"What can we do for you, Mr. Snuyser? Want an introduction to the metropolitan police? Why, certainly, Reckon it's no use asking what you're after? Big case?"

He was a friend and had often given me information in a small way. I thought perhaps he might help me now, for I'd heard from you they were mostly Americans working this conspiracy, and it was likely enough they'd know at the consulate whether any big "toughs" and "bunko men" were in London just then.

"It's something to do with the Me-Faught millions." I said. "You've heard, no doubt, of that young Englishman's luck?"

"Why, yes. He was here this very morning, only an hour ago." It was then about 1 o'clock. "Captain William Aretas Wood they called him. Is he your client?"



The woman called him a dreadful dog and tried to stop him.' Wood could not be lying injured in a ed, 'Very immediate.' D'ye see? But street off the Harrow road and walk you wouldn't surely?" ing about Great St. Helen's. I wanted no more proof of foul play.

We are acting for Captain Wood. Case of attempted fraud. They've question of life and death with Captain soon found he's fair game. But what Wood. Anything and everything that brought him here, if I may ask?"

"Some question of legal powers, of I stand on that, and here goes." Granting attorney to representatives

of the United States consul."

yourself?" but no show about him. For so rich a came up and said to both of us: man he went very plainly dressed-only a Derby hat and a business suit."

"Handsome young man, eh? Tall, fair, holds himself well?" I suggested. say. Fair, yes; thickset, coarse look- might have been a slave driver talking ing, but I had no talk with him. He to black Africans, and I looked at him delay. Here, you, sir"-this was to Here is the pony cart, and we will take and his friends were in the inner room in a way to warn him not to raise my

with the consul himself." "His friends?" I hazarded.

"I suppose so, but he might have found better. There was that Law- must see him at once. I am Sir Charles ford. Jimmy they call him. I don't Collingham." know much about him. No good anyway. And there was Colonel McQuay, a mean, lickspittle lot, these Britishers, them, so au revoir." who ran the Cyclostoma swindle out when there's any talk of titles or big west, and a little black faced Spanish chap who looked hungry enough to ent him, clothes and all. If you're a friend of Captain Wood's, Snuyzer, I'd warn not in." him against being too thick with that crowd."

"Warn him!" I said to myself as I walked away from the consulate. "If he'd listened to me, he would have never got into this fix "

Much as I had been surprised by the promptitude with which these unscrupulous foes had got him into their tolls I was now amazed with the breadth, the boldness of their scheme. It was se clear to me as if I had seen it all in print. To seize, sequestrate, securely hold their prisoner, with heaven knows mat added ill usage—it might be make away with him utterly-while his double, some cleverly set up second self, their puppet or confederate, persometed him, acted for him, making ducks and drakes of his fortune, acchiring every red cent that was movable and within reach, without fear of interference or retribution, provided

only they kept fast hold of their prey. How far was it in my power to meet d frustrate these felonious but astributate these restricts? At least I one or two threads, one or two

days in my hand. I believed that I could exactly locate present place of Captain Wood's I knew the very house or its mandings in which he was imprison-L To get him out must be my next If he were once free, much misthe word tertainly might be

The state of the s

BY MAJOR ARTHUR GRIFFITHS. -----

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secutors to ascertain what they were doing and work to counteract and deteat them.

Three of them, at least, I had heard ! of thanks to my friend at the consu-The third should be discovered through | "It's not possible. It's too preposterthe other two.

My next moves were clearly and imperatively marked out for me As I passed along the Strand I called

in at Norfolk street No sign from Jo seph, so all was presumably without change in the Strathallan road Next to Clarges street Time was getting on Close on 3 D.

m., and nothing done as yet in Mr. Wood's behalf. I was impatient, eager to act for him, and yet I knew Ismust proceed regularly. The man Savory had returned, and I knew by his face that he had drawn blank in Laburnum street. Of course no Mr. Wood was there. I did not require to be told that. Savory was also satisfied now, a good deal on the evidence of the collie dog which he had taken with him.

