

BLIND

By EADLY ASHLEY WILCOIT

It was past ten o'clock of the morning when the mysterious night came on me. I took the slip from my pocket, and read its contents once more. It furnished me with an idea. Of course I could not take money intended for Henry Wilton. But here was the first opportunity to get at the heart of this dreadful business. The writer of the note I must suppose, was the mysterious employer. If I could see her I could learn the way of escape from the dangerous domain of Henry Wilton's personality and mission.

Which bank could be meant? The only names I knew were the Bank of California, whose failure in the previous year had sent echoes even into my New England town, and the Anglo-Californian Bank, on which I held a draft. The former struck me as the more likely place of appointment for the mysterious employer. Navigating I found myself at the corner of California and Sansome streets, before the building through which I had to pass an empty lane.

I watched closely the crowd that passed in and out of the treasury, and assumed that I might find an air of propensities indifference to my surroundings.

No one appeared to notice me. There were couples of men and women, and men who looked anxious, but neither man nor woman was looking for me. I had a hasty walk through several other banks that I could see in the neighborhood gave no better result, and I was about to give up the idea of penetrating the mystery was gone I speculated for the moment on what the effects might be. To forget an order of this kind might mean nothing with drawal of the protection that had saved my life, and in turning me over to the mercies of the banditti who had just been looting the warehouses of a boy.

As I reflected this, I came upon a dark mass about the steps of a great granite building. It seemed, with cross-currents and eddies, and from the whole rose the murmur of excited voices.

It was the Stock Exchange, the gambler's paradise, in which millions were staked, won and lost, and ruin and wealth were wrought out of the temples and tapering to a strong jaw, a yellow-gray mustache and imperial hairdressing and half-revealing "hat" of the month.

I caught my nearest neighbor by the arm, and demanded to know who it was.

"Doddridge Knapp," replied the man civilly. "He's running the Char-lemagne now, and if I could only guess which side he's on, I'd make a fortune in the next few days. He's the King of Pine Street."

Yet it struck me as strange that the King of Pine Street had failed to discover Doddridge Knapp, talking to Henry Wilton. But to some one else who resembled him. There were enough differences in features and color to distinguish an almost intimate friend, though there were not enough to be seen by casual acquaintances. I had the key in the next sentence he spoke.

"I have decided that it is better this time to do our business face to face. I don't want to trust messengers on this affair, and even when the notes are dangerous, confoundedly dangerous."

"Then we had not been close acquaintances."

"Oh, by the way, you have that other cipher yet, haven't you?" he asked.

"No, burnt it," I said unblushingly.

"That's right," he said. "It was best not to take risks. Of course you understand that it won't do for us to be seen together."

"Certainly not," I assented.

"I have arranged for another office. Here's the address. Yours is Room 15. I have the key to it, and 16 is vacant between a 'Go Let' sign and the 'Up' sign."

"Perfectly," I said.

"You will be there by nine o'clock for your orders. If you get none by twelve, there will be none for the day."

TALK OF THE TOWN

Gossip of People and Events Told in Interesting Manner.

NEW YORK.—How many persons grow old we must not, but the greater part of the stock offered by the New York and Holland land came last fall. At the same time came lace bushes, rhododendrons, bay trees and other plants, the consignment being mainly to florists in this and other American cities.

Why, of course, this country can grow all we want, but the greater cost of labor here makes the cost of production come for more than the cost in Belgium and Holland. Even the flowers in the market are more expensive than they were a year ago.

When the big show was over little Jay, who is but five years of age, was prepared to pronounce the American clown the greatest invention of the age.

THREE little boys applauding lustily, and in their joyous excitement frequently varying their exclamations with French expressions of awe and wonderment sat in an arena box at Madison Square garden the other day.

When the big show was over little Jay, who is but five years of age, was prepared to pronounce the American clown the greatest invention of the age.

Then, it is said, the question of the persons interested in becoming a stockholder was mentioned and a share of two of stock was sold in this town.

