

BY ROBERT BARR.

nonds of the Princess

(Copyright, 1900, by Robert Barr.) "I want you to bring to me any letters written by-by"-

"Written by Von Schaumberg !" cried the girl, noticing his hesitation and filling in the blank.

A red wave of anger surged up in the prince's face.

"Yes!" he cried. "Bring me a letter to her from Von Schaumberg, and I'll pay you what you ask."

"It is contrary to my duty to the princess," she began hesitatingly, when he stopped and turned fiercely upon her.

"What is contrary to your duty ?" "There are letters, tied very daintily with a blue ribbon, and they are from a man. The princess did not allow me to read them, but locked them away in a



"If there are any letters from-frommen, will you bring them to me?

secret drawer in her dressing room, but she is so careless with her keys and about everything else that I am sure I can get them for you, if you want them.

"Yes, yes, I want them," said the prince, "and will pay you handsomely for them."

"Very well," replied Miss Baxter. them."

The prince, bewildered, took the sheet that she handed to him and read it, a wrinkle of bewilderment corrugating his brow.

"I don't understand what this has to do with the case," he said at last. "It seems to be an order on the bank at Vienna for the diamonds, written by the princess herself."

"Of course it is. Well, if the diamonds had been delivered, that paper would now be in the possession of the bank instead of in your hands." "Perhaps she mislaid this order and

wrote another." "Perhaps. Still it might be worth

while finding out." "Take this, then, to the princess and

ask her." "It is not likely she would remember. The better plan is to telegraph at once to the Vienna bank, asking them to send the diamonds to Meran by special messenger. No one there knows that the diamonds are missing."

"I will do so at once." cried the prince, with more animation in his voice than Miss Baxter had previously noticed. His highness was becoming interested in the game.

After luncheon the princess came to Miss Baxter, who was seated at her desk, and handed her a letter.

"There is an invitation from the Duchess of Chiselhurst for a grand ball she is shortly to give. It is to be a very swell affair, but I don't care enough for such things to go all the way to England to enjoy them. Would you therefore send her grace my regrets?" "I will do so at once."

At that moment there came a messenger from the prince asking Miss Baxter to meet him in the library. The girl glanced up at the princess. "Have I your permission to go?" she said.

The princess looked at her steadily for a moment, just the faintest suspicion of a frown on her fair brow.

"I do not suppose you need my permission." Her highness spoke with slow deliberation. "My husband condescends to take considerable interest in you. Passing along the corridor this morning, I heard your voices in most animated conversation."

"Had you sufficient interest in our discussion to stop and listen to what we said, Princess von Steinheimer?"

"Ah! Now you are becoming insolent, and I must ask you to consider your engagement with me at an end." "Surely you will not dismiss me in that heartless way, princess. I think I am entitled to a month's notice, or is it only a week's?"

"I will pay you a year's salary or two years', if that will content you. I have no wish to deal harshly with you. but I desire you to leave at once," said "you shall have them. If you will wait the princess, who had little sense of here ten minutes, I shall return with humor and thus thought the girl was in earnest when she asked for notice. Miss Baxter laughed merrily and

"I will thank you to apply the cler- bringing his clinched fat down on the erness on seem to possess to the nudo- oak. "What did I tall you ! I knew it ing of the harm you have so light all along. The prince stole the dia-

tonight, when I did so wish to stay and said so from the first." see the diamond denouement.**

heartedly caused."

speak to the princess about it if that, spected father-in-law, Mr. Briggs, inwhom it seems he has engaged-Cad-

bury Taylor, I think the name is-will be here tomorrow to explain the dia- Baxter, stepping energetically forward. mond mystery, so you see you have a competitor."

"Oh, is Cadbury coming! That is too jolly for anything. I simply must not had any breakfast yet, and he cere a very famous detective, and the con- ives, Mr. Briggs, you must take care of clusions he has arrived at must be most interesting."

per special messenger, who first took a formal receipt for them and then most obsequiously took his departure. By the same train came Mr. Cadbury Taylor, as modest as ever, but giving some indication in his bearing of the importance of the discovery his wonderful system had aided him in making. He blandly evaded the curiosity of Mr. Briggs and said it would perhaps be better to reveal the secret in the presence of the prince and princess.

