

features, you will enjoy reading "The story here. Only three previous instalments have been published in these cally recollect two or three during the

and proceed with the story.

Synopsis NIKCLAS NOLESCUE, a depart-Chinese silk beneath her counter.

SUPERINTENDENT JAMES BECK director, he discovers that the dead mises the previous night, when death the two, Yes, that's right. was adjudged to have taken place.

ply the answers to a number of ques- Suchow silk, Miss Varley?" tions perplexing his mind, he sets our Supt. Beck interviews Miss Varley at

her apartment, but is not altogether satisfied with all she tells him or all she doesn't tell him. He is under the impression that she may be holding something back.

#### (Now read on.) CHINESE CUSTOMERS

fobbed off so easily. He was convinced in his own mind that Miss Varley was not playing the game with him. She knew something, of that he was certain; and he felt that if it had any bearing at all on the case she cught to be reasonable and tell him what it

"Let me put it to you another way, he suggested. "May we assume that there was someone on the staff of Oxtons who rather resented the fact that you were friendly with Nolescue? know you will think it an impertinence Miss Varley, but I assure you I have no desire to probe into your private life. I am merely making this suggestion in the hope of discovering some means lescue of making sense out of something that. at the moment, appears senseless.

intendent, that I was not friendly with Mr. Nolescue. Our relationship in the European capitals. store was a business one, so I cannot see how it could have affected anyone else."

we'll have to leave it at that, but before las Nolescue had been born of peasant I go there's just one other thing I'd stock at Kraiova in 1890; that after an like to ask you and it's this: in the obscure childhood little was known of past few days have you noticed any- him until 25 years later when he apthing at all unusual in Mr. Nolescue's peared in Bucharest as an agent for a conduct?"

I have," she admitted. "He has appear- lages in China, and also was heard of ed more than usually worried. Perhaps in Tokyo. Prior to coming to London. not so much worried as apprehensive; in fact, within six months he had spent as though he were expecting someone considerable time at Suchow. The reato come into the stere. Only two days son for his leaving Suchow was not ago when he appeared rather more known. He had arrived in London two nervy than usual he asked me not once, | months ago and for the past month but many times, whether we had had been employed by Oxtons. any Chinese customers. I told him During his stay in London he had that we had not, yet despite that he lived at a small hotel in the vicinity of kept making a similar inquiry. At first Victoria Station, where he had paid

YOU CAN START THE STORY HERE | he persisted, I thought it rather odd." | cording to the proprietor, a mild-man-If you enjoy a mystery story with Beck was alert, thoroughly alert now nered and entirely reserved little man some love element, and other thrilling for the first time during the interview. While at the hotel, however, he had Silk Enigma." You can take up the customers, Miss Varley?" he inquired. frequently arrived back there in the

columns. And if you read the synopsis whole time I have been at Oxtons." given herewith, you can get all the

mental silk manager at Oxtons, a big other point I was almost forgetting. Chinese visitors. I'm off now to learn London silk emporium, is discovered by When Mr. Nolescue asked me about all about Suchow. I'm particularly PHYLLIS VARLEY, first assistant in the Chinese customers he also said anxious to know what attraction, busithe Chinese Silk Department, lying that if ever I had a Chinese customer ness and otherwise, it had for friend dead, his body wrapped in a roll of asking to see any Suchow silk I must Nolescue. Perhaps when I've refurnlet him know immediately."

"Now can you tell me why Nolescue Believing that Miss Varley can sup- should be particularly interested in

to interview the girl, who has been sent reason I've already given you, that off duty after her gruesome experience only an expert can detect the genuine

Beck arose to depart and the girl jumped down from her perch on the

ance," he smiled, "I'm afraid my job makes me something of a nuisance at times. However, I suppose you'll be But the Superintendent was not to be back behind your counter to-morrow morning. By the way, Mr. Oxton tells me he's moving your display to another part of the store.'

