

Britz of Headquarters

Whether Sands, Viking-like though he was, cleancut and upright as her sixth sense told her he must be, could solve these twin puzzles, and not un- | teresting to me." til then, would she be able to give a definite answer to the suddenly im- thinking, dear madam?" patient wooer.

reply to Sands with which she told husband told me the stone had come herself, he must be content for the from the treasure casket of the most present. When she had written it, beautiful queen in India-is not that she dressed for dinner rather earlier why it is called the Maharanee dia of a quarter-century before. It was than usual, dined with only little Dor- | mond?" othy March as a vis-a-vis, and, after of one of her dear five hundred doubt its authenticity?" friends. Mrs. Missioner's arrival was an instant triumph, a royal progress. She laughed and chatted with men who adored her, and with women who think you know not only all the tradiwould have done the same if they had not been-women.

of society, she had seen the same faces, heard the same talk, listened to the same music, and danced the same dances many, many times in the course of that season. Just when her vague wish for the unusual was shaping itself into a materialization of the grizly phantom, boredom, a little stir at the entrance to the ballroom heralded the arrival of a man who quickly drove the little drab devil of ennui from his perch upon Mrs. Missioner's satin shoulder.

The newcomer was a tall person, wearing the ordinary evening attire of gentlemen, with the addition, however, of a showy turban that crowned his long black hair, like a wreath of snow upon a darkling mountain-side. It needed no second glance to tell Mrs. light glance in her direction. Mrs. it once belonged." Missioner recognized readily the mysterious stranger of the opera box. It | diately behind Mrs. Missioner's chair ered the falsity of her jewels. For a | of gazing upward at them and so miss moment, the sight of his swart face and piercing eyes recalled the pang sioner from her position could only with which she had learned of the do, he would have seen in those inky loss of the Maharanee diamond. So it was with a most gracious smile that she interrupted an introduction by her hostess and said:

"We have met quite recently," as she touched the tips of her whitegloved fingers to those of the Oriental. She went on :"You see I am more composed than at our last meeting; but then, I dare say, you were not troubled. Jewels, you know, mean so much to a woman."

"Some jewels mean more, Mrs. Missioner," said the Swami suavely. thoroughly understand the sense loss-in fact, the bereavement that came upon you when you found that swarthy man in Occidental attire who beautiful necklace was not what you stood behind a screen. The second had supposed it to be.'

returned, "that you are not unfamiliar fixed his eyes the next moment on the with the fact that it was the loss of one stone among the many which real- freighted with suspicion. He shrugly grieved me."

Maharanee diamond. You are not faced the turbaned scholar. His eyealone—" He checked himself brows lifted. The unspoken question abruptly. "It was a stone which well was answered by an unnoticeable ineffective feminine reflection of mas
I the board, and as should be described in the board beautiful to the board beautiful to the board beautiful to the board be might command affection from its pos- shake of the Swami's head. Further

sessor. Time was when devotion would have been the word."

They were strolling across the floor as they talked, and in a corner distant from the music the widow seated herself on a Louis Quinze chair and said, almost coaxingly:

"I feel pretty sure you know more about the history of that jewel than I do."

"Indeed!" was the Swami's only

"Yes, indeed and indeed," said the snare for her the butterfly of higher | widow, with a gay little laugh. "Of happiness in the golden rays of ro- course, a sage cannot be expected to mance, was a question Mrs. Missioner | occupy his thoughts with anything so had yet to answer. Whether, too, the frivolous as a diamond, however beauunion with him would be such that tiful. Yet I am convinced that if you she could take the butterfly from his | were to unbend from your meditations hands without losing a single fleck of of the occult long enough to scan your the rainbow dust upon its wings, was | memory, you would recall facts in conanother problem. When she could nection with it that would be very in-

-May a inquire your reason for so

"It is a reasonable request on your Meanwhile, Mrs. Missioner sent a part," she replied. "I remember my flights of stairs to the sixth story

"It would be difficult to explain the an hour or so spent in working out name of every great diamond in Hinpretty problems with her youthful pro- dostan," said the Swami evasively. tegee, rang for her limousine and was "Since your husband gave you a hiswhirled away to a dance at the home | tory of the stone, surely you cannot

"Oh, of course not," said the widow. "It is not in regard to its more recent history that I am questioning you. tions hinging upon it, but that you are became the possession of the Maha ranee from whom my husband bough

"Really, Mrs. Missioner," replied the scholar, "I can imagine nothing more delectable than to carry out slightest wish; but we of the Eas have things on which to concentrate our poor intelligences that are grave to make room even for so inter esting a diversion as historical stud among precious stones."