"Just what I suspected," muttered Mr. Briggs, who had long been constones.

The important gathering took place in the library, the prince, with the diamonds in his coat pocket, seated at the head of the long table, while the prin-



monds and in his arcitement yanks MODERH CONDITIONS WHICH PRO-"How can It I am ordered to leave them out of his pocket and proves it. I.

"Oh, father, father!" moaned the "You are not going tonight. I shall princess, speaking for the first time. "How can you say such a thing? My should be necessary. Your mention of husband couldn't do a mean action if the diamonds reminds me that my re- he tried. The idea of his stealing the diamondal Not if they were worth a forms me that a celebrated detective, thousand millions and detection impossible." "Come, come," cried Miss Jennie

"I imagine everybody has had enough of this Clear out, Mr. Briggs, and take Mr. Taylor with you. I am sure he has

what you want ring for it."

She drove the two speechless men out before her and, closing the door, said to the prince, who was still standing bewildered at having his hand forced in this manner:

"There i Two fools from four leave two. Now, my dears-I'm pot going to season that there would be neither bighness either of you-you are simply two lone people who like each other immensely, yet who are drifting apart through foolish misunderstandings that a few words would put right if sither of you had sense enough to speak them. vinced that the prince had stolen the which you haven't, and that's why I'm here to speak them for you. Now, madame. I am ready to awear that the

prince has never said anything to me that did not show his deep love for } you, and if you had overheard us you would not need me to tell you so. He thinks Schaumberg-not that I ever saw the poor man, but he is bound to be an idiot or the prince wouldn't be jealous of him. As nobody had stolen the diamonds after all this fuse, so so one has stolen the effection of officer of you from the other. I can see by the way you look at each other that I won't need to apologize for leaving you alone together while I run up stairs to pack." "Ob, but you are not going to leave us!" cried the princess.

"I should be delighted to stay, but there is no rest for the wicked, and I must get back to London."

With that the girl ran to her room and there reread the letter she had received It ran:

Cellved. If FREI: DELAS Mine BLETTER-We are in a very considerable dilemans here so I write is any types to return to London without delay, ge-ing back to the Tyrcl later on to Salah the investigation of the diamond myniary. The Duchass of Chisthurei is so give a grash hall on the Stik. It is to be a very swagger affair, with a sompaper shall be almitian. We have with a surgement that we are connected with a surgement that we are connected with a surgement shall be almitian. We have so at work every infusions to obtain an invi-sion for a recorder, but without more many the main and the pathet problem of hits, the forwart animals. tation for a reporter, but without mercus, the account will be sent to the press. New, I won't you to set your ingenuity at work and your admittance if possible, for I am determined to have an account of this ball written in mach a way that every one who reads it will know that the writer was present. If you can man-age this, I can bardly tell you how grainful the proprietor and myself will be. Yours very train, Rahmon Manawyow. Miss Jennie Barter sat for some mements musing, with the lefter in her

COMMON HOUSE RL

DUCE HIS NUMBER.

Wanderful Incest-Min Das Revealed-The Part Trolley Cape and Antomobiles Play-As a Man Appears is Him-Him Appetile Good.

In view of certain conditions, it is the bounden duty of humanking to rise up and call the toad, the dragon By, the automobile and the trolley car blessed. For were it not for theer, availing pulsations of His in and a few other allied agents we would be suffering from a plague beside which cholers; yallow fever, but stay and hear his explanation, for he is tainly looks hungry. If you hire detect- | bonic plague or any other tropical or Asiatic affliction would be as nothing: , them. Out you go. The dining room is | We would be suffering as did Pharana ever so much more inviting just now with a plague of flier, only our affle-In the morning the diamonds arrived than the library, and if you don't see thon would be many times more maddening than that which befell the ancient warrior.