"Master Willie was nowhere on the premises. Roy will answer for that. I told him to 'go look.' although the woman of the place it was a sort of second rate lodging house called him a It hit me like a blow, this news, for I dreadful dog and tried to stop him. saw at once what it meant. Captain Roy's teeth helped him to quest right through the house

"Fine fellow" We'll take him with us to look for \ir Wood Eh, Roy?" He was like a Christian, that dog,

for be made friends at once, wagged his tail and put his nose in my hand. When Savory added on some gibberish with willowindow, go were in itoy." he first howled and yelped, then ran up and down the hall entry like a mad thing.

"Where are we going, sir?" asked Savory, growing respectful as he recognized my authority. "To Scotland Yard straight They

wouldn't listen to me this morning. Now perhaps What have you got "It's a letter, sir, brought by hand

half an hour ago for Mr. Wood, mark-

This was in alarmed protest as I was about to break the seal

"Wouldn't I, though? Why, it's a is likely to help us must be made use

But just as I was about to open the in New York, assigning certain proper-letter we were interrupted by the arsties by deed to trustees. Legal busi- rival of a tall, military looking gentle-Ness. The law, you know, requires the man, with a fierce face and a very hecsignature to be given in the presence toring, overbearing manner. We were standing in the hallway, the man Sa-"You saw Captain Wood, did you, vory and I, for although he knew what my business was he did not trust me "Why, certainly. A man worth mil-enough to let me go up stairs. The lions. He interested us all. Took it front door was just ajar, he inside and quietly enough, though. Rather ordi- I still on the stoop, when this highnary sort of sportsman. Tall enough, falutin, masterful sort of gentleman

"Is this where Captain Wood lives?

Look sharp. I want to know." There was a shortness in his tone and manner which, being a free born Amer-Why, no. Rather mean, I should tean, I could not stomach at all. He dander.

> "Come, speak out. Which is the man me?" of the house? Is Captain Wood in? I

At this Savory bowed low. They are toads in their puddles.

know you now. But Captain Wood is

"Where shall I find him? I must see him at once. It is a matter of duty.

Where is he?"

"That's just what we want to know," I put in. "It puzzles us entirely. He has got into some mess somewhere. and we can't tell for certain what has happened to him or where to find him.' "And who the devil are you, pray?" asked my gentleman insolently. "And what in heaven's name have you to do

with Captain Wood? You are an American. I perceive." "Waal, that's so, and what difference does that make? Ain't I good enough talk to?" He had pretty well raised my

dander this time. "Pshaw! I've nothing to say to you. I don't know you, and I don't want to know you, and you may go to the devil your own road as soon as you please." And without waiting for more he brushed past me, pushing Savory aside

and saying: "I must go up to his rooms. There are some papers up there I want. Show the way, please," and he ran up stairs. Of course I followed. I was as much concerned about Captain Wood as he was. Besides. I felt it due to my self respect and position as one of your

most trusted agents to call this overbearing Britisher to account. The new visitor, General Sir Charles Collingham, as I presently heard he was called was the first in the room, and as read straight to the bureau or escriptore at making amport Captain

The state of the s

Wood did his writing business. The general fell upon the papers and turned them over with much haste and excitement. Then he turned to Savory and said in the same peremptory tone.

"Where is the dispatch box from my office sent here last night? I don't see it. Fetch it, will you?" "But it went to the captain this

morning. Sir Charles, with his portmanteau and other things." "Great powers! How could it when

you don't know where he is?" "If you will permit me to explain," I here put in, although I wonder I went on, for I saw clearly on his face that he thought me an interfering nonentity altogether beneath his contempt. But as I told my story his manner changed, his look of utter incredulity and amazement gave way to one of absorbed interest and by the time I had finished he had thrown himself into the nearest armehair with a loud and prolonged whistle, an evident let off to his disturbed feelings.

