asked, laughing. "Because you look rather pale. What's to her daughter, saying-

the matter?" "Nothing," I answered, as carelessly

My eyes wandered to those curtains of green plush. How I longed to enter that room beyond!

At that moment she took out her to the completion of the mental picture | Mother always leaves them there. It's it filled my nostrils until I seemed intoxicated by its fragrance combined with

Her dress was discreetly decollete, and

heavy blow struck by an assassin's hand ing all the evening to get a tele-a-tete and in horror felt the warm life-blood chat with me, but the chatter of that of the unknown victim as it trickled up- dreadful Irritating Woman and the requests made by Hickman had prevented

and the

I had studied her carefully each time of rennet in milk. The effect of rusty My eyes fixed themselves upon the we had met, and had found that she had any woman I had ever met.

she was due to take her music-lesson, ten experience may possibly be attriand I inquired whether I might, as usuat, meet her and escort her across the action of acid on iron in rusty cans, and

sponded; "but I fear I take up far too posed. Milk with more than 2 per cent. much of your time." "Not at all, I hastened to assure her.

"i always enjoy our walks together."

We've been neglecting to call of late, the iron of the can. and have such a host to make."

a matter of fact, my movements for the rust. The quality of the milk depends next few days are rather uncertain."

to invite me to their table.

I endeavored to extract from her some appointment, but she only whispered-"Romember that our meetings are then she began to discuss several of the they should be discarded. latest novels.

membered discovering when I had made notable novels. Of English fiction, too, kept clean it should go home in the a deep knowledge of her subject.

marked, in response to a sweeping con- teurized in order to keep it sweet. The the style of a much-belauded writer.

had been placed there to conceal the cen't stand either the so-called problem very much easier to clean and keepnevel, or a story interlarded with dia- clean. lect. If any one wants nasty problems, let them spend a few shillings in the factories that have adopted this year works of certain French writers, who the system of pasteurizing the whey will remance. English writers are now be- perature, 160 to 165 degrees, and done ginning to see the mistake they once every day at the proper time and that interests and grips from the first page clean .- Frank Herns, Chief Dairy In-

to the last." She spoke sensibly, and I expressed my entire accord with her opinion. But AN EFFECTIVE REMEDY FOR CROWS this discussion was only in order to hide our exchange of confidences uttered in an undertone while Hickman and the two ladies were chatting at the fur-

ther end of the room. All the time I was longing to get a sight of the interior of the adjoining aparlment, the room whence had burst forth that woman's agonized cry in the stillness of the night. I racked my can hardly wander over his hostess's house on the first occasion he receives

The fragrant odor of peau d'Espagno exhaled by her chiffons seemed to hold me powerless.

The gilt clock with its swinging girl had already struck eleven on its silver clock in the hall playing the Westmins!er chimes, when suddenly Mrs. Anson, with a book in her hand, looked across

"Mabel, dear, I've left my glasses on the table in the library. Will you kindly felch them for me?"

In an instant I saw my chance, and jumping to my feet, offered to obtain them. At first she objected, but finding ree determined, said-

"The library is the next room, there. handkerchief. Even that action added You'll find them on the writing-table.

(To be Continued.)

"John, I met a woman to-day I hadn't

KEPT IN RUSTY CANS.

In the 24th Annual Report of Wisable work has been done regarding the cans is summed up as follows:

Milk kept over night in very rusty and so harmoniously that I could scarce- rusty pan for 8 hours at 88 F. required ly say that one quality predominated 25 minutes to coagulate and contained had been placed in the extreme centre over the other. Her dignity was impos- 171 per cent. of acid, while the same ing, and stood rather upon the defen- milk kept at the same temperature for

The reason for a slow or retarded ac-The following day was one on which tion of rennet which cheese-makers ofbuted to some extent at least upon the nct entirely to the amount of acd salts "You are really very kind," she re- present in the milk as was formerly supof acid is considered unfit to be made into cheese. At the same time it may be quite possible to accept from patrons, She smiled, but a moment later said- milk which really has developed more "I fear that I shall be prevented from than 2 per cent. acidity, but which cangoing to Hanover Square to-morrow, as not be revealed by the acidmeter be-I shall be making calls with mother. cause the acid is partly neutralized by

This is an important matter. To "Then I shan't see you at all to-mor- make the highest quality of cheese and butter it is necessary to have all dairy "No. I fear not," she answered. "As utensils in good condition and free from a great deal more than is generally sup-"But you'll write and tell me when posed on the condition of the cans in which it is stored and brought to the "If you wish," she responded, smiling factory. The amount of influence of the in the general appointments of that ten minutes later, I rose, and naturally sweetly. Apparently she was in no wise rusty iron of the can on the milk wilt antimacassar. In doing so I managed which had become to me more apparent length of time kept in the can, and the now that she had induced her mother amount of rusty surface of the can to which the milk is exposed."

The Dairy Instructors have always made war on rusty cans from a sanitary standpoint. It is impossible to clandestine. Don't let them overhear keep them clean and the above paraus. Let's change the subject." And graph gives another strong reason why In taking up last year the question of

She had apparently a wide knowledge pasteurizing the whey the writer felt of French fiction, for she explained how that this would be one of the means to a friend of hers, an old schoolfellow, the end of preventing to some extent at who had married a French baron and least of cans becoming rusty. When lived in Paris, sent her regularly all the whey is heated properly and the tanks she was evidently a constant reader, for cans comparatively sweet, and in that she told me much about recent novels | case will not take the tin off nearly so that I was unaware of, and criticized quickly as when the whey is returned the style in a manner which betrayed unheated and sour. I still maintain that all the whey which is returned in milk "One would almost think you were a cans should be from tanks which are lady novelist, or a book-reviewer," I re- kept perfectly clean and the whey pasdemnation which she made regarding pasteurizing the whey, however, does not mean that the tanks do not require "Well, personally, I like books with any further cleaning. They will require "I cleaning just the same, but will be found

It is hoped that the large number of structor, Western Ontario.

Each year as the season advances corn growers are put to their wits' end to stop the depredations caused by the crows, upon their corn. There are many ways of combatting these destroyers of yong corn. Some keep them in check by means of scarecrows of different kinds, ranging from string strung around the field, to bright colored rags, shining tin and dummy representatives of man. These are all more or less effective, depending upon the individuality of the crows and their past associauons.

An effectual remedy, however, that will meet all cases alike is the following: Procure from your druggist, a few grains of strychnine. With the point of a small knife, break open the small and of a few fresh hens eggs, place a portion of the strychnine in and mix up the contents of the eggs with the strychnine by means of a teothpick or other suitable instrument. -Carefully seal up the openings, with some wax, or paste pieces of paper over the holes. Before you retire at night, place these eggs in the corn field, staking them in order that you may be able to find them the next day. Before you have arisen the next morning, the crows will be on hand in the corn fields and will readily partake of the dainty, that you have provided. Make an early trip to the field and you will find your enemies, the crows, stark and stiff upon the cornfield, or not far from it. Gather up the eggs that remain in order that stock may not be po soned The writer has tried this remedy and knows whereof he speaks. It is an effective one, bisid s it is a great satisfaction to be able to walk out in the fields and quictly pick up the crows that before were so exas erating.

It is estimated that 20 per cent, of the population of Canada earn their living