Now, this may sound somewhat platitudinous at first, but, really, were it not for these enemies of the house fir large cities would be so infected with the insects by the and of the



most prolific of all the lower animals. generations of fles are preduced, and such franks lays an average of one hundred and iwenty space at a sitting. Nor does she die, like many innerts, as a result of her labors. She reesperates, and after a short time raprate the office for which she seems principally to have been erented. Now, If you will multiply this single fy by 120, the number of her eres. and portant letter from London which had | hand. Suddenly her eyes lit up, and abs | these again by 130, and so on waill "What a foriunate thing it is," also twelfth generation, you will find cried aloud, "that I did not wend on the mortality , the number of fine resultrefamil of the princess to the Duchess ing from the one female would be of Chleebursti I had forgotten all something like 745 sextillions. To be aure, many of the five produced would be males, but, on the other hand, the number does not include the adding together of the twelve generations. If simply represents the number of great-great-great, etc., grandehildren that may result from one female. The

12 fitese The the . most theight and ARTS been taking much of their old m has shrivelled up and dis new parts which were mentary before have pudden and given them energy and the for a higher existence. The p of sight and been youchested the

On the last day of what milling called their period of degraded to set vince and open the under of the little .ardened calls, and fashing with and supreme effort alley bare well through and achieved, as it ways apocalypes. But the reserrent) of upon them just as it would up be suppose to set on a more by diring ganised presture. Those was 2 soon them this come forth my t seem to be suffering from a sinter thigh nervous feasion. They sus each wildly here and there, feeling this as that object, halfing ever and store of ing this depth or that height, bil apparently by the audien light gerly reeting these feet here and th or elemning them against their will which, as yot, are full of the just of their old existance. But grades this trepidation departs, the winds haird and still and become filled a air through the salaute taken, and mally, after a few unercoopedul to at a spertor might enery is ht that; thay are up and off to a that merearial existence until dragon if gais them or the m fungue disease stacks them in old age and given them in a lit death agelast the window yes

Wanderfiel Immete. But mountime, in the ending of Ills which stays with these the moment of their taking off. I are the persontlication of jap. heariedness, prodigality and de lassed world, but they are also cleanest tramps that Ry. The s that attends their arasight to per wonderbal than these other mi which emable theme to well. I down on gines; to specif as we Was ever expanse of smelling reparate mones on the ends of lo separate nome on contractor with " ather in a language pitched int for human understanding; to 201 things which, comparativity and make them the most of of which we have intimate First, as to their seeing. F two kinds of syste. There a harge syns, one on out a band, composed of thousand sonal facola. Thre are aba thousand of these denote in ?

'But. hesitated the nothing to the princess." "Oh, no! I shall not need to. The

keys are sure to be on her dressing just when things were becoming intertable.

the princess and had little difficulty in | for the prince this morning offered me obtaining the keys. She opened the se- ten times the amount of money you are cret drawer into which she had seen the | paying.' princess place the packet of letters, and, taking them out, she drew another sheet of paper along with them, which she read with wide opening eves: then with her pretty lips she blew a long, astonished whistle. Taking both the packet of letters and the sheet of paper with her, she ran swiftly up the stair and along the corridor to the room where the prince was impatiently ing dignity. awaiting her.

"Give them to me!" he snapped, rudely snatching the packet from her something most interesting to tell me. hands. She still clung to the separate Don't you think yourself, princess, that piece of paper and said nothing. The a man acts rather like a fool when he is prince stood by the window and undid deeply in love?" the packet with trembling hands. He examined one and then another of the letters, turning at last toward the girl with renewed anger in his face. "You are triffing with me, my girl."

he said. "No, I am not;" she said stoutly.

"These are my own letters, written by me to my wife before we were married!'

"Of course they are. What others did you expect? These are the only letters, as far as I have learned, that any man has written to her and the only letters she cares for of all the thousands she has every eceived. Why, you foolish, blind man, I had not been in this castle a day before I saw how mat- I suppose those idiots of servants which ters were. The princess is breaking her | the princess has round her didn't know poor heart because you are unkind to what they took away from Vienna and her, and she cares for nobody on earth what they left. Then, when the diabut you, great stupid that you are."

"Is this true? Will you swear it's true?" cried the prince, dropping the the castle has much wits to spare. I packet and going hastily toward the never saw such an incompetent lot." girl. Miss Jennie stood with her back to the wall, and, putting her hands behind her, she said:

me again. Of course it's true, and if me my own letters?" you had the sense of a 6-year-old child you would have seen it long ago. And cess now does me the honor of being she paid £60,000 of your gambling jealous of me. Think of that! As if it debts!"