"Come, now!" urged the widow "Please search your memory again Unbend, Mr. Philosopher.' '

"Lest you think me churlish, I d recall that your famous diamond one time was regarded with religiou reverence by a large number of my countrymen. Naturally, being a Brah min, I am not in sympathy with idola Missioner that they had already met. try. Therefore, I cannot tell you She knew it long before the Swami's what degree of sanctity attaches to dark eyes swung their twin search- the stone in the eyes of those to whom

Had anyone been standing imme was the first time she had seen him in such a position as to look into the since the night in which she discov- der the of the Oriental's eyes, instead ing the angle of truth as Mrs Mis depths a gleam that belied the snave disclaimer of the priest. Mrs. Mis sioner did not see it, and it was with no sensation of discomfort, therefore that she returned the Swami's bow as

he moved away to join a group of Mrs. Missioner, in the most com fortable way in the world, laid her hand on the arm of Curtis Griswold and recrossed the floor to make up a set of lancers. She would been uncomfortable .indeed, and ever the self-centred Swami would have had a dim sense of soemthing unusual of had they known, that every word they exchanged was overheard by another Easterner, he of the screen, gazed "I rather imagine," Mrs. Missioner after Mrs. Missioner menacingly, and broad back of the Swami with a look ged his shoulders after the manner of "You are right, my good friend," re- a Frenchman toned by long contact equally certain that the same little way, crawled across the intervening turned the Swami. "I will not pre- with Saxon restraint, and unpretentend to be ignorant of the value you tiously made a half-circle of the room homes of Bruxton Sands and Curtis camera, whisked the Millicent note attached to the central gem-the until at a distance of a few yards he Griswold. He was not given to attach- from the board, and as silently made

pathically between those two pairs of stir himself even more vigorously than that little note was in the possession but from what I've observed in my vividly black eyes, and a little later, he had done to date, if he was to trace of the Swami and Prince Kananda, journeying through life, this love the men themselves paused for an the Missioner diamonds before the and those worthies were studying it so game is one that is played without any suave, subtle men from the East could swiftly and so profitably that ere rules. I've known men who wouldn't instant for an exchange of words. "As I told you, Prince," said the find them and put them forever be- Britz took his cold plunge, the yond the reach of any Westerner. sage and the Maharajah's son made a them on a platter, yet who'd go pretty Swami, "she was not a party to it." "She believes her husband pur edly he had broken the Swami's line of the Missioner mystery. It was as to cut out a fellow who was after the chased it from Her Royal Highness- of communication by seizing the spies a result of what they learned from before they could report the finding | Millicent's missive that the Swami "You talk as if your experience in of the Millicent note in Sands's apart- and the Prince went separately to the ment. He had a vague sense that the | ballroom of Doris Missioner's most scrap of paper would be of immediate fashionable friend. It was also in value as a clue to the Brahmin-that | consequence of the information glean-I har by now would have been close that the Swami found Mrs. Missioner's TRAYED—From the farm of Thos icitor, Notary Public, Commissioner if he had not intercepted it, the scho- ed from those petulant feminine lines "They must be finished by now. upon the discovery of the diamonds. society so interesting, and that the expect the signal at any moment." It remained for Britz himself to ascer- Prince, before and after that tete-a-Griswold should have had one of tain the identity and whereabouts of tete, experienced keen curiosity conthe most enjoyable evenings of his | Millicent before the Oriental prison- cerning the doings, characteristics, stripe on face and spot on nose. Any | Kent-st. Phone 14. Insurance and Real | ers could communicate with their and state of mind of Curtis Griswold. tude towards Sands, eagerness to chief. Those prisoners were safe The third result of Millicent's little avert the problem for a few hours enough for the present in the Tender- letter and the Easterners' joint visit made Mrs. Missioner seem more will- loin Police Station; but, although it to the Fifth Avenue ballroom, was ing to be monopolized by the clubman was in the detective's power to pre- their dash in separate cabs to a bache- say, Ont. than she would have been under any vent their immediate arraignment in lor apartment in a side street just off other circumstances. Who so debon- the Night Court by a word to the pre- Central Park, where, shortly after air as Griswold when he led the beau- cinct commander, he could not long their several arrivals, they were in tiful widow through the mazes of the keep them in the cells. They were close consultation for an hour or more square dance, or floated with her entitled to a speedy examination be- with Ali, the supposedly devoted reabout the room to the melody of the fore the magistrate, and he was cer- tainer of the rich Mrs. Missioner. Gitana waltz? Who more worthy of tain that unless their failure to report. For the second note to Curtis Gristhe homage due to a conquistador as to the Swami should alarm that gen- wold that fell into the hands of the he paraded the wealthy woman's ac- tleman sooner, steps would be taken Hindoos-the one Prince Kananda inquiescence to his open wooing the in the morning to have the prisoners tercepted at the door of the Fifth length and breadth of the most bril- produced in court. They were sure Avenue mansion in which the great liant and exclusive ballroom in Fifth to be arraigned in Jefferson Market at ball was held-was written on a