Then be sprang to his feet and walked up and down the room like a mad man, talking to himself aloud

ous. I cannot, ought not, to believe it. But yet, by the Lord Harry, strange things do happen."

Then he pulled up short and faced me as if I were a criminal and a tough. "I suppose you are to be trusted? Who and what do you call yourself? You haven't dreamed all this? You weren't drunk last night?"

"I am a water drinker, Sir Charles Collingham, and take it from choice bot, according to my physician's rule," I replied severely. "You, I conclude, from your title, are a British army officer, but I do not consider you are a gentleman to make such aspersions."

"Come, come, don't lose your temper. I never do-it's a mistake in business, and you haven't told me yet who you are and what you have to do with Captain Wood "

The shortest way was to give bim one of my cards. He was not unacquainted with the name of Saraband and said so courteously enough. Indeed, he became now so civil that, judging him to be really a person of Importance, I gave him a brief outline of the plot to which we believed Captain Wood had fallen a victim.

'You think it is the money, do you? Nothing else?" he asked sharply. "Why what else could there be?"

He bestated for a moment, but said

at liberty to tell you exact ly. They are confidential matters connected with the service. But there might be reasons to induce designing people to carry off Captain Wood and hide him for a time He possesses certain information of the highest value

in that view." "There are public grounds, then, for ness or not." instituting a keen search for Captain Wood."

instantly call in the police. I shall go at general, Collingham by name." once to Scotland Yard and set the detectives in motion." "Guess I've been there already, and

they only laughed at me"

By George, they will not laugh at me. Why, this might become a cabinet question If those papers have fallen told, then? What is he doing?" into the wrong hands, there may be the devil of a row. Wood or no Wood, I must have them back this very day, and I can't stop talking here."

"One minute, Sir Charles. My- our interest in Captain Wood is hardly second to yours. Anyway they are identical. It would be best, I submit, to work together."

"Quite so. That is very sensible. Have you any plans? What would you in ten minutes from now." propose?" He was as sweet as milk by this time.

'Well, obviously one thing presses buttoning on her gloves. urgently. A descent should be made the Strathallan road."

"In any case there shall be no more Savory-"hail the first cab. I'm off to the dog." Scotland Yard. Will you come with

yonder, for I suppose you'll go yourself with the police?"

"Certainly I shall, possibly ahead of

this letter which came an hour ago. It picked him off a crossing on account of "Yes, yes, Sir Charles; quite so. I is addressed to Captain Wood, and it his quick tongue and bright ways he might throw some light on this myste- had been to sea on Thames lighters rious affair. To be sure, it is in a wo-right round the coast. Now I was man's hand, but I was just about to training him to our business. He took open it when you appeared. Do you to it naturally, knew what was exthink I dare?"

ligence is of the utmost importance off on fandangees on his own account. now. I'll do it. I can settle afterward if necessary with Captain Wood."

ter and instantly burst into a loud,

been long in coming to an understand. Make haste, please." ing with our man of many millions! I hammered at that door and hung on Read it," he said, and he handed me to that bell till I woke all the echoes of the letter. It was headed "273 Hill to know Captain Wood or for you to street" and was signed "Frida." There was not a sign of life within. were only a few lines:

What has become of you? I thought we were to see you early, before luncheon. I have been on his bicycle, joined miss outside. simply furious. Now I am frightened. Something They all stopped there, talking to her a ust have happened. It cannot be that you have already forgotten-last night!

"Reckon I know what she means by 'last night,' for I heard their parting at the door of the house in Prince's Gate."

"Where no doubt they had been billing and cooing," added the general. "But she is entitled to know what has happened. You had better go round by Hill street on your way to Barnes. Enough said. I'm off."

We soon started, Savory and I, in a second hansom and at the man's suggestion took the dog.

"He'll surely find the captain," said Savory, "if there is any sort of scent," and the dog seemed to understand his business, for directly we reached Hill street he was the first inside the house

and raced up stairs in a businessiike way and evidently quite at home in the place.

