'Fresh from the gardens'

The Bishop Murder Case

A PHILO VANCE STORY

BY S. S. VAN DINE

Vance answered the question.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

"Tell me everything," he said.

"First, let me ask you a question.

Vance drew out his cigarette-cas-

from his room the night of his death.

with the typewriter."

spoke with quiet gravity.

on, general purchase the Cana I am am

The old man hesitated.

SYNOPSIS

with an arrow through the heart. Then a young chap named Sprigg is shot fully. "What does it mean?" derer writes mocking notes signed The The following people are associated with the case: Prof. Dillard. His neice, Arnesson. And I think it would be Vance looked straight into the Belle. Sigurd Arnesson, who hopes to well if we had a talk with you in the man's eyes. Drukker is suspected but the night he

ed. The shock kills Mrs. Drukker. 'Ap comes of the disappearance of a little

CHAPTER XXXVIII.—(Cont'd.) my own feelings now. Come: I will "I realize that the finding of the typewriter and the notebook is not

conclusive," concurred Markham. "But

the identification by the child-" "Oh, my dear fellow! What weight would a jury attach to a frightened five-year-old girl's identification without powerful contribut'ry evidence? A clever lawyer could nullify it in five minutes. And even assuming you what would it boot you? It wouldn't connect Arnesson in any way with the Bishop murders. You could only prosecute him for attempted kidnapping,-the child's unharmed, remember. And if you should, through a legal miracle, get a doubtful conviction, Arnesson would receive at most

wouldn't end this horror. . . . No, no. You musn't be precipitate." who had taken a seat opposite to him. Reluctantly Markham resumed his seat. He saw the force of Vance's "Don't try to spare me."

a few years in the bastille. That

argument. "But we can't let this thing go on, he declared ferociously. "We must stop this maniac some way."

"Some way-yes." Vance began pacand six yesterday afternoon?" ing the room restlessly. "We may be able to wangle the truth out of hi by subterfuge: he doesn't know yet that we've found the child. . . . him again until dinner time." possible Professor Dillard could assist Vance regarded the other sympaus-" He halted and stood looking thetically for a moment, then he said: down at the floor. "Yes! That's our "We've found the typewriter on one chance. We must confront Arneswhich the Bishop notes were printed. son with what we know when the professor is present. The situation is

attic of this house." sure to force an issue of some kind The professor now will do all in his being startled. power to help convict Arnesson." "You were able to identify it?" "You believe he knows more than he has told us?"

"Undoubtedly. I've told you so from the first. And when he hears of the Little-Miss-Muffet episode, it's not unlikely he'll supply us with the evidence we need."

"It's a long chance." Markham was pessimistic. "But it can do no harm to try. In any event, I shall arrest Arnesson before I leave here, and hope for the best."

A few moments later the front door opened and Professor Dillard appeared in the hall opposite the archway. He scarcely acknowledged Markham's greeting-he was scanning our faces as if trying to read the meaning of our unexpected visit. Finally he put a question.

house. We had thought she was here "You have, perhaps, thought over what I said last night?" "Not only have we thought it over."

search your attic." said Markham, "but Mr. Vance has found the thing that was disturbing you. After we left here he showed me a copy of 'The Pretenders'." recent quantum researches was stolen

"Ah!" The exclamation was like sigh of relief. "For days that play has

FASHION HINT

"How to make my old short skirts conclusions? Perhaps if I had made conform to the new length was a prob- no suggestions last night-had not berth?" lem to me until I hit on this plan. I sowed the seed of suspicion. . . . " dropped the hems; and as the part "There can be no doubt," declared that had been turned under was darker Vance softly. "Mr. Markham intends than the rest, I redyed the entire to arrest Mr. Arnesson when he re- antly. dress, after having bleached the goods, turns from the university. But, to be following directions in the Diamond frank with you, sir, we have practi-

"I used Diamond Dyes for the redye- question in Mr. Markham's mind whe- The higher price is for the lower. If ing, of course. I have dyed many ther or not the law can even hold him. you want it lower you have to go highthings with these wonderful colors. The most we can hope for is a convic-They have saved me many dollars and tion for attempted kidnapping have never failed to give perfect re through the child's identification." sults-smooth, even colors-fast to "Ah. yes . . the child would know." wear and washing. Friends think my A bitterness crept into the old man's things are new when I redye or tint eyes. "Still, there should be some them with Diamond Dyes. They do means of obtaining justice for the give the most gorgeous colors!" other crimes."