He saw the girl momentarily shudder. Then she smiled. "I'm glad about that," she said, simply, and Beck realized that the shock of the morning's discovery had not, despite the girl's apparent poise, yet worn off.

#### CHAPTER IV

FIVE EYES OF MEDICUS From Chelsea Superintendent Beck dreve straight back to Scotland Yard. Here he found that his assistants on the case had marshalled what facts

Inspector Graves had everything Kong, and half a dozen different Beck?"

Beck sat down at his desk with a

sense of infinite satisfaction. He learned from the dossier that had "Well," admitted Beck, "I suppose been meticulously compiled that Nikosilk firm in Hangchow. Later he ap-"Now that you come to mention it, peared in various silk towns and vil-

I took little notice of it, but later when his bills regularly and appeared, ac-

"And do you have many Chinese kept somewhat irregular hours and "They are very rare. In fact I can small hours of the morning.

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Beck turned to the Inspector, who stood beside his desk.

"Can you think of any reason why "That's good work, Graves, very good lore for the belief-that each jade jewel salient points of what has gone before Nolescue should have appeared par- work, but there's one further inquiry I represents the reclamation of ten years ticularly interested in Chinese cus- want made of this hotel. I want to of youth for the possessor. How it came "None whatever. Oh, and there's an- oue stayed there, he ever had any ished my mental attics I'll be able to "Suchow silk?" murmured Beck, reget this affair into proper perspective."

has been strangled, but after interview- mentioned that Nolescue was himself and Beck dialled his telephone and in- because of his refusal to disclose the ing PETER OXTON, the managing inquiring about yesterday afternoon?" structed the switchboard operator to secret. The girl's eyes brightened. "Why, of find out whether Professor Karmen at man had no apparent right on the pre- course, how silly of me not to connect the British Museum could spare him a few moments.

> into a small room under the roof of serve his secret in the silk where he the British Museum and found himself had placed it, and prayed that a suit-"I'm afraid I can't, except for the being greeted by a small, dome-headed able curse should descend on anyone little man whose face was akin to the gaining possession of the silk and readparchments spread out on the little ing his secret. This, mind you Mr. Beck. table from behind which he arose as Beck entered.

"Good afternoon, Mr. Beck. It must be five years since I last had occasion "I'm sorry if I've been an old nuls- to discuss our little conundrums. Now what can it be this time?"

"You're right Professor, I've got one can you make of the jig-saw?" now that's proving a real hard nut. "I like nuts," beamed the professor, 'particularly Brazil nuts. They've got Prefessor's story. His own logical mind a flavour, a real nutty flavour, and told him that it was absurdly fantastic they're not nearly so difficult to crack when once you know how. For instance, if you insert the nut between the nut crackers, so," and he held out two pencils and proceeded to place an imaginary nut between the two levers, "and make quite sure that the greatest not be correlated with modern facts. pressure is exerted on the hinge of the nut, which is curiously enough the from the tree at that point . . . '

ing hand. "You're quite right, Professor; absolutely right, but I'll warrant | ness. I always thought that the Tongs they could concerning Mr. Nikolas No- that you won't find my Chinese nut so easy of manipulation.'

neatly tabulated as a result of the brows. "And what nuts, may I ask, "But I have already told you, Super- buzzing wires between London, Hong have you been having from China, Mr. and I'm almost as perplexed as you are,

> "Suchow nuts," smiled the Superintendent. "Ever heard of them? Ever tried to get them between your crackers?'

> The old man shock his head, "I was in Suchow less than a year ago," he said, "but I never had nuts."

> "That's fine," enthused Beck, "I'd an idea you'd fill in the gaps that have been left in my education. I want you tell me everything you know about

> A thin but hearty laugh echoed strangely between those four academic

"I hope you are not in a hurry, Superintendent," he smiled. "Suchow has a great history and if you want me to begin at the beginning . . ."

"I've not much taste for history, professor, but I am interested in Chinese silk, particularly Suchow silk."

