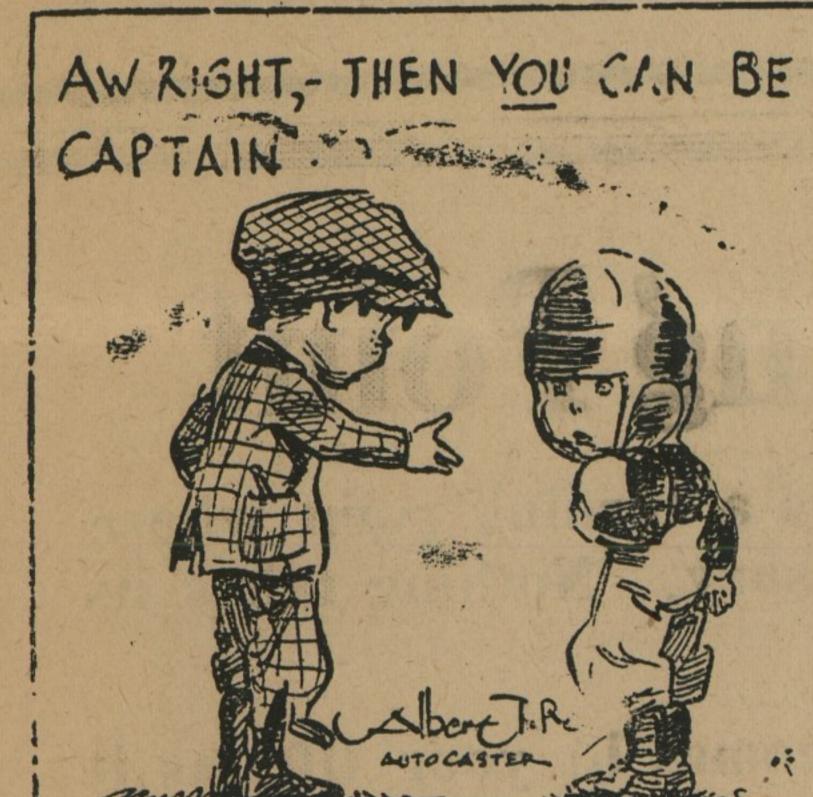
4nd That's That

By Albert T. Reid

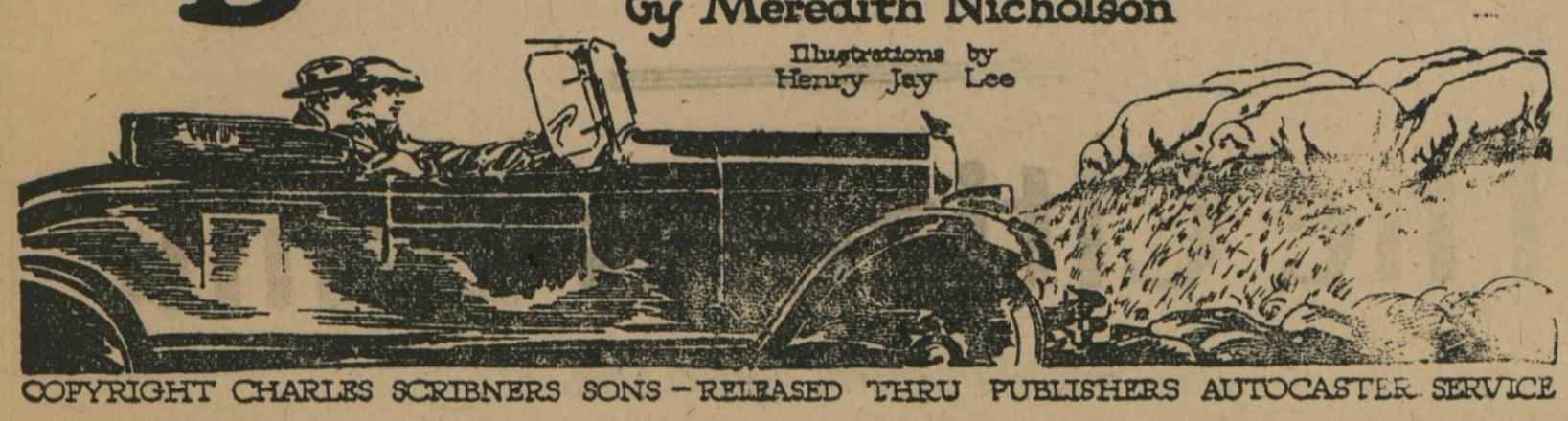








Gy Meredith Nicholson



INTRODUCTION

Archibald Bennett, wealthy basch-

Perry, who recommends a life of depicted in her face.

flected in the mirror and shoots. Ar- How can you play the spy for him! ed moodily at the flying landscape. night. At dawn he is stopped on a actions is to assume that you are of the house.

lonely country road by "The Gover- hopelessly mad."