"And the other?"

"Are the disciples at work?"

"He is here."

"Assuredly."

"It is well."

nees.

his royal father.

CHAPTER XIX.

The Mysterious Millicent

Britz streaked from Sands's apart-

ment to a dingy little den of a shop

on the top floor of a cowntown busi-

much more tedious to climb the five

than to shoot in an express elevator

to the summit of the Singer Building.

But Britz was too hot on the scent

to pay much attention to his fatigue.

He ran up the stairs lightly, flung

open a crazy outer door that creaked

an announcement of his coming, and

pushed a bit of paper toward a

young man of modern physique and

Millicent. The anachronistic young

man looked at it inquiringly through

len," said Britz. "I'll send for them

"Rush a hundred copies of this, Bur-

The detective seated himself on a

stool behind the bench, and for esv-

eral minutes watched the photo-en-

graver at his work. His mind was

not behind his eyes, however. He

was busy with the possibilities unfold-

ed by the little scrap of paper he had

found in the Hindoo burglar's pos-

session. The Headquarters man

never was in a hurry to accept any

clew at its face value; nevertheless,

he felt he had at last something

which if not a direct link between

his knowledge and his suppositions,

would go far toward connecting them.

That the note was addressed to Curtis

Griswold he had little doubt. It re-

quired small effort of reasoning to

conclude that the Easterners had gone

to Sands's apartments soon after vis-

iting Griswold. By this time, Britz

had learned enough to convince him

that the Brahmin scholar was as eager

to get possession of the Missioner

necklace as he was-to get the Maha-

ranee diamond, anyway, if not all the

other bgems belonging to the famous

string. By a patient, patchwork pro-

cess, Britz had pieced together the

tiniest details of the Swami's move-

ments. He knew all about the schol-

ar's presence in the Metropolitan

Opera House on the night of the dis-

appearance of the jewels, and he had

made himself acquainted with the sys-

tem of espionage maintained by the

sage and his subordinates ever since

that time. That system, he was

aware, covered everyone connected,

however distantly, with the mystery.

trained detectives in the Occidental

culine logic.

steel-rimmed spectacles.

in a couple of hours.'

door of this same mansion in Million-

"Watch him!"

pressed by the exceptional gallantry | scopic detail. and animation of the palpably de He must find Millicent that night. tective force the necessity of a laborilighted clubman-so deeply impressed That done, he had little doubt he ous search through Manhattan's hotel FOR SALE-in the beautiful village in fact, that it was long ere the mem- would be close to the Missioner jew- registers. ory of that evening faded in more els, and probably to the person who Burlen was one of the most astonrecent recollections of chocolate had taken them from their snug har- ished young men in lower Manhattan nougats and Forrest Theatre mati- bor in Mrs. Missioner's library.