Professor Karmen looked searchingly at the Superintendent, "That's funny," he said quietly.

pear funny to me," commented Beck, grimly. "I've got one murder on my hands already." "Murder!" mused the old man. "But

now does Suchow silk come into it?" the facts tersely. At the mention of it," the name Nolescue , the professor wrinkled his nose and an ejaculation escaped his lips.

"I met Nolescue in Suchow," he said quietly. "I'm afraid this is very serious, professor. Superintendent."

how did you come to meet Nolescue?" Beck, logically. "He could have bought "I have always been interested in up every scrap of silk known to have en me something to bite on." Chinese secret societies," he said. "The come from Tao Li's weaving shed." place is honeycombed with them. They was staying with an old German pro- they are not usually wealthy." fessor-Gluntz his name-who's been "I suppose that's true enough, but wandering around China for 30 years or how was he to know that he would be more. He's steeped in it, and it was taken on as a Chinese silk expert by while I was there a man named No- Oxtons? As I see it, professor, it's all lescue-I remember it perfectly because too confoundedly coincidental. Every-I am interested in nomenclature-call- thing seems to fit together too easily. ed to see Gluntz.

too, and he wanted to get into touch | clusion. with a man named Tao Li, a silk weav-Nolescue went on his mysterious way and we never heard of him again. And you say he's been murdered in a silk fessed Beck. "When I was talking to

store. That's very odd, isn't it?" "It's so odd that I'm at my wits' end it for granted that Oxton's wanted a to know where to begin my investiga- silk expert and got one through the tion. I thought that if you could give usual channels of advertisement." me some information about Suchow silk I might have a starting point, but ing what the procedure was in this for the life of me I don't see the connection between silk and secret so-ATTENDED TO CHEES."

The professor appeared considerably more animated at the Superintendent's perplexity.

"I wonder if there isn't some connecion after all," he said, "But first of all let me tell you a story. I'm telling it to you because Nolescue you say is dead and because Nolescue was inquiring in Suchow for a silk weaver named Tao Li. I may be wrong, of course," he added, guardedly, "but I take it that people in your profession, Superintendent, are able to piece things together even if

"However, there is in existence at this moment more than one Chinese Tong. or secret society, engaged in trying to discover the whereabouts of the Five Eyes of Medichus, an ancient idol which was stolen when a famous Chinese temple in the Liangshan mountains was pillaged by religious fanatics. The raid took place nearly two years ago, and when it became known that the jade jewel bearing so fascinating a name had disappeared, half the Tongs in China went to war to obtain possession of it.

some of the pieces are mislaid.

"In extenuation of this I must explain that actually the Five Eyes of Medichus is a cluster of five separate jewels, and it is believed—and there is ample authority in Chinese religious know whether, during the time Noles- | about I don't pretend to know, but word got around that the secret of the jewel's whereabouts was in the possession of poor Tao Li, the silk weaver of Suchow. The next we knew was that Tao Li had been taken by one of the rival Tongs; that he had been tortured-and the Chinese know everything there is to know of this ancient of Scotland Yard, finds that Nolescue | miniscently. "Isn't that the silk you | Inspector Graves took his departure | art of extortion-and finally murdered

"Now one of the torturers, it is said, has sworn that Tao Li, in his agonizing delirium, called, as he normally would, Half an hour later Beck was shown on the spirits of his ancestors to preis only hearsay. The machinations of the Tongs are as mysterious as their motives, but my friend Gluntz believes -for he told me so himself-that the story I have told you is the correct one. Now, my dear Superintendent, what

EMPLOYED BY THE TONGS? Beck had listened intently to the That as a piece of fiction it was passably intriguing, but that to connect the murder of a departmental silk manager in a London store with all this Oriental intrigue, well . . . -Beck felt that the professor's knowledge of China could

"I'm trying to discover where Nolescue comes into the heavily embroiweakest part since it has been released | dered picture," he complained. "Surely you don't suggest that Nolescue-harm-Beck held up a friendly but protest- less little fellow that he apparently was -was mixed up in all this Tong busiwere strictly racial; that they did not invite assistance from aliens and par-Professor Karmen wrinkled his ticularly from Westerners."