By and by he came down again, followed by about the brightest, smartest and sweetest young creature I had seen since my last Sunday walk on Fifth avenue after church.

It's not in my line to say what she



"Of course you are from Captain Wood! This is his dog.

garment, and it fitted her like a glove. All I could see were her flashing eyes and the red lips apart as she tackled me sharply.

"Of course you are from Captain Wood? This is his dog. What have prisoner. you to tell me? Quick! Explain. Where .is he himself?"

"I wish, madam, I could tell you that

for certain, but I cannot. The fact is the captain is"-"Here! Step in here." She opened the door of a room, showed me a chair, then took her stand on the hearthrug, with her arms behind her back, and

"Let me have the whole story or as much as you know of it. Make haste, please.

She still stood erect and fearless. showing great mastery over herself, as I told briefly and quickly all I knew. Except that the solor came and went, that her cheek was now crimson, now blanched a creamy white, that her eyes glattered with the tears she still resolutely kept back, this brave child suffered no sign of emotion to escape her

at the peril of her lover "Well, what have you done?" she asked imperiously "What do the police say?"

I began to explain.

"Tut, tut! Let us have no excuses, no beating about the bush. You have known this let me see more than 12 hours and ver my my friend. Captain Wood is still there where you say they look him

"Where I believe they took him."

"This won't do at all, Mr. I don't know who you are or what you call yourself--Snuyzer an American deto Well, I must not tell you. But feetive? Ah, well, Mr Snuyzer, I shall the disappearance of these papers, of now take this matter in hand. We've the dispatch box, in short, supports me got to find Captain Wood at least I have whether you come into the busi-

"I shall be sorry to be left out, miss, but there are others besides us have "Very much so, indeed, and we must taken it up now. I've seen a British

"Yes, yes; I know. Willie's-I mean Captain Wood's chief at the intelligence. I was just going to send to him. He is a man of great influence and importance, a man of the world, who knows his way about. He has been

"Working the police. He will take a mob of them down to where I traced the captain. I am going on to meet

them there ' "Then I'll go too. Wait here, please, while I put on my hat," and she rang the bell. "When the man comes, tell him to bring my bike around. No; I'd better take you with me. Order my pony cart. Say it must be at the door

In less than ten minutes she came down stairs dressed for driving and

"Come, sir." she said brisker and by a posse of police upon that house in sharper than ever. "I cannot easily forgive your previous dilatoriness, but we must try to make up for lost time.

When we reached the Strathallan road, to my deep chagrin the boy Jo-"I'd rather meet you, Sir Charles, out seph was not there, nor was he to be seen anywhere near or far. Now, I could have staked my life on little Joseph Vialis. He was a London lad who had seen much in his short life on "Stay, Sir Charles. I had forgotten shore and affoat, for although I had pected of him and was not the sort to "By all means. Every scrap of intel- be fooled into quitting his post or going

Miss Fairholme turned on me like a tiger when we drove past the house So he broke the seal, opened the let- and back still without a sign of Joe.

"Get out of this cart and go and ring the bell," she said flercely. "The soon-"Oho, Miss Frida, so you have not er we get inside that house the better.

that dead-alive suburb. No one came. Presently the police came up, and the general, who had been cruising about bit, and I judge they were hesitating to act, arguing it out with the general. who was very flerce and positive, ordering them about short and sharp, but doing little good till missy took up the running. But she soon sent them flying in after me and came with them. One of the constables ran around to the back, where he found a strip of garden with a low wall. He was over that like a flash and in through the scullery window. Haif a minute more and we heard him unchaining the front door. Then we all trooped into the entry and ran through the house, some high, some low, but none of the finding anything. There was not a scrap of furniture nor the signs of any occupancy that we could see. ..