I may be a widow for all I know;" | the Governor. "A widow!" Isabel, with her hand Isabel was still the most wonderelor, travels constantly in the inter- clutching the door, swung upon him ful girl he had ever met! est of his health. He meets Isabel with consternation and fear clearly CHAPTER V

The next morning the Governor crime, adventure, romance and ex "Oh, that's the mystery just at announced Cornford as their next citement as a cure for his nerves. present, whether poor old Putney is stopping point, a town he explained, Archie goes to Bailey Horbor to in- dead or not! No great loss, I imag- whose history thrust far back into vestigate a summer house for his ine! But where do you suppose Mrs. Colonial times. When they were sister. A heavy storm forces him to Congdon went to hide her children seated in the parlor car he drew a talk over coffee served in the gar-should be stow upon her in return night he is awakened by footsteps, "That's exactly what I suspect- saw that it was really a volume of and in an encounter with the intru- ed!" she exclaimed furiously. "You the Horatian odes. The Governor der, (who sees Archie's figure re- are waiting here to find that out. was utterly beyond him and he star-

chie fires in return, wounding the in- You talk about shooting a man! The Corniford Inn proved to be truder, who makes his escape. Ar- Why, you haven't the moral cour- a quaint old tavern, and after a leischie plans flight to evade publicity. age to fill a flea! The kindest in- urely luncheon they took their cof-He starts cross-country afoot in the terpretation I can put upon your fee in a pleasant garden on one side

Two men came into the garden They had reached the station; she and seated themselves at a table on



AN UNEXPECTED MEETING "No Mrs. Congdon has registered here within a week, I' msure. Will | you leave any message?"

await developments. Now read on:

nor," master-mind criminal who mis-

takes him for a fellow criminal. Ar-

chie, fleeing, is afraid to tell the

truth-falls in with "The Governor"

is whisked across country in a stolen

car. . Sees story in newspaper of

killing at Bailey Harbor and, fright-

ened. he decides to say nothing but

stick with his strange friend and

Archie paused by the desk, staring open mouthed at the young woman who was asking for Mrs. Congdon. If he was still possessed of his senses the girl was Isabel Perry. She glanced carelessly in his direction as the clerk, addressing him as Mr. Comly, asked if there was anything he wanted. Archie promptly raised! his hat, only to be met with a reluctant nod and a look of displeasure with connotations of alarm. She was walking toward the door as though anxious to escape from him.

A taxi drew up and Isabel stepped into it, but Archie, resolved to risk another snub before allowing her to slip away ignorant of the vast change that had been wrought in him since their meeting in Washington, jumped in beside her.

assumed name?"

"Really!" he exclaimed, "isn't it ing out. perfectly jolly that we've met in this He walked to the water front. gested such a thing." and I've done shrdlu cmfwyp shrdlua himself luxuriously to melancholy the role of eavesdropper. and I've been following your advice." reflections. il, wicked person—the man she camp in Michigan? would have him be.

with a look of scorn, "that you've he was an immitigable ass.

Seebrook and Walters, and that they to observation by sneaking down the been following me or were put here He went back to the hotel, bitter had rooms on the floor below them. to watch me! You went to Bailey but fortified by a resolution that "You don't think they've got any Harber to look at a cottage, didn't nothing should check him now in his considerable sum of money with you? Putney Congdon was there, desperate career. He had quarreled them, do you?" Archie asked brea-

wasn't he?" know-" Archie cried. "I don't know son to know how unjust she had When they reached the green for the life of me whether it was Put- been. After all, it was something to which the town's growth had left to ney Congdon I shot at the Congdon have seen her perplexed, anxious one side, he sat down on a bench and house or Hoky, the burglar. And it's though she had been. He would bear directed attention to a church whose so deliciously funny that you should his matyrdom manfully, keeping the history he read impressively from the

"This is unpardonable." she ex- jumped out and snatched her bag. He the other side of a screen of shrubwhat you are doing here under an across the platform, after her, only of them remarked, in a low tone:

Having dramatized himself as Congdon was a name of evil omen. ing here to spend a week and said appearing before her, a spendid he- What business could Isabel have with if I wanted the stock I could bring roic figure, this reception was all but Mrs. Condgdon? Why should she the curerncy here and close the transfrowning silence moved him to fur- movements? Why was she in Ports- cranks, you know. This old curmudther frantic efforts to impress her mouth when she had told him she was geon carries a small fortune around with the fact that he was a dare-dev- leaving immediately for her girl's all the time, and never accepts