"As a general rule that is correct Superintendent," answered the professor; "but I've been thinking the matter over in the light of what you have told me, and when we consider the superstitious value which is placed on the possession of the Five Eyes of Medichus it is likely that some of the more eager and enterprising of the Tongs would not be averse to departing from tradition. Shall we suppose, for the sake of argument, that Nelescue, himself an expert in genuine Suchow I cannot say whether they are related silk, should have been employed by one of the rival Tongs for the sole purpose of tracking down that particular roll of Suchow silk woven on the loom of the ill-fated Tao Li."

"By Jove, I believe you've got it. Professor." exclaimed Beck.

The professor radiated satisfaction

at such unqualified praise. "I was merely thinking," he continued, "in substantiation of my suggestion that if Tao Li's torturer was to be believed, the services of Nolescue would become particularly valuable since Nolescue himself, representing the Euro- say this, I don't think we're so very Interment will take place at a later hour, clouds have attained a velocity "I can assure you that it doesn't ap- pean silk interests-that is the buyers wide of the mark in this theory, be- date under Orange auspices. Brother -might be able to track down all consignments that left Tao Li's looms. As lescue showed a remarkable preference acted as pall bearers. I was saying, if Tao Li did actually for Suchow silk-a much greater pre- Born in Caledonia, Ont., Mr. Nixon The little toe is passing through one

> "You mean that that was the sole reason for Nolescue's appearance in London?" questioned Beck doubtfully. "It is a suggestion," commented the

"You bet it is," agreed Beck. "But gone to all that trouble," protested chew silk alone."

"Maybe he did," suggested Professor exist for a bewildering variety of rea- Karmen, "but to do so he would have sons. Folitical, religious, racial-right to be plentifully supplied with money triguing things I've encountered. Much down to the ubiquitous family feud. I and from what I know of the Tongs

and when that happens I usually wait "It appears Nolescue was interested. awhile before I come to a definite con-

"May I inquire whether you asked er. Gluntz could not help him and this man's employer how he came to engage him?" asked the professor.

-- ] [--"Come to think of it, I didn't," con-Mr. Oxton this morning I rather took public or private company.

"It might be worth the while inquircase, Mr. Beck." "I shall most certainly do that. By tended to any living person or to any member pays \$2 a week on the assur- times hear is not crumbling but merely the way," went on Beck, "I suppose you public or private company.

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The professor shook his head. "That's a difficult question Mr. Superintendent I know many Chinese in London, but to the Tengs or not. The average Chi naman is singularly reticent when It comes to his private affairs and you can believe me, Mr. Beck, the Tongs have the oyster at a distinct disadvan-

"Well, I'm much obliged to you, Professor. You've given me an angle to the case I could not possibly have obtained in any other way short of pure L.O.Y.B. attended, as well as a large guesswork-and you'd probably be sur- gathering of citizens. Rt. Rev. J. G. prised to know how much police de- Anderson, D.D., Bishop of Moosonee, tection even in these modern days re- assisted by Rev. L. C. Howell, officiated lies on fortuitous circumstances. I will at the service.

"By no means. There is Shantung, the Cochrane lodge.

"I hope you won't forget to let me know how the case develops, Mr. Beck! I'm intersted. It's one of the most inmore interesting, in fact, than these parchments of the Tang Dynasty I'm trying to decipher.'

"Most certainly I'll let you know, Professor," agreed Beck as he took his

icus sensation assailed him. It was what sensation," and it was then he rememmered the cold bacon at breakfast. He wanted food, and food he was determined to have before he did any thing else.

