

The KING of DIAMONDS.

By Louis Tracy.

Author of "Wings of the Morning," "The Pillar of Light," Etc.

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He entered the Hatton Garden office as the clock struck the hour. Some boys of his age might have experienced a malicious delight when the youth on guard bounced up with a smirk and a ready:

"Yes, sir, at his?"

"Not so, Philip. He simply asked for Mr. Isaacstein, but he certainly could not help smiling at the expression of utter amazement when his identity dawned on his lover."

"The 'Yes, sir, at his?' was very faint, though. The office boy ushered him upstairs as one in a dream, for he had been warned to expect Philip, a Philip in rags, not a smart young gentleman like a bank clerk."

Isaacstein on this occasion looked and acted the sound man of business he really was.

He awaited Philip in his private office. He seemed to be pleased by the change effected in the boy's outward appearance. There was less of burlesque, less outrage to his feelings, in discussing big sums of money with a person properly attired than with one who wore the garments of a tramp.

"Good morning," he said pleasantly. "You are punctual, I am glad to see. Have you been to Somerset House?"

"No," said Philip.

"Why not? If you are going to control a big capital, you must learn business. You will not find it so matter how large it may be."

"Would Somerset House compel you to pay me, Mr. Isaacstein?"

"Not exactly, but the stamping of important documents is a means to that end."

"I will see to it, but I wanted primarily to be certain of one of two things—first, will you pay the £5,000 as promised; second, will you give me a fresh purchase note for my diamonds?"

"I will not discuss so definitely that I am the boy concerning whom there has been so much needless publicity during the last few days?"

"It was of no avail for Isaacstein to bandy words with Philip. A boy of fifteen who casually introduced such a word as 'primarily' into a sentence and gave a shrewd thrust about 'needless publicity' to the person responsible for it was not to be browbeaten even in business affairs."

The man whipped out a check book. "Am I to make out a check for £5,000 to 'Philip'?" he asked.

"No; to Philip Anson, please."

"Thank you. And now, shall I put my address on the contract note which I will hand you?"

"The Pall Mall hotel."

Isaacstein with difficulty choked back a comment. The Pall Mall hotel was the most expensive establishment in London. He tossed the check and another document across the table.

"There you are," he said. "Come with me to my bank. You will excuse the hurry. I have a lot to do before I leave for Amsterdam tonight."

Philip saw that the acknowledgment of diamonds appeared to be in proper form.

"There is no need at this moment to explain to the bank manager that I am the hero of the police court affair?" he said.

"None whatever. I am lending you the money, and will be paying you a good deal more very soon. That will be sufficient. He may draw his own conclusions, of course."

Philip was now looking at the check. "From your account 'payee' between these two strokes?" he said.

The man explained, and even found time to show him how to cross and indorse such important slips of paper. Then they walked to the bank, a few doors away, where the manager was obviously surprised by the size of the check and the youth of the 'payee.'

"Oh, this is nothing, a mere flea bite," said Isaacstein. "In a few days he will have ten times the amount to his credit."

"Dear me. Are you realizing property on his behalf?"

"Yes."

"Well, Mr. Anson," said the manager pleasantly, "I hope you will take care of your money."

"I want you to do that," smiled Philip, who was slightly unimpressed by the prefix to his name, heard by him for the first time.

"Oh, if you leave it with me it will be quite safe."

"I cannot leave all, but certainly I will not spend £5,000 in a week. I mean to buy some property, though, and—can I have a hundred now?"

"By all means."

Philip wrote the first check and received twenty crisp five pound notes. Isaacstein stood by, smiling grimly. He had not yet got over the farcical side of this extraordinary occurrence, and he was wondering what the bank manager would have to say if he saw Philip as he, Isaacstein, saw him no later than the previous day.

"By the way," said Philip, whose heart was beating a little now, "suppose I wish to give a reference to anybody, will you two gentlemen answer for me?"

"The bank will always say whether or not your check will be honored to a stated amount. In other respects Mr. Isaacstein, who brought you here, will serve your purpose admirably—none better in the city of London," replied the banker.

Isaacstein placed both feet together, and his head sank between his shoulders. He again reminded Philip of a top. The boy fancied that in a second or two he would begin to spin and jump. The banker's statement flattered the little man. It was the sort of thing he understood. Philip privately resolved to make this human top wobble when alone with him in the street again.

"One more question, and I have ended," he said. "Where is the best place to store some valuables?"

"It all depends on their nature. What are they—jewels, papers?"

"The man's eyes were alert now, and he boy-smiled faintly."

"Oh," he explained, "I have a very large quantity of rich ore which I wish to lodge in some place where it will be secure and yet easy of access."