Now, the question is, would Curtis Britz said, as he slipped from the by Britz had vanished. At first he Griswold have been as light-hearted stool and started for the door, "but assumed he had fastened it carelessly if he had known that a letter ad don't let the original leave your hands and that it had fallen to the floor. A dressed to him was intercepted at the until I call for it myself."

aire's Row by a swarthy gentleman his thoughts as he walked down flight of the room, and it was not until he of Oriental aspect, who had dazzled after flight of the dark stairs that he had disturbed the dust of ages that he the unsuspecting district messenger | did not see a pair of eyes gleaming at | realized the scrap of paper actually with a tip of gleaming gold? Whe him from the gloom at the rear of one was gone. His sensations following ther he would remains a question. of the lower halls. Those eyes were that realization were not of the plea-Griswold never knew it, but Prince as black as the darkness that formed santest. Britz was one of his best Kananda, after a swift perusal of the their background, and the Headquar- customers, and he knew from the denote in a secluded smoking room, lost ters man would have been even more tective's earnestness the note was of no time in letting the Swami know it, than ordinarily on the alert if he had exceptional importance. It solaced and it was worthy of note, though per- seen them glistening in the remote re- him only in part to find on taking the haps nobody noticed it, that within a cess. As the detective passed on to- plate from the camera and putting it ship of Fenelon, on the Victoria very few minutes after their second ward the street, the eyes advanced through a developing process that the meeting in the ballroom, Prince and along the dusk of the hall, and in the lens had done its work more faithfully scholar took their separate leave of faint glow of a lowered gas-jet at the than he. He held in his hand a pertheir hostess, and sped northwesterly foot of one of the higher flights of fect duplicate of the letter. That in closed automobiles that raced neck stairs, there became visible behind would not satisfy Britz, of course, but and neck far beyond the speed limit. them a man who, in most respects, it was better than it would have been Little society reporters, in frocks of | was a counterpart of the two Orien- | if the note had disappeared before the hodden gray, scribbled for the city tals at that moment detained in the photographing was complete. Burlen ternationally important information owner of the eyes, while Britz walked copper to the acid bath, and as the that the ball of that evening was one downstairs, as quickly and far more minute points of the halftone came of the most brilliant successes of the quietly went up.

season, and that it was graced by the attendance of an Oriental prince Mulberry Street. In his own office, was able to produce the facsimiles the whose departure was hastened by the after a glance into Manning's room | Headquarters man had ordered. Rereceipt of a pressing cablegram from that showed him it was empty, he morse spurred him so effectively that called Dr. Fitch on the telephone and all the hundred impressions were made an appointment to meet him in ready when Rawson sent for them. two hours in the bar of the Holland Half an hour afterwards, as many de-

Manhattan," said the detective, "and I want to talk to you very privately. York's more fashionable hotels. They are not likely to know me ness rookery-one of the skyscrapers | there."

Headquarters attendant appeared. Fitch in the bar. That hotel is not sent him for the Central Office man whom, next to himself, he trusted

"Send down to Burlen's place in an hour and a half, Rawson," said Britz to the other detective. "He'll have a hundred facsimiles of a letter signed the bar, and began absorbing long. Millicent. Have as many men as possible get busy among the hotels. I want to trace the woman who wrote ancient visage who was working at a | that signature. They will have to look | bench. The paper was the note be- through every register for a year past. you a list," and he hastily scribbled the names of a half-hundred hostelries of a class such as he thought the fair Millicent might patronize.

Rawson.

"If I'm not back in three hours, I'll call you up," said the detective. Then, having arrived at a pause in the pursuit of the jewels, he hastened to a Turkish bath, where, being little weary from much metropolitan journeying and muscle-bound from loss of sleep, he had himself baked, steamed, chilled, kneaded, and pounded into shana.

The great detective's indulgence that luxury all unknowingly gave to the other side an advantage in the race for the Missioner jewels that well might prove fatal to his success. Long before Britz reached the hot-air room of the bath, the man with the glistening eyes who had passed him in the hall of the tumble-down lost building was at the door of Burlen's workshop, straining the angle of his vision to follow the photo-engraver at work. Those glittering eyes focused their gaze through the keyhole on a piece of paper which Burlen had fastened with thumbtacks to a board, and which, in the glare of an arc lamp, confronted a big camera with a power ful lens. Although the eyes followed Burlen as well as they could about the room, their owner was not so much interested in the artizan's activity as he was in the small white sheet of paper on which he could discern lines traced in a woman's hand. you.' Patiently waited the owner of the eyes. He was of a race that had cultivated patience through the centuries. Soon or late, undoubtedly, the man inside would go from the bench It was apparent to Britz that he was beside that great white light to anworking against men who, while not other part of the room. A few yards would suffice for the man with the sense, were fully as persistent in their eyes, and even while Britz still was quest as himself. There was no quest talking to Rawson in Police Headquartion the Swami had directed all the ters. Burlen briskly covered those energies of the Easterners which the dozen or so feet to get a chemical in detective had followed interestedly the row of bottles in the rack at the throughout their various manifesta- far end of the shop. The man outtions. Britz was convinced that he side, crouching until he was little had the Brahmin priest to thank for higher than an unreared cobra of his hi. own kidnapping; and he was native land, slipped through the doorband of brothers had searched the space between the threshold and the