"What are you talking about? The princess has never given me a penny of in my time.' her money; I don't need it. Goodness knows, I have money enough of my severe expression. own.'

----oh, I'll warrant you, it is like all shine."

"Of whom are you speaking? And why did my wife protect that wretch. Iy dismissed me, if you please." whom she knows has stolen her diamonds?"

"You mean Von Schaumherg?" "Yes."

"I believe the princess does think he shows that honesty is not always the stole them, and the reason the princess of you." "But he took the diamonds-there

was nobody else." "He did nothing of the kind. Read that I"

plied when she was able to control her mirth. "I do hate to leave the castle esting. Still I don't suppose I shall need Miss Baxter ran down to the room of to go away in spite of your dismissal,

"Did be?"

"Be assured he did. If you don't believe me, ask him. I told him he was a fool; but. alas. we live in a cynical age, and few men believe all they hear, so I fear my expression of opinion made little impression on him.'

"I shall not keep you longer from his highness. " said the princess, with freez-

"Thank you so much. I am just dying to meet him, for I know he has

To this there was no reply, and the princess left the room. Miss Jennie jumped to her feet and almost ran to the library. She found the prince walking up and down the long room with a telegraph message in his hand.

"You are a most wonderful young woman," he said; "read that." "I have been told so by more observing men than you, Prince von Steinheimer," said the girl, taking the telegram. It was from the manager of the bank in Vienna, and it ran: "Special messenger leaves with package by the Meran express tonight

"Just as I thought," said Miss Jennie. "The diamonds never left the bank. monds were missing, they completely lost their heads-not that any one in

The prince laughed. "You think, perhaps, I have not wits "No, no; you are not going to touch me. Is that it? Is that why you gave

"Oh, you are well mated! The prinwere possible that I should take any interest in you, for I have seen real men

The prince regarded her with his most

"Are you not flattering yourself "Well, Cadbury Taylor said that you somewhat, young lady ?"

"Oh, dear, no! I take it as the reverse the rest of his statements, pure moon. of flattering to be supposed that I have any liking for such a ninny as you are. Flattering indeed! And she has haughti-

> "The princess has? What have you Seen saying to her?"

"Oh, I made the most innocent remark, and it was the truth, too, which

best policy. I merely told her that you protects him is to prevent you from had offered me ten times the amount of challenging him, for she fears that he, money she is paying me. You needn't being a military man, will kill you, al- jump as if somebody had shot off a gun though I fancy she would be well rid at your ear. You know you did make such an offer."

"You confounded little mischief maker!" cried the prince in anger "Did you bell her what it was for ?" "No. She did not sek."

"Enough of this fooling. There are the diamonds I' cried the prince.

cess sat at the foot, as far from her bushand as she could conveniently get | wair. without attracting notice. Mim Bexter stood near a window reading an imreached her that morning. The tall, thin detective and the partly Mr. Brigge came in together, the London man bowing gravely to the prince and princess. Mr. Briggs took a seat at the side of the table, but the detective remained standing, looking questioningly at Miss Barter, but evidently not recognizing her as the lady who had come in upon him and his friend when they had entered

the train. "I beg the pardon of your highness. but what I have to say had better be said with as few hearers as possible. I should be much obliged if this young person would read her correspondence in another room."

"The young woman," said the prince coldly, "is secretary to her highness and is entirely in her confidence."

The detective, apparently unruffied by the discourtesy he met, bowed profoundly toward the prince, cleared his throat and began.

"May I ask your highness," he said, addressing himself to the princess, "how much money you pomensed just before you left Vienna?" The lady looked up at him in surprise,

but did not answer.

"In heaven's name, what has that to do with the loss of the diamonds?" rapped out the prince, his hot temper getting once more the better of him, Cadbury Taylor spread out his hands

and shrugged his shoulders in protest at the interruption. He spoke with deference, but nevertheless with a touch of reproach in his tone.

"I am accustomed to be listened to with patience and am generally alenough to see that my wife cares for lowed to tell my story my own way, your highness.'

"What I complain of is that you are not telling any story at all, but are asking instead a very impertinent question.