He had been wholly stupid and "Let's stroll about a little," said "You were asking for Mrs. Cong- tactless in pouncing upin her with the Governor. He led the way don. Well, I certainly could tell you what he realized under the calming through the garden to the street, a story if you would give me time. influence of the brisk air, must have and bade Archie proceed slowly to If I had known Mrs. Congdon was a struck her as the vaporings of a dan- the past office while he walked tofriend of yours I should have acted gerous lunatic. He had never been ward the main entrance of the inn. differently, very differently, indeed." clever; he smarted now under the When he joined Archie, he inform-

with the inspiration of his new life, thlessly. "That's the scream of it, you but in the end Isabel should have rea- "That remains to be seen." be looking for Mrs. Congdon, who humiliating interview carefully from book.

claimed angrily. "May I ask just tossed a bill to the driver and dashed bery. They ordered coffee and one to see her vanish into the vestibule "You oughtn't to have carried number he tudned to find the Goverof a Boston train just as it was draw- that cash up here. The old man is nor, calm, and with no marks of his a fool or he wouldn't have sug- escapade upon him.

way? You know," he added, "you firmly, resolved to drown himself, The Governor nodded to Archie told me to throw a brick at the world but his courage failing, he yielded to keep on talking, while he played "Well, he wrote that he was com-

check in any trans action."

"I think," she said, sweeping him revelation that all things considered ed him that the two gentlemen were

can't fail Leary."

the Governor disappeared.

When he reappeared he called out means a net gain of ten htousand in a cheery voice: "If you want to dollars to Red Leary." see the cellar, don't tumble down the "My God!" moaned Archie. "You

voices below receded.

out through a back winow into a "You're getting me in pretty deep" lilac bush, and we'll pick it up at mumbled Archie dejectedly. our leisure. It's a very decent suit- "How about those blood stains on case and you can hand it to a bell the sidewalk at Bailey Harbor?" the thing explains itself."

flecting that to his other crimes he to see each other through." had now added the receipt and concealment of stolen money.

Slippery Abe. We'll leave here like companion's perturbation. honest men. with the landlord bowing "Sleep, lad sleep! You may be us away from the door."

we must look our prettiest. I caught Governor keeps his head!" a glimpse of Mr. Seebrook's daughter you to cultivate her a trifle."

mediately as Mr. Seebrook.

"Mr. Saulsbury and Mr. Comly,

my daughter, Miss Seebrook." Seebrook and Walters were un- drowsily. doubtedly enjoying the Governor, The man certainly wore his crimes forthcoming when Seebrook sug- Archie had got into his pajamas.

"You do us much honor," said the Governor. "Mr. Comly and I shall the Governor's strange performbe pleased, I'm sure." CHAPTER VI

brook and Walters recalled a bridge her offer. engagement and the Governor an- But something very unlike a star nounced that he must look up an old friend who lived in Cornford.

"I shall be back shortly," he said fascinated gazeas they separated in the office. Archie and Miss Seebrook joined said Miss Seebrook with a sigh.

the considerable company that were already dancing. After sev- hh already dancing. After several dances Miss Seebrook thought it would be fine to take a breadth of air, and gathering up her cloak they went into the garden for an ice.

Miss Seebrook was speaking of music, and reciting the list of operas she loved best when Archie's gaze was caught and held by a shadow that fitted along an iron fire escape that zigzagged down from the fourth to the first story of the long rambling the purpose of concealing thoughts,

"You seem very dreamy." she remarked. "I know how that is for I can dream for hours and hours." "Yes; reverie; just floating on humans in this fair land of ours clouds. on and on," Archie replied, it were half as much fun taking i though the shadow moving on and off as it is putting it on. on along the side of the inn was troubling him not a little.

an old friend was merely to cover knows she wouldn't have a chance his withdrawal from the party; but if he really were the last. that he could have meditated a predatory excursion through the inn had not entered into Archie's speculations as to his friend's absence. There was no mistaking the figure that had moved swiftly down the ladder. He was now creeping along the little balcony at the third floor. He paused a moment and then vanished into an open window. The Governor had said that Seebrook party had rooms just

under their own; but-They danced again, and in the handclapping that followed the first

At midnight Seebrook and Walters came in from their card game, and after a few pleasant words, the party broke up.

In Archie's room the Governor hummed one of his favorite ballads as he slipped out of his coat and picked a speck from his snowy waistthe last straw to his spirit. Her think him capable of spying upon her action. The Congdons are all a lot of coat. "It is evident," he remarked goodhumoredly, "that you are perturbed, anxious, and have slight symptoms of paralysis a itans. Pray be seated and I will do my best to re-

store your peace of mind. But Archie was not to be thwarted in his purpose to learn just what the Governor meant by endangering their security so recklessly. He slammed the transsom tight and drew down the shades.