"I would recommend you to rent a strong room in the safe deposit across the street. There you have absolute security and quick access during business hours."

Philip expressed his thanks and quitted the bank with his agent.

In the middle of Holborn, in the midst of the jostling, hurrying occupants of one of the busiest thorough-

fares in London, he picked the great diamond out of his pocket and suddenly held it under Isaacstein's nose.

"I told you I had them as big as hen's eyes," he cried. "What do you think of this one?"

Isaacstein glanced at it for one fascinated second. Then he looked around with the stealthy air of a man who fears that he may be detected in the commission of a terrible crime.

"No, not mad," he whispered.

"Are you mad?" asked Philip coolly as he pocketed the gem. "I only wanted you to wobble."

"You want me to wobble?"

"Yes, you look like a big top at times. When do we meet again, Mr. Isaacstein?"

"You are not going away by yourself with that stone in your pocket?"

"I am not. I expected no special notice from the people at the bank here. Nobody can smell it. It won't explode or burn a hole in my clothes. It is quite safe, I assure you."

"But let me take it to Amsterdam. Boy! boy! It must weigh four hundred carats!"

"Enough of business for today. I have a lot of things to attend to. Shall we say Tuesday?"

"No; Wednesday at 11. One word. Let me see it in my safe."

"Goodbye."

Philip halted a hansom and drove off to Ludgate Hill, smiling graciously at Isaacstein as he whirled away.

The man swayed gently through the crowd until he reached the office, when he dropped limply into his chair. Then he shouted for his confidential clerk.

"Samuel," he murmured, "take charge, please. I'm going home. I want to rest before I start for Harwich. And, Samuel!"

"Yes, sir."

"While I am away you might order another scales. In future we will sell diamonds by the pound, like potatoes."

CHAPTER XI.

AFTER picking up his belongings at the outfitter's, two smart Gladstone bags with "P. A." nicely painted on them, Philip stopped his cab at Somerset House.

He experienced no difficulty in reaching the proper department for stamping documents, and thus giving them legal significance.

An official glanced at Isaacstein's contract note and then looked at Philip, evidently regarding him as a relative or youthful secretary of the "Philip Anson, Esq., Pall Mall hotel," whose name figured on the paper.

"I suppose you only want this to be indicated?" he said.

"Yes," agreed Philip, who had not the remotest idea what he meant.

"Sixpence," was the curt rejoinder.

Philip thought he would be called on to pay many pounds—some amount in the nature of a percentage of the sum named in the agreement. He produced the coin demanded and made no comment. With stamp or without, he knew that Isaacstein would go straight to his preliminary undertaking.

A single glimpse of the monster diamond in his pocket had made that quite certain.

"You can leave us," said Philip to the valet in French.

Now the chance was of that nature, no less than his perfect account, went a long way toward removing the manager's suspicions. A boy who was so well educated must be quite out of the common. Perhaps some eccentric parent or guardian encouraged him to act independently thus early in life.

His uncanny trick of thought reading disconcerted the manager greatly. Undoubtedly the boy was a puzzle. Never had this experienced man of the world met any one more self possessed, more direct and yet, with it all, exceedingly polite.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

LUSITANIA BEATS RECORDS

Makes a Grand Sweep of Everything in the Way of Trans-Atlantic Speeds.

New York, Oct. 11.—When the Lusitania was sighted off Sandy Hook at 12:5 a. m. today she bore on her stem all the trans-Atlantic speed records and the Cunard line and England captured from Germany the eagerly sought record for possessing the fleetest ship on the Atlantic.

The Hamburg-American liner Deutschland had held the record for a number of years. Steamship speed also held that the achievement of the turbine engines over the reciprocating type. Reports from the ship state that the trip had been a pleasant one and the ship had shown little vibration.

The actual time of the Lusitania was 4 days, 19 hours, 52 minutes; her average speed, 23.99 knots, or 27.5 miles per hour; biggest day's run, 617 miles. She was given a hearty welcome in New York harbor.

The Lusitania on this trip captures practically all trans-Atlantic records. Her best day's run, 619 knots, is nine knots better than the record held by the Deutschland. Her average speed exceeds the record of the German Kaiser Wilhelm II, of the North German Lloyd line, and her record for the trip across the ocean beats that of the Hamburg-American liner Deutschland.

The Lusitania's time averages almost exactly 24 hours less than the entire trip. Her arrival at 12:52 a. m. five minutes earlier than she passed the lightship, would have made her speed exactly 24 knots.

The Cunard line captured its first record for the voyage across the ocean when the Europa, in 1845, made the then remarkable time of 11 days, 3 hours, beating the record of the famous Great Western, made in 1838, of 14 1/2 days.