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"If Mr. Arnesson were convinced that our case against him was a strong one, he might choose suicide as a way out. That perhaps would be the most humane solution for every

Markham was sorely troubled. He rose and walked the length of the Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furroom and back, his face dark with anxiety. When he sat down again he looked at Vance for a long while, his fingers drumming with nervous indecision on the table.

"The innocent of course must be considered," he said in a voice of discouragement. "As morally wrong as suicide is, I can see your point that at times it may be theoretically justified." (Knowing Markham as I did, I realized what this concession had cost him; and I realized, too, for the first time, how atterly hopeless he felt in the face of the scourge of horror; which it was his duty to wipe out.) The old professor nodded understandingly.

"Yes, there are some secrets so hideous that it is well for the world not to know them. A higher justice may often be achieved without the law taking its toll."

As he spoke the door opened, and Arnesson stepped into the room. "Well, well. Another conference. been in my mind, poisoning every eh?" He gave us a quizzical leer, and A man known as Cock Robin is found thought. " He looked up fear- threw himself into a chair beside the professor. "I nought the case had been adjunicated, so to speak. Didn't "It means, sir, that you've led us to Pardee's suicide put finis to the af-

the truth. We're waiting now for Mr. fair?" meantime. You may be able to help "We've found little Miss Muffet,

Mr. Arnesson." The other's eyebrows went up with "I had hoped not to be an instru- sardonic amusement.

ment in the boy's conviction." His "Sounds like a charade. What am of 4, 6, 8 and 10 years that expresses voice held a tragic paternal note. But I supposed to answer: 'How's little the newest Paris has to offer. presently his features hardened; a Jack Horner's thumb?" or, should I The partial belt effect is cute idea. girl. She is found half suffocated in a vindictive light shone in his eyes; and inquire into the health of Jack finished with buttons above the invert his hand tightened over the knob of Sprat?" his stick. However, I can't consider

Vance did not relax his steady gaze. "We found her in the Drukker tweed-like cottom. The Peter Pan colhouse, locked ir. a closet," he ampli- lar and cuff bands of pique may be of fied, in a low, even tone.

Arnesson became serious, and an print. On reaching the library he paused involuntary frown gathered on his by the sideboard and poured himself a forehead, but this slackening of pose glass of port. When he had drunk it was only transient. Slowly his mouth he turned to Markham with a look twisted into a smirk.

"Forgive me. I'm not quite myself." Fancy finding little Miss Muffet so de chine bow tie. He drew forward the little chess soon. Remarkable." He wagged his table and placed glasses on it for all head in mock admiration. "However, of us. "Please overlook my discour- sconer or later it was to be expected. tesy. "He filled the glasses and sat And what, may I ask, is to be the

We drew up chairs. There was none "We also found the typewriter," of us, I think, who did not feel the pursued Vance, ignoring the question. need of a glass of wine after the har-"And Drukker's stolen notebook." rowing events we had just passed Arnesson was at once on his guard

"Did you really?" He gave Vance a When we had settled ourselves the canny look. "Where were these tell- address your order to Wilson Pattern professor lifted heavy eyes to Vance, tale objects?" "Upstairs-in the attic."

"Aha! Housebreaking?" "Something like that."

"Withal," Arnesson scoffed, "I can' see that you have a cast-iron case Where was Mr. Arnesson between five against any onc. A typewriter is not like a suit of clothes that fits only "I-don't know." There was a re- one person. And who can say how luctance in the words. "He had tea Drukker's notebook found its way into here in the library, but he went out our attic? You must do better than about half past pour, and I didn't see that, Mr. Vance."

(To be continued.)

Tails They Lose*

Is the London sparrow loving its It was in an old suitcase hidden in the tail?

The writer has recently noticed a The professor showed no sign of number of tailless sparrows in London suburbs, but didn't pay very much attention to the fact. He thought that "Beyond any doubt. Yesterday a they had been fighting, or had had a little girl named Madeleine Moffat narrow escape-by the tail feathersdisappeared from the playground in from a predatory cat.

the park. There was a sheet of paper But it seems to be a fairly general in the machine, and on it had already phenomenon in London, and scientists been typed: 'Little Miss Muffet sat or have now begun to take note of it. There is a reference to it in a recent Professor Dillard's head sank for number of a scientific journal, in which it is described as "a very pecu-"Another insane atrocity! If only liar form of degeneracy . . . the I hadn't waited till last night to warn breakage of the tail feathers some time after the 1 pult." . .