on the collie dog with a "Go look, Roy," worry, worry, which drove the beast nearly mad. He hunted and quested through the house with a rounding up a sheepfold, and it was he, marvelous animal, who led us into the basement, into a sort of cellar between the front parlor and the kitchen. Here he raced round and round like a thing possessed, yelping furiously. The place was all black darkness. No windows, not a glint of daylight. But some one struck a match and lit a bullseye, and we could make out what there was there. One big, long table, a kitchen table, with seats on each side. and at the end a strange thing that told

its own story. It was a sort of wooden erection something between a scaffold and a bulkhead; two great upright limbers, wedged in tight between the ceiling convinced of it and said so, only to reand the stone floor-might have been a support, pillarlike, for the roof or celling, but we could see it was meant to make some one fast to-a pair of stocks, you might say, or a whipping cellar where we found the awful appapost. And so it had been used, no doubt. For there were a long chain and padlock hanging between the uprights just over a low bench that served as a Snuyzer and left him in a Luff. It was seat for whoever was held there a

This was where the collie raged about most flercely, sniffing, scenting, whether the right or the wrong one, funting to and fro, always under the had any sort of clew. That was good encouraging voice of missy, who shout old Sir Charles Collingham's opinion ed, "Lu-lu-lu, good dog, find him, then and Colonel Bannister's, the big off-Where is he? Out with him, Lu-lu."

None of us had a doubt of that, any eral brought with him to Hill street. I more than of the plain fact that he was found them there closeted with mother. not there now. We looked at each other 'who had heard all about it from them. blankly, after a bit, hardly knowing She was rather in a limp condition. what to do or say next, till miss stamp- dear mother, having quite failed to ed her pretty foot and cried, "Well?"

"I have my suspicions," began the or suggest anything. sergeant, knocking his hands together. The colonel-he was rather a cross rather jovially, till the dust flew out of booking, middle aged man, with square his white lisle thread gloves. "It's not cut, short whiskers and a bristling all fair and square. I shall make a regray mustache took me sharply to port to that effect and await instruc-

'Pshaw!" interrupted miss. "And tone, but I knew I had been wrong. reantime Mr. Wood may be murdered. inds him, but it must be within the Captain Wood yesterday, and he would next 24 hours"

"Now you're talking," I said heartt ly, "and I don't see we gain much by He must be hunted up," said the colostaying here. The cage is empty, and nelwe've got to follow the birds wherever they've flown."

be heard of the reward, "the most said proper course, as I see it, is to start apparatus, and why? When those quest note. tions is answered by the neighbors, house agents, tradesmen and such like, him. They came here together this we may come to lay our fingers on them as is responsible for this here

business." "You had better do all that, then." "and I shall go to New Scotland Yard honest and straightforward." this than you duffers seem to think. job," remarked the police colonel, with We want the best man they've got, a real detective, to take up the case."

This was aimed at me. It was unkind, you'll say. But after all how much had I done and where was boy

"It's not like him." I was saving half to myself as we stood together, miss and I, while she was taking the ribbons and with one neat brown shoe on the step was just getting into her cart. I "Either he's been caught spying and that's not like him-or he's hanging on to their heels like bird lime. But-

What in thunder's that?" I saw some rough writing in white chalk upon the gate, and an arrow figured there with the point toward Lon-

don:

They were as plain as print, so was their meaning, and I pointed out the words triumphantly to Miss Fairholme. "I knew that boy wouldn't fail me. He's got grit, he has. Some day he'll

be able to teach me my business"-"I wish he would begin soon," said miss peevishly. "It's always the same story. Some day, one day, next day, never. And all this time he-poor Cap-

tain Wood-is" With that she gave her pony a smart cut with her thong, and the beast, nearly springing through his collar, started off like a mad thing, with the other mad beast of a dog yelping and screeching and jumping up at his muzzle or trying to bite at his heels. The general also gave me a contemptuous good day and, springing on to his 'bike" like a boy, went off at a real right down scorching pace after the buggy.