"You needlessly exposed yourself fire escape of this hotel-I know

"My dear boy, I was merely gathering a few blossoms of the crimson rambler from the ancient walls of the inn. You may have noted that Above, Mrs. Maria Remus of Chi-

"And in the cellar of that simple soap. Then I bought a few cigars in edifice where the early colonists us- a tobacconist's. In each place-I coned to hide from predatory Indians is versed with the clerk, thus laying hidden fifty thousand dollars. It ample ground for an alibi. Hurrymust be saved from destruction. We ing back to the inn, I avoided observation by entering by the side door, They found half a dozen visitors skipped up to our rooms-and there roaming through the church, and you are! I exchanged our new bank while Archie courteously answered notes for sixty wellworn one-thousa question asked him by a stout lady and-dollar gold certificates negotiable in all parts of the republic. That

steps as I did, it's an abnominable don't think you can get away with

He brushed the dust from his "I think," returned the Governor knees and mopped his face until the imperturbably, "that we must and will get away with it." His emphas-"All safe and sound. Stuck it is on the plural pronoun caused Ar-

hop and bid him fly with it to your asked the Governor in his blandest room. You were a little short of tones. "When you speak of getting linen and made a few purchases— in deep you forget that someone besides Hoky was shot back yonder. When they reached the hotel. Ar- You came to me ren-handed from a chie, following the Governor's in- deed of violence, and I took you in structions, gave the suitcase to a and became your protector, asking bell hop, and shortly after, they fol- no questions. It's the basest ingratilowed the suitcase upstairs, where tude for you to whimper over a small the Governor unlocked it with an im- larceny when you have added assault plement that looked like a nut pick. or murder to the liabilities of our Archie picked up several bundles of partnership! But don't forget for a the bills and turned them over, re- moment that we're pals and pledged

The reference to the blood stains reported by the Bailey Harbor police "Dinner in an hour, Archie," re- threw Archie back instantly upon the marked the Governor, "Meanwhile, Governor's mercy. Complicity in the I wish you would look in at Bar- robbery of Seebrook was as nothing clay r Pedding's garage, just around compared with the haunting fear that the corner, and ask if a car has been the man he had shot in the Congdon left there for Mr. Reginald H. Sauls- house had died from the wound. Unbury. You needn't be afraid of get- able to determine this question he ting pinched, for the machine was was floundering in a vertiable sea of acquired by purchase. I am merely crime. The Governor was undressborrowing it from Abe Collins, alias ing with provoking indifference to his

sure that nothing will harm us to-When he returned the Governor night, and I have faith that more was dressing and manifested no sur- stirring adventures are ahead of us. prise that the car awaited his pleas- I forgive you for your qualms and quavers, the pardonable manifesta-"Yes, of course," he remarked ab- tions of youth and inexperience. We sently. "You can always relp on walk in slippery places but we shall Abe. It's time for you to dress and not stumble, at least not while the

Nothing appealed to Archie as of a bit ago. It may be necessary for greater importance than the retention by his companion of the head that When Archie reached the parlors now lay chastely upon a snowy polhalf an hour later he found the Gov- low. A handsome well-formed head, ernor engaged in lively conversation a head suggestive of family and the with a gentleman he introduced im- pride of race, though filled with the most complicated mental machinery "And Mr. Walters, Mr. Comly, with which a human being had ever been endowed.

"Put out the lights and get out to your couch!" the Governor muttered

proof of which was immediately lightly. He was sound asleep before gested that they should all dine to- Archie, in his preoccupation with Miss Seebrook was murmuring.

"I have chosen a star for you," ance, was so slow to respond that Miss Seebrook, thinking that he Dinner over, they continued their was deliberating as to which star he den. When the music began, See- generously broadened the scope of

> -more like the glimmer of a match in a room on the third floor held his

"We must go back, I suppose," CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

"And are you satisfied with mar-"Yes, I've had enough!"

Fond Mother: "Do you detect any signs of genius in my son?" Art Instructor: "Madam, I am

not a detective." A French philosopher and statesman once said that words are for and more and more are we convin-

There would be many more thin

Many a girl who says she wouldn't He had surmised that the Gov- marry an admiring male friend if he ernor's declared purpose to call on were the last man in the world,

His Last Friend



I wore a spray of buds in my lapel cago, aged mother of the notorious when I joined you in the ball room. "Bootleg King" George Remus (be-Now seat yourself on the bed and low,) now held in Cincinnati for I'll tell you the whole story. When shooting and killing his wife as she I left you I hastened into the drug- went to court to obtain divorce. The store and bought a stick of shaving mother still believes in her son.

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