

Ashton-Kirk, Special Detective

A New Yorker's Strange Methods of Solving a Crime Mystery By John T. McIntyre

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STORIES OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS. Ashton-Kirk, a girl young New Yorker, was his...

CHAPTER XV.

How the Great Sword Spoke to Scanlon.

HE girl looked surprised. "I had followed—thinking to help him."

"You heard me talking to"—the girl was amazed, then a sudden thought seemed to come to her, and she stopped.

"You see," said he, "these are queer times, and when a fellow gets mixed up in such, and sees things that he don't fathom, about the only way open to him is to ask to have them explained."

"I thought it was something that you would understand. That is why I hinted at this and that, and called your attention in an indirect way to those things which excited my suspicions."

Mr. Scanlon, these are queer times. Things here are odd—strange; like yourself, I don't understand them.

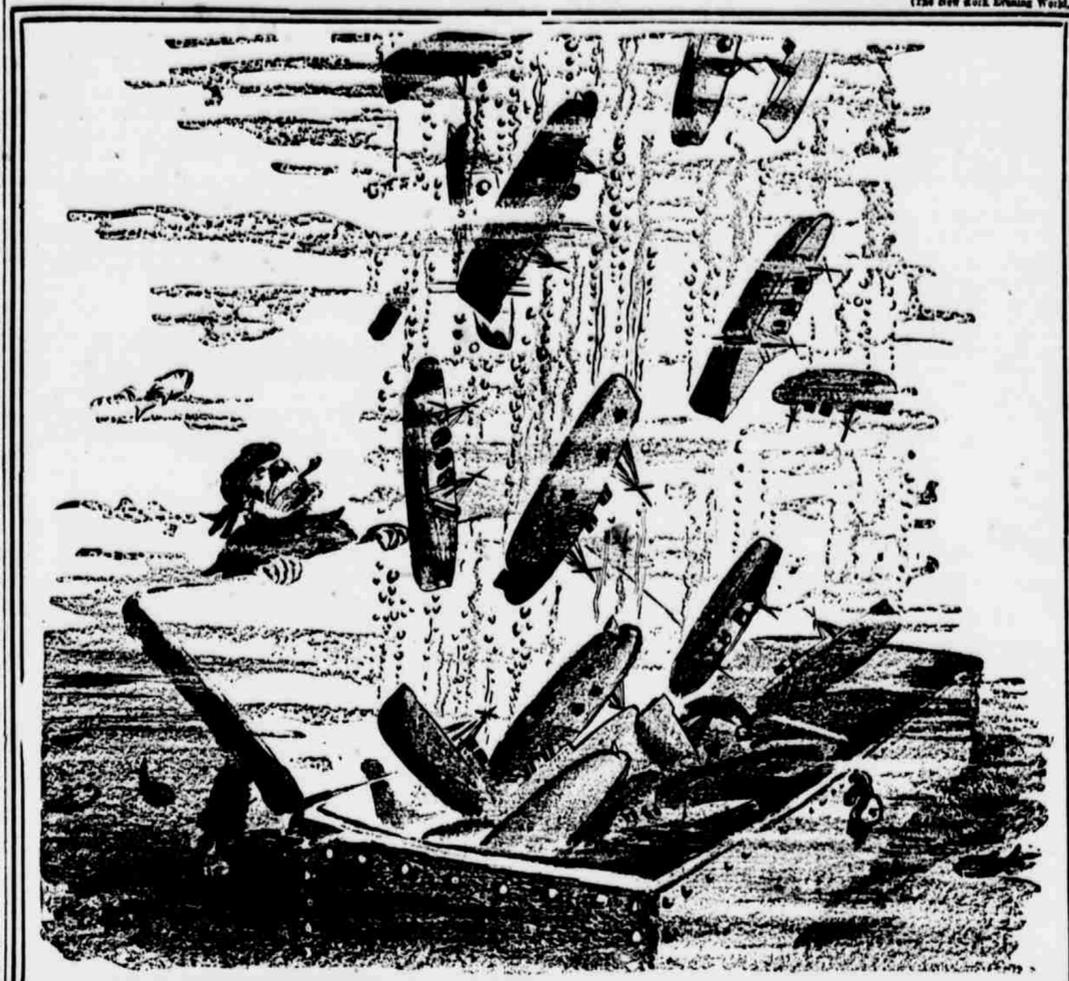
"On the night that you followed Mr. Campe and me out along the path, and you told the story of the officer whose sword trailed upon the ground, I felt sure that you had discovered something about the weapon, and were, perhaps, trying to convey it to me secretly."

"I have," replied Miss Knowles. "Some nights ago I secreted it on the floor above, and when everything was quiet I went there."

"The upper strings are odd," said the girl, eagerly. "I often noticed them. They are of metal."

"I get it," said the big man, "not all, but some. Those packages sent Miss Hohenlohe had nothing at all that was worth looking at inside; it was outside that their interest lay. In the string."

DAVID JONES'S BILLY HOHENZOLLERN'S LOCKER



Here a small clock hurriedly struck the hour of 9, and Ashton-Kirk looked at Scanlon.

Helmholtz. In his book 'On the Sensations of Tone,' he says: 'The simple partial tones contained in a composite mass of musical effects in nature, altogether independent of merely theoretical considerations, these effects constantly give a peculiar objective significance to this peculiar method of analyzing vibrational forms.'

"I don't know," said Scanlon. "I'm not sure, but I think I will try to find out for myself."

"I should as soon distrust myself as Kretz," said he. "I've known him for years, and he is in every way worthy of confidence."

Here a small clock hurriedly struck the hour of 9, and Ashton-Kirk looked at Scanlon. "I think it's time to drop speculation for a space. There is some work ahead of us which is going to be sharp and of the sort that leaves not a trace of doubt in the mind."

"I don't know," said Scanlon. "I'm not sure, but I think I will try to find out for myself."

"I should as soon distrust myself as Kretz," said he. "I've known him for years, and he is in every way worthy of confidence."

Ashton-Kirk smiled. "If that's all you have against the Sergeant-Major," said he, "I think he will do, and I'll be glad to have you cause the smash, some one from the darkness struck it. I saw the hand that did it, but not the owner."

"I don't know," said Scanlon. "I'm not sure, but I think I will try to find out for myself."

"I should as soon distrust myself as Kretz," said he. "I've known him for years, and he is in every way worthy of confidence."

CHAPTER XVII. Conclusion. ASHTON-KIRK, with Miss Knowles and Scanlon, entered the billiard room a few moments later.

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length, perhaps last night, Alva came, as we saw by the wheel tracks of his chair. His superior intelligence came down, and he looked at what they sought."

"I know nothing, except that I was threatened with death unless I got up within half an hour, and I knew nothing of it. I told them so a hundred times, but they would not believe me."

"I don't know," said Scanlon. "I'm not sure, but I think I will try to find out for myself."

"I should as soon distrust myself as Kretz," said he. "I've known him for years, and he is in every way worthy of confidence."

"And he also knew how to wrap one so that the damp wouldn't get a chance to work on it," said Shaw. "I told the lantern closer."

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