Avenue? It was not to be expected next day's afternoon session, if not letterhead that revealed to Nandy and that Curtis, under such conditions, earlier. Britz felt that, once in their the Swami an address they very much could be anything but gay. He glit- presence, the Swami, though he might desired to know. Had that address Little Dorothy March was so im- learn all they knew, to the last micro- him much delay, and would have spared a large part of the city's de-

> when, turning from his row of bottles, quick hunt showed him he was wrong. The detective was so absorbed in He extended his search to every part out with gratifying distinctness, the Britz turned his steps toward 300 young man rejoiced that he at least tectives were comparing the halftone "It's one of the quietest places in prints with the signatures of all the Millicents in the registers of New

Britz, as fit as a fiddle after his parboiling, walked briskly to the marble Britz pushed a button, and when a lobby of the Holland House and joined patronized by the Bright Light set, one reason being that it sturdily repels all attempts at such patronage. Half a way. There isn't anything like them. dozen men of undoubted fashion were in the cafe when Britz and Fitch draped themselves over one end of cold drinks in punctuation of their interested talk.

"We're getting warm, as the youngsters say," said Britz, and he told him of all that had happened since their stroke of bad luck. I'm puzzled on one point, however, and that's what I wanted to see you about. What do "What time will I see you?" asked you know about Bruxton Sands?" "I know he's all right," Fitch re plied. "One of the best ever."

"Known him long?" "Several years. I was fortunate in the case of a brother of his, and that made me pretty solid with the whole family. Bruxton has done me several good turns.'

"You think that square look of his is not a front, then?" inquired the de

"No." said the doctor, who talked more at his ease with the detective than he would have dreamed of doing with any of his fashionable patients. "He's 'the goods.' "

"Well," rejoined the sleuth, "I'm glad to hear you say so. I don't mind telling you he made me a little sus picious this evening. I must say that for an honest man his attitude was little queer.'

"In what way?" "Well," said Britz, "he wouldn't let me see a bit of paper that might have helped me a whole lot in this matter: and just for a moment I began to wo der whether he was as eager to have the Missioner mystery solved as he pretended to be.'

"There's no pretense about Bruxton Sands," said Fitch very positively. "He does want this thing straightened out, and he wouldn't do anything in any way, if he could help it, to hinder

Britz then told the physician more fully how stubborn Sands had been in regard to the note the millionaire himself had taken from one of the Hindoo burglars. "I'll admit it seemed strange," said

Fitch. "But if you go on the assump tion there is anything wrong behind it, you'll lose your point. Sands is as square as they make 'em." "You don't think, then," asked the

detective, "it is possible his infatua tion for Mrs. Missioner would lead him to do anything to queer his

"Most assuredly not," replied Fitch "In the first place, he is not infatu ated. Bruxton Sands is genuinely in love with Doris Missioner, and he is

But something told him he must be oped in the fog of the steam-room, -- wen, maybe ne does, said Britz; take a million if it were handed to 6 William-st., south, Lindsay, Ont One thing was in his favor. Undoubt- swifter, deeper dive toward the heart close to a mix-up with the Grand Jury same girl."

the heart line were all second-hand, said Fitch, smiling

mare colt, light bay with black having removed their business to my mane and tail, dark legs, small own office oppisite Watchman Warder one knowing anything of same kind- Estate in all branches. ly notify Thos. Fisher, R.M.D. Lind-

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Ontario, 15th day of June A.D. 1914. Lottie Thorndike

By her Solicitor,

I. E. Weldon.

the kind of man who knows the sort leth July, one Holstein cow and one of woman he wants. In the next place light red 2 year old steer. Any perunderhand, even if he saw the other son knowing their whereabouts kindfellow was undoubtedly winning out. ly notify James Drury, Victoria He always plays the game." Road P. O.

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