"No great harm has been done," London pigeons, now being rigor-Vance hastened to inform him, "We ously kept down, have always had the found the child in time; she's out of reputation of being unhealthy; now we are told that London sparrows are degenerates. A big city seems to be a "She had been locked in the hall- bad place for birds. closet on the top floor of the Drukker

Probably that is because, in a city, their natural food is often unobtainsomewhere-which is how we came to able. In the country the main diet of the sparrows consists of hard seeds. There was a silence; then the pro- In the cities they eat breadcrumbs and soft scraps. This diet, it has "What more have you to tell me?" been suggested, may be responsible "Drukker's note-book containing his for their broken tail feathers.

Making it Clear

We found this notebook in the attic The steamship office clerk was be-"He stooped even to that?" It was ing pestered by questions from a prosnot a question, but an exclamation of pective traveller. Finally he decided incredulity. "Are you sure of your to teach the man a lesson. "Now, sir," he said, "upper or lower

"What's the difference?" asked the

The clerk rubbed his hands triumph-"The difference is five shillings," he commenced to explain. "The lower cally no legal evidence, and it is a berth is higher than the upper one.

er. We sell the upper lower than the lower. Most people don't like the lower upper, although it's lower on account of it being higher. When you occupy an upper you have to go up to bed and get down to get up."

Mrs. G.C., Levis, Quebec. Vance sat smoking pensively, his by an army of 6,500 people, who are London's official affairs are handled eyes on the wall beyond. At last he responsible for the expenditure of about £63,250,000 a year.

What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNEBELLE WORTHINGTON



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ed skirt pleats at the front. Style No. 3295 is fashioned of a white or of predominating tone of the

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Starting Young

"Anything wrong?" asked the kindly neighbor. "You look worried." Skinner brushed a hand across hi perspiring brow.

"Our little Freddy is in financial trouble," he explained. The neighbor gazed wonderingly at the harassed parent.

"Nonsense!" he exclaimed. "The child is only a year old." "Yes, but he's swallowed a penny,"

replied Skinner.

In Britain more than 100,000 War widows have remarried, leaving only is really no need for alarm 140,550 still receiving pensions.

tempting

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from time to time about paper money, book, and scolded her for trying to or even about coins. But they have ruin her eyes.

Silenced

day whose spine-

"Nearly every man who develops stamp use a sponge or a gadget of a new idea works it up to the point some kind for the purpose. But there where it looks impossible and then gets discouraged."-Thomas H. Edi-

The ADVENTURES of and his Dog SCOTTIE-

What came before: After the rescue of | He certainly looked like trouble, for the crew of the burning ship, Captain we knew we shouldn't have flown over your paper dolls blow out on the lawn Formosa and visit the country of the the island without permission. Any. -it has just been mowed-and I want head-hunting savages. He and Captain way, there we were, so we might as it to stay nice." And the harassed Stuart take off early in the morning. well make the best of it. But don't think that the Taiwans

just as savage as ever, and all efforts speaking distance—but before he had tively located among shade trees and to civilize them have failed. Every young boy is taught to steal through the woods and make his kill. Then precise English, he replied: he brings back the

Formosa. So dangerous are these savage men of the hills that the Japan- arrest. ese have placed a wide road through high fence charged with electric cur- ideas another would take it up. Fin- noted her worried manner.

Now and then the savages tunnel under the fence and attack some outlying camp where camphor is made. One or two of the Japanese are always killed before the head-hunters are driven back, yet they continue to push right up to the guard line, for the best camphor trees are found on the mountain slopes and the industry is very

Flying low over the island, we were see a couple of planes hurriedly leave too surprised for words. the ground to investigate us. Maybe! it feel as if we were tied to a post.

curious to see what was going to hap. I the richest in camphor. pen. Then a big automobile, driven by I a chauffeur in uniform rolled up to the

the island, guarded by soldiers and a tions. When one would run out of own eyes strangely appraising, as he



He waited until we came within It was a very pretty house, attraca chance to say a word, I asked for stretches of greeng rass. And inside the Governor of the island. In very the house everything was immaculate,

"I have the honor to present His Holmes. This afternoon, when the Highness, Count Ogachi." I introduced Stuart and myself and busy mothers to bring their darning Taiwan girl would explained that we were anxious to out of doors - if it must be donehave a youth who visit the camphor camp and see the while they watched the children play, had not proven his article being made. By this time, the she spent the whole time dragging bravery by bring- two Japanese army planes had arrived books out of shelves, dusting them ing her back a and two very hot, irritated army offi- and replacing them in exact order. cers were on the scene. They all Teddy appeared while she was in seemed put out - probably because the midst of this work, and asked if