I expect that is the last I shall see of her, for she never took a card of mine or asked where she could find me again, and I've fully made up my mind that never so long as I live will I hunt after her. When Joe reappears, as I tell you, gentlemen, I most confidently expect he will at any moment and with important news, so that I can pick up fresh threads, I'll do the next job alone. I don't want no highfalutin young duchesses treating one like dirt, for a true born American citizen is as good as any emperor, let alone a pert minx with ever so pretty a face. We shall see. If there was no better reason than the wish to humble her. I mean to see the thing right through to the very end.

CHAPTER VI. PASSAGES FROM THE DIABY OF WILFRIDA

FAIRHOLME. S. Chattahoochee, July 17.-Although still harassed and oppressed by hideous anxiety, I want, in this my first moment of leisure, to set down clearly and fully the strange events that have occurred since that memorable evening in Prince's Gate. I have been in a whirl ever since. But I have

forgotten nothing. Every act, every

thought is indelibly fixed in my mem-

But miss, she also hunted, halloing ory from the moment that I realized

my loss. Forget! I shall never forget that afternoon when the American detective brought me the news. What an odd short, snapping bark, as if he was creature he was. Very much overdressed, with a sort of company manner voice, which didn't disguise his Yankee accent or tone down his awful Americanisms. I know now that the poor wretch was honest and straightforward, but I could not get over mg repugnance to him at first.

And so when we got to the very house and drew quite blank I made up my mind that the man was an arrant impostor. Nothing fell out as he said. "His boy would be on the watch." There was no boy. He was quite certain of the house into which Willie had been carried. The police broke im. There was no Willie Wood.

The whole thing was humbug. I felt gret it directly after. It could not be quite humbug, or, if it was, Roy, dear Willie's lovely dog, was in it, too, for Roy had certainly smelt him out in the ratus and things, and I ought to have known that a dog's inscinct is always true. But I was very shart with Mr. a mistake, of course, for it was losing a chance. The man might be useful, and after all he was the only one who, cial, chief constable or assistant com-Of course his master had been there, missioner or something whom the gentake in the situation and unable to say

task for letting the American slip, and I should have been offended at his

"From what you tell us he had no shall offer a reward of £500 to whoever, doubt been in communication with have saved us some time and trouble 'if we had him under our hand now.

"Your people know him at Scotland Yard. He was there today, and they "If you'll excuse me," said the ser sent him on to the United States congeant, who had got mighty eager when sulate. He told me that himself," I

"They will know him at the consufrom this here house. Whose is it? late probably. I will send there to in-Who took it? Likewise who put up this quire," said the colonel, making a short

"And Captain Wood's man knows

afternoon. "And for the matter of that so do L" added Sir Charles. "Not much, of course, and he's an uncommon queer said the general, very discontented, looking chap. But the fellow seems

to the fountain head. There's more in ! "Unless the whole thing is a put up



'He must be hunted up," said the colonel. a meaning smile, "a scheme to throw you off the scent of these papers which you say are so important. Rir

"By George, they are that," the general broke in. "Don't you see? It is probably a trumped up story about the plot against Wood simply to cover the theft of the papers."

"But Captain Wood has gone. He has been carried off." I said.

"'Gone,' yes," sneered the colonel, 'but 'carried off.' How do we know that? It's not the first time a young gentleman has disappeared for four and twenty hours or more. Who knows all the ins and outs of Captain Wood's affairs and private movements?"

At that moment Harris, the butler, came up with a card. "Gentleman asks if he can see you most particular. Same as came this afternoon-Mr. Snoozerbut he's got a dirty scrub of a boy with him."

"Joe," I cried. "Show them up here. Harris. Yes; bring both of them, of course. We shall hear something now." Mr. Snuyzer came up to the drawing room at a run, I'm sure. He was almost at Harris' heels. The boy Joe lagged a little behind and stood abashed at the door, and Roy, who by constitution hated all boys, especially ragged ones, took this hesitation as suspicious and gave an ugly growl, with a show of his fierce teeth. The collie, I should mention, had never left me since he

was brought to Hill street. [TO BE CONTINUED.]

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