"Questions which seem to you irrelevant may be to a trained mind most"-"Bosh! Trained donkeys! Do you

know where the diamonds are!" "Yes, I do," answered Cadbury Tay

lor, still imperturbable, in spite of the provocation he was receiving.

"Well, where are they ?"

"They are in the valids of your bank in Vienna.

"I don't believe it. Who stole them, then f" "They were put there by her high-

ness the Princess von Steinheimer. doubtless in security for money"-----

"What!" roared the prince, springing to his feet, his stentorian voice ringing to the ceiling. "Do you mean to insinuate, you villain, that my wife stole her own diamonds?"

"If your highness would allow me to proceed in my own"---

ing the ber from his pocket and flinging it on the table.

"There!" shouled old man Briggs,

about it till this moment."

The Trekking Wares.

The South African Wagon is a long. beavy cart mounted on four high wheels, as a role, with a port of canvas tent over the back half. leaving the reduction for males is therefore cuits front clear to carry the miscellaneous CODASTYALITS. furniture of the owner, drawn by 10, 18

or \$0 ores, curiously fierce looking. with their immense spread of horn, sometimes as much as sight feet from tip to tip and rarely less than six, but in reality as patient and hardworking beasts as one could wish to find.

Their mode of progression is carjulaby slow, but there are a strangeness and a function about it which may draw men to it almost as the Alps draw their trile

The driver walks alongside with the wagon and gen on occasionally to said we were pushing around in the ware all lines to book at distant on the pring were all little even are used to look at distant on land to look at distant on land to look at distant on land

"Yes, love, I know she has, "but

then"---

Examiner.

Couldn't Help Saying It. "Dearest," asked the confiding girl "Enough of this fooling. There are after her usual manner, "am I really the diamonds!" cried the prince, jerk- your first and only love "

good."-Indianapolis Journal-

The Common House Fig.

The common house fly, according to one favorigator, weight Ail grotan, and as there are dising grates to the avoir typole pound the approximate number of fles to the pound is ten thousand, so that, solds from the interesting little fast that a single fy can produce ovveral trillion dimon more firs than there are people in the world, the files she does product, devotees. In front there murches the if allowed to grow to maturity, would 'roor looper, " generally a small boy, weigh wany times more than the com loading the two foremost oxen by a bised weight of every man, woman rein or rope passed through their nos | and child on earth. Yet it must be remandered that this is the possible result from one single fly, and in each long and terrible whip he need so un- summer opens we all notice that there sparingly or also site on the front of the are files and files. Those files which called the eighted. waron and gets off occasionally to lash we see hussing around in the winter

partiality. The traveling is all dens at night, starting a little before summet and marching till perhaps 11 or 12 o'clock; then there is a balt till a little before the first signe of dawn, when they go on again till the sum begins to get hot overhead, and then they lie by for the day. An Explanation. partiality. The traveling is all dens at born late in the preceding summer. weather, is very great. The frust of what is a set sternly, "did you write this borrid late spring never incommodes the re-

> Conner 1. 1. Second Bls Use Revealed.

"Don't try to excuse yourself. If I It is here that the great and abiding standing on few as had ever supposed you capable of such use of the housefy is revealed. Fifth isst white the presence of the housefy is revealed. Fifth isst white the presence of the housefy is revealed. Fifth isst white the presence of the housefy is revealed. Fifth isst white the presence of the houseful is the presence of the presence of the presence of the presence of the houseful is the presence of the presence baseness, i never should have married you. I don't see how you will be able to look her in the face when also comes to visit us next week." "You don't understand," seld John desperately. "She told me that joke herself, and it will tickle her to death "Parents for the unsaultary condi-the size part of the unsaultary condi-and his head with the relieved through the agency of files, we a summative relieved through the agency of files, we a summative the size of the size of the second of the relieved through the agency of files. to see it in print."-San Francisco The maggots, or fy largae, lie about litherto investigation of nye days in this state, moulting on cokingsdowns of the breaking through their skins twiss size it would would

and growing larger with each change. singure feetfly They are little, cylindrical creatures sounds the first about as long as the by itself. They do have approximate your first and only love?" have no eyes, arms or legs, and they therefore and the source of the sour



OR the years struction it is plain that.

Philos president of the notes good with the

tice spakes At the fith day time the