They all asked us a flock of ques- ined his fingernails. He submitted, his



those Japanese army planes weren't we came to the end of the good road. keeping it nice - so you ought to be fast. They came up so quickly it made Out we climbed and trudged up the proud of it. Now, be sure you are steep path into the mountains. On back in an hour." We knew that we could not get both sides were evidence of great Susan played for a while, all by away from them, so we spiralled down camphor trees having been chopped herself, because other little girls were into the harbor and taxied up to the down; here and there stumps had uncomfortable in Mrs. Holme's painlanding. Dozens of people crowded theen chopped apart and even roots fully reat house. And when she grew down to the water front to meet us. dug up. The roots, you know, are tired, she stored her paper dolls

water front and stopped. From it writing to "Captain Jimmy," 2010 eyes for all the scraps that might alighted the snappiest Japanese officer Star Building, Toronto, will receive have fallen off the paper spread to

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Are Stamps a Menace? A campaign has been started in

France against what is called the "pernicious habit" of licking stamps. "The habit," we are assured, "is dangerous. Microbes are carried by stamps. Even poisons may be absorb-

ed from the dyes. It is certainly unpleasant to have to lick any considerable number of any more of your back talk.-Life. stamps one after the other, and most people who have many letters to

Similar "scares" have been started son.

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assurance of success than can be hoped for if they are planted next

A Home To Be Proud Of

By Rebecca Dunlap

"Teddy! You must not skate on the porch! How many times must I tell you? Susan-be careful and dog let looking mother went into the house.

though it never quite satisfied Mrs. sunshine outside seemed to call to

they hadn't found an opportunity to he might go over to John's to play. shoot us down or place us under She pulled him toward her, straightened his tie, jerked his belt and examally they "No, dear, I'd rather you stayed at

brought us be- home. You have such a nice place for- a magis- here-everybody says it's the prettiest and we place on the street-and I - I don't answered all the care for you to visit such-such careo l d questions less sort of people."

we can skate on-we want to skate." Then, all of a "Well - why can't you skate-" sudden, they de- She remembered having stopped him cided we were all right. We could that very day, and it made her irritgo where we pleased. Visit the cam- able, "Oh, for pity's sake, go! Go struck by the wonderful beauty of the phor camps-and they gave us an on-and don't bother me! But this country-also we were impressed to official guide and a car! We were is the last time you can go. Why After a drive of fifty miles or more ness knows I work myself to death

> away carefully between the leaves of an old magazine. And although she Note: any of our young readers looked about her with worried eyes cut on, she didn't see the pieces a careless breeze had blown out on the carefully clipped lawn - where they

danc d fantastically about Teddy's skating had made on the porch-and she turned on the little girl indignantly. Susan almost cringed. She had tried very hard, and didn't even know the aper had blown about, but she said othing. Later, her mother discovered her deep in a

"Mother," she asked timidly, "could

I go to Mabel's?" "No-you can not. Why do you children forever have to gad to the neighbors? Haven't you a beautiful yard to play in?" The child turned Wife-Stop! I don't want to hear her eyes wistfully to the trees whose arms seemed made for swings-to the grass that begged so for little

> Late in the afternoon, when Mr. Holmes sneaked in the back way to avoid running into two ladies having tea with his wife in the living room. he accosted the children in the lib rary, and their faces lighted at sight of him. He started to smoke, and Susan, who had been standing still telling Teddy he'd better not take down any of the neatly arranged books to read, ran to get him an ash tray.

Sheepishly, he accepted it. From the hall voices were telling Mrs. Holmes how wonderful she was to keep such a lovely home-and with two children! Her voice floated back to them.

"Well, Theodore and I made great sacrifices to get this place-and I have no servant-but it is worth itfor the children's sake.'

The father, looking at the discontented Teddy and the timid Susan, recalled a handsome building he had once inspected, which rose from a well-kept lawn having beds of beautiful flowers. Every part of it had been scrupulously neat and clean. But the building had bars on its windows. -Issued by the National Kindergarten Association, 8 West 40th Street, New York City. These articles are appearing weekly in our columns.

Fall Garden Preparation **Produces Best Results**

Many persons are likely to plan a new garden in the spring and to think of the fall as one of preparation for winter. Expert gardeners, however, urge the use of this season as one of preparation for next This year's results and failures

conditions of soil and drainage are well known. Many steps in the preparation of next year's garden can best be done in the fall. Soils that must be ready early next year may be plowed or spaded this fall. Most shrubs and trees can be planted this fall after the leaves have, dropped, with greater

are now fresh in mind. Unusual

Hardy bulbs must be planted in the fall. A good general rule to follow in deciding the time of planting is to wait until after the first heavy frost, short and uncertain weather.