(TO BE CONTINUED) The characters in this story are entirely imaginary. No reference is intended to any living person or to any

The characters in this story are en-

by Death of His Father

After an illness of six months with occurred at his home in Cochrane, Friday evening, April 2, in his 63rd For ten years Mr. Nixon was janitor at the Cochrane court house and all States Navy are forbidden to throw government branches in the building were represented at the funeral which was held at Holy Trinity Pro-Cathedral at Cochrane on Monday afternoon, wishing to watch maneuvers in time of April 5, at 2.30 o'clock.

Members of the Orange Order and

cause from what I've been told No- members of Cochrane Orange Lodge

ference than perhaps he had any right formerly lived in Buckingham, Que., of the most prenounced alterations now of silk he was weaving, then Nolescue to do because, I take it, Chinese silk before taking up residence in Cochrane, going on in the human body. In these Beck told him what he knew; gave had an excellent chance of discovering does not come exclusively from Su- He had taken all degrees in the Orange digits today, a joint is missing in one Order and was a charter member of out of every three individuals.

nan, just to mention a few, and I sup- is survived by five daughters, Mrs. A entrance with a pair of bronze lions. pose that Messrs. Oxtons, if they are Hayes, Mrs. F. Ross, Misses Janet and One day a gentleman named Wang commercially as comprehensive as you Hattie, Cochrane, and Mrs. J. Cald- set up a stand and, telling the passers-"But surely Nolescue need not have have mentioned, would not import Su- well; two sons, Robert, Timmins; and by that the lions had the power to con-John, Cochrane; as well as three bro- ier wealth, allowed anyone, for a coin, "Many thanks, Professor, you've giv- thers, Henry, Buckingham, Que., 5:- to stroke their paws. Today the mil-

#### About Keeping up With This Good Old World Here

(By Freling Foster)

ability as an equestrienne, an American protection and propriety. clergyman who wore a heavy veil during the greater part of his life to atone demanded that a "comforter,' as well for the accidental killing of a friend, as a physician, be called when a person and an English millionaire who put a was very sick. Invariably dressed in borse in solitary confinement for life, black, he "comforted" the patient in a pitchdark stall, to punish the ani- throughout the long hours of the night mal for losing a race.

tions now carry insurance policies ing such subjects as death and the devil. which protect against copyright infringements, citations on programmes, violations of radio laws and all other that if the Italian soldiers in Spain claims excepting those for slander and are really homesick, it would be as well libel. The policy, costing \$500 a year, to shift the scene of the show to Italy. covers payments up to eighty per cent. of the judgment, with a limit of \$50,000.

1 \$50 suit of clothes in one of the weekly drawings, he will get a suit anyway after 25 payments. Profits lie in the forefeited investments of those who drop out and, evidently, in the omission of many drawings, as an investigation of one club showed its membership had

paid in \$30,000 and won only live suits. The crews on the ships of the United anything overboard that will float, as such debris might be used as a trail by enemies in time of war and by spies

A bill which was passed in the Illinois legislature in 1923 changed the official language of that state from English to "American."

Lava has flowed down the side of a volcano at the rate of fifty miles an of more than one hundred miles an hour, and forest fires have traveled faster than a man can walk.

Ten years ago, in Shanghai, a large Kwantung, Kiangsu, Hupen and Hu- Besides his wife, the deceased man bank erected a building and flanked the lions who have rubbed the paws smooth and shiny still await their wealth. But not wise old Wang.

> In China, where frugality is both a necessity and an art, numerous farmers and coolies save money by wearing trousers without seats. They see no Once there lived an Austrian empress point in buying a whole pair when a who drank mare's milk to enhance her | dependable shirttail affords both amp-3

In 17th century New York, fashion by singing mournful hymns, reading Several American broadcasting sta- sad parts of the Scriptures and discuss-

Sudbury Star:-It has been suggested

Globe and Mail:-Hon, Howard Fer-"Suit Clubs" still prosper despite guson declares that the Empire is not tirely imaginary. No reference is in- their illegality in several states. A crumbling. That odd noise we someance that, if his number fails to win a grumbling.

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