

THE CRISPEN A TALE OF PHILADELPHIA

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS EVENING LEDGER BY ARNOLD GARRY COLM

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SYNOPSIS

An attention has been directed to the fact that the late John Monte Crispin was a native Philadelphian... CHAPTER VIII—Continued.

"We Government men get shifted around," he replied. "Now I am from the Treasury Department. Know Paris, Berlin and London. Been there? Yes, many times. Keep track of all the rich Americans. Their lady friends buy such jewelry; they are a bit careless and then, forget Uncle Sam needs the money. Besides, Mr. Tailor—"

W. was right. The tiny flakes of the mineral had been sown in the transmission bearings. Not more than an ounce of the powder. Enough to grind out the bearings, prevent the gear shafts from locking and cut off the power.

Lars stayed with the big machine to wait for morning and a haul to the nearest garage, as three badly shaken and thoroughly aroused men climbed aboard the next trolley into Newtown, a mile and a half distant, where they just caught the 10:23 p. m. train for Philadelphia.

"We might as well strike at them for evidence tonight," whispered the Government official across a double seat in the smoking car. "Are you men armed? We must go it alone. It would never do to call in the local police."

"My thought, precisely," answered Andrews. "Monte has a loaded walking stick. I still have Hochmeister's revolver. We want no silos up."

The honest face of the great clock on City Hall, lit up again through the watchful enterprise of an evening newspaper, said 11:27 when three resolute men rushed down the steps of the Reading Terminal into Market street. They were fortunate enough to find a waiting taxicab. Monte wrenched open the door and followed Andrews in. W. came next with a jump and leaning out the door, he ordered in a low stinging voice: "To the Exchange—throw open your clutch."

CHAPTER IX Lumley, Voice of the People PROGRESSIVE movements which at regular intervals transport the hub of an old business district upon the variable winds of a city's destiny to new surroundings take no account of the drear, deathlike desolation left behind in the deserted districts.

There is no pathetic picture in brick and mortar to equal one of these abandoned sections of a metropolis. Cracked by sun and rain, the dingy facades of the poor dumb things forlornly look down into empty streets; watching, waiting for a human memory that can span time back to their lost days of towering importance. At night the gloomy, creaky, gas-lit stairs are almost ghastly, and one can fancy hearing the patter of hundreds of spirit steps; old tenants returned to comfort the crumbling shells of buildings.

Built of brick and red sandstone, the Exchange was one of the old office buildings of the city; an architectural expression of the past, located on 3d street, south of Chestnut. It was kept clean and well-mended and had received as many and diverse coats of paint as the cheek of a 20th century grandmother.

Around about were the landmarks of American history: Independence Hall, and Liberty Bell, the nation's patriotic shrine; Carpenters' Hall, where the First Continental Congress met in 1774; Christ Church cemetery, burial place of Benjamin Franklin; home of Betsy Ross, the flagmaker; historic St. Peter's Church and graveyard and the Free Quaker Meeting House.

Between these treasure spots of dawn-lit liberty once ebbled and flowed the human tides of the city. Then came the great skyscrapers in the Broad street neighborhood and the tides washed other shores.

Young by comparison with the nearby landmarks, nevertheless old in contrast with such airy marvels as the new Widener Building, the Exchange somehow held on; a korymb, glad gladiator, unconquered in the arena of tumbling trends and values. Its top floor had a really good restaurant and in its basement was a superior barber shop. A cheer for the Exchange; like the Old Guard, it never dies.

Shortly before midnight of the day the Montgomery Iron Works were bombed, Agent W., of the Federal secret service, with Craig Andrews, the lawyer, and his promising young client, Monte Crispin, dashed up the broad stairway of the Exchange to the second floor. A night watchman in the entrance hall had been told to guard a rear exit.

In the inky darkness of the wide hall the three men slowly groped their way toward Room 23. They moved like shadows, so silent were they. "Don't show a light," hoarsely said the Government man, as he pushed past Monte. "We are dealing with desperate persons. Wait here until I signal."

He left them at an angle in the hall, and the soft crunch of his rapid foot-fall grew fainter and fainter as he progressed toward a door over which a feeble yellow glow showed from a closed transom.

"Think of these plotting foreigners daring to rent an office in this fine old district," whispered Monte to Andrews. "Serves us right for letting such people into the country."

"You mean their daring to locate within sight of the tower on Independence Hall?"

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DEATHS MARRAS—On March 23, 1916, MARRAS, wife of John H. Marras, died at her residence, 1212 North 30th st., Philadelphia, Pa., at 10:30 a. m. Interment at Holy Cross cemetery.

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE, SUBURBAN, SPRING RESORTS, ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Wildwood, Wildwood Crest, EASTER HOLIDAYS, THE LEADING RESORT HOTEL OF THE WORLD, Strath Haven Inn, THE INN, BROWN'S MILLS IN THE PINES, N. J., SWARTHMORE, PA., STRATH HAVEN INN, PHILADELPHIA, MERRITT TAYLOR, President, 610 COMMERCIAL TRUST BUILDING, FIFTEENTH AND MARKET STREETS, KEYSSTONE PHONE: RACE 3499