Balloons Killed by a Fall.

Mattoon, Ill., Oct. 14.—Donning, balloonist of Quincy, was killed when he fell from his balloon 400 feet and struck on the platform at the Union depot. Several thousand persons, including the aeronaut's wife, saw the accident. The ascent was made in the afternoon. The start was made satisfactorily, but when the man was about 400 feet in the air he saw that the balloon had burst and he jumped with the parachute, which failed to open in the short distance.

Safe Robbers Get \$7,500.

Houston, Tex., Oct. 14.—Early in the morning the safe of the Kirby Lumber company at Silsbee was robbed of \$7,500. The burglar was T. H. Hunter, who deposited the cash for safekeeping, intending to pay off at Village Mills. The money stolen is part of the funds controlled by federal court receivership under direction of Judge Walter T. Burns.

ARCTIC STEAMER FRITHJOF LOST

Captain and Fifteen of the Crew Drowned—Engineer Reached Shore on Plank.

Copenhagen, Oct. 11.—The Arctic steamer Frithjof, which accompanied the Wellman-Chicago Record-Herald expedition to Spitzbergen, was lost off Cape Lange, Iceland, Oct. 5. The captain and fifteen of her crew were drowned. The engineer clung to a plank, on which he drifted ashore.

The Arctic steamer Frithjof was regarded as the best veteran of the Arctic exploration service. She had been under charter many times in Arctic work and was the most widely known of all the Norwegian steamers engaged in similar enterprises.

The Frithjof was used by the expedition sent out in 1901 by William Ziegler to search for the north pole, as a companion ship of the steamer America, and after returning, three years later, went back on what proved to be an unsuccessful attempt to carry relief to the party aboard the America.

BISHOP DOANE DEFEATED

Fails to Make It Harder for Divorcees—Deputy Creates a Sensation in the Episcopal Convention.

Richmond, Va., Oct. 10.—The sixth day's session of the Episcopal convention was one of intense interest, for important matters were discussed in both the upper and lower houses, while an interesting missionary meeting was held by the Women's Auxiliary.

The most important action taken by the house of bishops was in voting down the motion made by the bishop of Alabama making still more stringent the canons on marriage and divorce.

In the deputies Rev. Dr. Wilmer, of Georgia, created a sensation when he placed himself on record as being sympathetic with the doctrine of absolute divorce, and by the people who were seated in the galleries.

The men's offering, which was announced at a great men's meeting at night, amounted to \$775,000.

EMPEROR HOLDING HIS OWN

Francis Joseph Is No Worse and Is Able to Receive Members of His Cabinet.

Vienna, Oct. 14.—The circulation of numerous exaggerated reports regarding the emperor's condition created great public anxiety and thousands of persons gathered in the park-grounds of the palace in order to be reassured. Information obtained direct from the emperor's entourage at the palace shows that his majesty was at any rate no worse, and that he was able during the day to receive a cabinet officer and discuss important matters with him.

An official statement which, however, is not signed by the doctors in attendance, reports that the temperature of the emperor-king has increased so that it is not higher than it was on the preceding days of his illness. The general strength of the patient is satisfactory and he is taking sufficient nourishment.

Doctor Wins \$100,000 Fee.

Chicago, Oct. 10.—Dr. Clarence H. E. Zeiler was awarded a verdict of \$100,000 in his suit against the estate of Mrs. Harriet G. McKiever. The jury was out three hours, and their finding upheld the claim of Dr. Zeiler that Mrs. McKiever, before her death, had agreed to pay him \$100,000 for his services in curing her of a disease which she had contracted upon the amount in a contract that was executed between them.

Big Car Barns Destroyed.

New York, Oct. 10.—Hundreds of lives were endangered, thousands of persons were thrown into panic, 125 electric cars used on several cross-town lines were destroyed, and property loss to the extent of \$400,000 was caused by a fire in the Fourteenth street car barns early in the day. As a result of the burning of the cars service on all the cross town lines is greatly hampered.

Not to Be Fooled.

A resident of a New England town who was noted for his great kindness to animals viewed the first horse car with dismay. "It's sheer cruelty, that's what it is," he insisted, and the plea of convenience or necessity had no influence upon him.

"I'd walk to Boston and back before I'd get into a horse car," he declared, and no persuasion could induce him to ride in a street car dragged by overworked, tired horses. When electricity was applied and the cars went smoothly along without the horses, his son said:

"Now, father, you can ride on the street cars without worrying about horses. You can go into Boston at your ease now."