Among those who are reported to have purchased stock in the new corporation of the Commonwealth are Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, Mrs. Paul Morton, Mrs. Clarence H. Mackay, Mrs. Theodore Shonts and Mrs. Dolie Lynch of Lakewood.

THE plan adopted by Lawrence to bring his publication to the notice of large numbers and show the value of the stock, according to the story told, was to send a solicitor to the home of each of the houses before a list of names had been prepared.

Edwin's Explanation. Edwin, aged three, who fondled his small cat overmuch and unwisely, appeared before his mother one day, his little face guiltily pained and a tear on his cheek.

GIRL NOWHERE ENGAGED.

Father Right in Thinking He Knew Cause of Her Preoccupation.

For some time the father of the family had suspected that his girl and the young man of whom he disapproved on account of his poor connections had been riding down town together and upon trains every day in the elevated train, near the New York Press. He hit upon a diagnostic plan for verifying his suspicions.

"Wonderful progress they are making on the Pennsylvania station," he said.

"The girl looked up dreamily. 'Are they' she murmured.

"Yes, from the best possible point of view. Call it 'morning' if you like. I wouldn't be surprised to hear of their wedding tomorrow."

It was well that he was fortified against all such surprises, for that was that he really did bear the very best of his girl's conduct.

As a reward for befriending a poor homeless wanderer, George B. Hooper, a former hotel clerk of Hooper's, who is today a well-to-do man, has had a short time since of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Children's Commons. In the recently published "Leaves from the Note-Books of Lady Dorothy" edited by her son, the venerable author recalls that she had the custom in English houses of rank for the host to sit at the head of the table to "conserve the joy," instead of having the course served from a side-table by a domestic.

This homely custom had its drawbacks. Notwithstanding, for she recalls that when her father used to carve, the children were in terror of asking for a second helping, as they were sure that if they did so, their time was so much wasted in carving for himself that he had little time for eating himself.

Advanced American Women. "Life does not run only in one channel," an American woman writes. "I declare Maria Corelli, the violinist. She does not 'make tracks' solely from the cradle to the altar, from the cradle to the grave. She plays, and there is more fun to be got out of being born than just this little old measure meted out to her by the barometer of fate."

Easter Lilies Mostly Come from Japan

NEW YORK.—How many persons grow old we must not, but the greater part of the stock offered by the New York and Holland land came last fall. At the same time came lace bushes, rhododendrons, bay trees and other plants, the consignment being mainly to florists in this and other American cities.

Why, of course, this country can grow all we want, but the greater cost of labor here makes the cost of production come for more than the cost in Belgium and Holland. Even the flowers in the market are more expensive than they were a year ago.

When the big show was over little Jay, who is but five years of age, was prepared to pronounce the American clown the greatest invention of the age.

THREE little boys applauding lustily, and in their joyous excitement frequently varying their exclamations with French expressions of awe and wonderment sat in an arena box at Madison Square garden the other day.

Among those who are reported to have purchased stock in the new corporation of the Commonwealth are Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, Mrs. Paul Morton, Mrs. Clarence H. Mackay, Mrs. Theodore Shonts and Mrs. Dolie Lynch of Lakewood.

THE plan adopted by Lawrence to bring his publication to the notice of large numbers and show the value of the stock, according to the story told, was to send a solicitor to the home of each of the houses before a list of names had been prepared.

Edwin's Explanation. Edwin, aged three, who fondled his small cat overmuch and unwisely, appeared before his mother one day, his little face guiltily pained and a tear on his cheek.

Edwin's Explanation. Edwin, aged three, who fondled his small cat overmuch and unwisely, appeared before his mother one day, his little face guiltily pained and a tear on his cheek.

Edwin's Explanation. Edwin, aged three, who fondled his small cat overmuch and unwisely, appeared before his mother one day, his little face guiltily pained and a tear on his cheek.