"I can't," said the old man, "you always rush at conclusions. You don't study into things as I do. Don't I read in the papers about every car leaving to have so much horsepower? And don't I know well enough what that means? There are one two three four five six seven eight nine ten eleven twelve thirteen fourteen fifteen sixteen seventeen eighteen nineteen twenty one twenty two twenty three twenty four twenty five twenty six twenty seven twenty eight twenty nine thirty thirty one thirty two thirty three thirty four thirty five thirty six thirty seven thirty eight thirty nine forty forty one forty two forty three forty four forty five forty six forty seven forty eight forty nine fifty fifty one fifty two fifty three fifty four fifty five fifty six fifty seven fifty eight fifty nine sixty sixty one sixty two sixty three sixty four sixty five sixty six sixty seven sixty eight sixty nine seventy seventy one seventy two seventy three seventy four seventy five seventy six seventy seven seventy eight seventy nine eighty eighty one eighty two eighty three eighty four eighty five eighty six eighty seven eighty eight eighty nine ninety ninety one ninety two ninety three ninety four ninety five ninety six ninety seven ninety eight ninety nine one hundred."

The most wonderful bird flight noted in the migratory achievement of the Virginia plover, which leaves its haunts in North America and, taking a course down the Atlantic, reaches the coast of Brazil in one migration flight of fifteen hours, covering a distance of over 3,000 miles at the rate of four miles a minute.

Condensed.

"Here is an article on 'How to Live a Hundred Years'."

"Yes, and the whole subject can be condensed into two words."

"What are they?"

"Don't die."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Not the Music He Loved.

Mrs. Talkmore—Your husband is a great lover of music, isn't he? Mrs. Chatterbox—Yes, indeed, I have seen him get up in the middle of the night and try to compose. Mrs. T.—What? Mrs. C.—The baby.—Stray Stories.

What's Named.

"This is the name of a tentatively remarked real estate agent who was looking over the house."

"Yes," replied the old man Kidder, "but I usually call it the courtroom. I've got seven daughters, you know."

St. George and the Dragon.

Other nations besides England have fought under the banner of St. George, and other knightly orders as well as that of the Garter have been instituted in his honor. He was the guardian saint of Sicily, Aragon, Valencia, Genoa, Malaga and Barcelona; a Venetian order of St. George was created in 1209, a Spanish in 1317, an Austrian in 1470, a Genoese in 1472 and a Roman in 1492. More modern orders bearing his name are those of Bavaria (1729), Russia (1870) and Hanover (1839). The device of St. George slaying the dragon forms part of the arms of the czar and appears on several Russian coins. The conjecture that this was owing to the presentation of the Garter by Elizabeth to Ivan Vassilievitch has no foundation in fact, for Chancellor, the first outspoken Englishman to visit Russia, speaks of a dispatch sent in 1554 from Ivan Vassilievitch to Queen Mary, the seal of which was much like the book of St. George, having on one side the image of a man on horseback in complete harness fighting with a dragon.—London Chronicle.

Queer Positions of Hearts.

There is one curious fact which not everybody notices about the common, finger-long, green caterpillars of our larger moths. Their hearts, instead of being in front, are at the back of the body and extend along the entire length of the animal. One can see the heart distinctly through the thin skin and can watch its slow beat, which starts at the tail and moves forward to the head. Hearts of this sort reaching from head to tail are not at all uncommon in the simpler creatures of the earthworm has one, and so have most worms, caterpillars and other crawling things. Hearts in the middle of the back also are quite as frequent as those in the front. In fact, the natural place. Many animals, the lobster for example, and the crayfish and the crab, which have short hearts like those of the beasts and birds, nevertheless have them placed just under the center of the back. In some cases, as in the snail, the heart is at the end of the tail.—Nicholas.

One Source of News.

For many years a certain New York paper received society and club gossip from a man whose identity was concealed by a clever ruse. Even his checks were made out to his wife in her maiden name. He furnished information about the doings and wrangles in various clubs—little stories involving people whose names are known by reputation to practically all readers of newspaper columns. He is said to have averaged an income of about \$10 a week—not much, but enough to buy hats, gloves and canes. He was a most immaculate and apparently prosperous person. It is needless to say that he has never been suspected of this small traffic. A wealthy relative died and left him a fortune. When some such man furnishes the clue to a detectable scandal he has done a stroke of business which will keep him in small luxuries for months to come.—Whitman Bennett in Bohemian.

Not So Daft After All.

Daft Tim, as he was called, wandering through the village one day, got severely bitten by the village dog.

Proceeding to the inn, he showed the mistress what her "dawg" had done. She was much alarmed and, putting a half crown into Tim's hand, said: "I'll have the doctor noo an' pay him well."

"I'm glad you'll do that," said Tim, "but I'll have the doctor noo an' pay him well."

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