

SERIAL STORY

The FLYING MERCURY

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SYNOPSIS.

The story opens on Long Island, near New York city where Miss Emily French, a relative of Ethan French, manufacturer of the celebrated "Mercury" automobile, loses her way. The car has stopped and her cousin, Dick French, is too muddled with drink to direct it right. They meet another car which is run by a professional racer named Lestrage. Emily encounters the French car and directs Miss French how to proceed homeward. Ethan French has disinherited his son, who has disappeared. He informs Emily plainly that he would like to have her marry Dick, who is a good-natured but irresponsible fellow. It appears that a partner of Ethan French wanting an expert to race with the "Mercury" at auto events, has engaged Lestrage, and at the French factory Emily encounters the young man. They refer pleasantly to their meeting when Dick comes along and recognizes the young racer. Dick first meets Lestrage in the street. Lestrage is an automobile expert. Dick undertakes his business schooling under the tutelage of Lestrage. Dick is sheer grit, and in making a test race meets with an accident. Lestrage meets Emily in the moonlit garden of the French home. Under an impulse he cannot control he kisses her and she leaves him, confessing in her own heart that she returns his love. The uncle of Emily, learning of her attachment to Lestrage, informs her that the man is his disbarred son, whom she has never seen before being adopted by him. He claims that his son is away with a disolute actress, refuses to acknowledge him, and orders Emily to think of Dick as her future husband. A big race is on in the south and Ethan French takes Emily to see it. The fame of the "Mercury" is involved in the success of Lestrage and Dick running the race.

CHAPTER IX.—(Continued).

The hours passed. One more car went out of the race under the grinding test; there were the usual incidents of blown-out tires and temporary withdrawals for repairs. Twice Mr. French sent his partner and Emily to the restaurant below, tolerating his seat. Perfectly composed, his expression perfectly self-contained, he watched his son.

The day grew unbearably hot toward afternoon, a heat rather of July than June. After a visit to his camp Lestrage reappeared without the suffocating mask and cap, driving bareheaded, with only the narrow goggles crossing his face. The change left visible the drawn pallor of exhaustion under stains of dust and oil, his rolled-back sleeves disclosed the crimson badge on his right arm and the fact that his left wrist was tightly wound with linen where swollen and strained muscles rebelled at the long trial.

"He's been driving for nineteen hours," said Dick, climbing up to his party through the excited crowd. "Two hours more to six o'clock. Listen to the mob when he passes!"

The injunction was unnecessary. As the sun slanted low the enthusiasm grew to fever. This was a crowd of connoisseurs—motorists, chauffeurs, automobile lovers and drivers—they knew what was being done before them. The word passed that Lestrage was in his twentieth hour; people climbed on seats to cheer him as he passed by. When one of his tires blew out, in the opening of the first hour of his driving and the twenty-fourth of the race, the great shout of sympathy and encouragement that went up shook the grand-stand to its cement foundations.

Neither Lestrage nor Rupert left his seat while that tire was changed. "If we did I ain't sure we'd get back," Rupert explained to Dick, who hovered around them agitatedly. "If I'd thought Darling's mechanician would get in for this, I'd have taken in sewing for a living. How much longer?"

"Half an hour."
"Well, watch us finish."
A renewed burst of applause greeted the Mercury car's return to the track. Men were standing watch in hand to count the last moments, their eyes on the bulletin board where the reeled-off miles were being registered. Two of the other machines were fighting desperately for second place, hopeless of rivaling Lestrage, and after them sped the rest.

"The finish!" some one suddenly called. "The last lap!"
Dick was hanging over the paddock fence when the car shot by amidst braying, klaxons, motor horns, cheers, and the clashing music of the band. Frantic, the people hailed Lestrage as the black and white checked flag dropped before him in proclamation of his victory and the ended race.

Rupert raised his arms above his head in the signal of acknowledgment, as they flew across the line and swept on to complete the circle to their camp. Lestrage slackened speed to take the dangerous, deeply furrowed turn for the last time, his car poised for the curving flight un-

der his guidance—then the watching hundreds saw the driver's hands slip from the steering-wheel as he reached for the brake. Straight across the track the machine dashed, instead of following the bend, crashed through the barrier, and rolled over on its side in the green meadow grass.

"The steering-knuckle!" Bailey groaned, as the place burst into uproar around them. "The wheel—I saw it turn uselessly in his hands!"
"They're up!" cried a dozen voices. "No, one's up and one's under."
"Who's caught in the wreck—Lestrage or his man?"

But before the people who surged over the track, breaking all restraint, before the electric ambulance, Dick French reached the mangled thing that had been the Mercury car. It was Lestrage who had painfully struggled to one knee beside the machine, fighting hard for breath to speak.

"Take the car off Rupert," he panted, at Dick's cry of relief on seeing him. "I'm all right—take the car off Rupert."

The next instant they were surrounded, overwhelmed with eager aid. The ambulance came up and a surgeon precipitated himself toward Lestrage.

"Stand back," the surgeon commanded generally. "Are you trying to smother him? Stand back."

But it was he who halted before a gesture from Lestrage, who leaned on Dick and a comrade from the camp.

"Go over there, to Rupert."
"You first—"
"No."

There was nothing to do except yield. Shrugging his shoulders, the surgeon paused the necessary moment. A moment only; there was a no protests, but he himself never left scattering of the hushed workers, a metallic crash.

From the space the car had covered a small figure uncoiled, lizard-like, and staggered unsteadily erect.

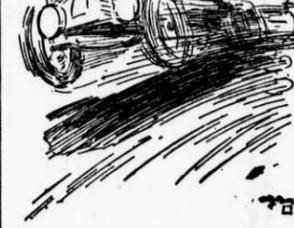
"Where's Darling Lestrage?" was hurled viciously across the silence. "Gee, you're a slow bunch of workers! Where's Lestrage?"

The tumult that broke loose swept all to confusion. And after all it was Lestrage who was put in the surgeon's care, while Rupert rode back to the camp on the driver's seat of the ambulance.

"Tell Emily I'll come over to her as soon as I'm fit to look at," was the message Lestrage gave Dick. "And when you go back to the factory, have your steering-knuckles strengthened."

Dick exceeded his commission by transmitting the speech entire; repeating the first part to Emily with all affectionate solicitude, and flinging the second cuttingly at his uncle and Bailey.

"The doctors say he ought to be in



Reappeared Without the Suffocating Mask and Cap.

bed, but he won't go," he concluded. "No, you can't see him until they get through patching him up at the hospital tent; they put every one out except Rupert. He hasn't a scratch, after having a ninety Mercury on top of him. You're to come over to our camp, Emily, and wait for Lestrage. I suppose everybody had better come."

It was a curious and an elevating thing to see Dickie assume command of his family, but no one demurred. An official, recognizing in him Lestrage's manager, cleared a way for the party through the noisy press of departing people and automobiles.

The sunset had long faded, night had settled over the motordrome and the electric lamps had been lit in the tents, before there came a stir and murmur in the Mercury camp.

"Don't skid, the ground's wet," cautioned a voice outside the door. "Steady!"

Emily started up, Dick sprang to open the canvas, and Lestrage crossed the threshold. Lestrage, colorless, his right arm in a sling, his left wound with linen from wrist to elbow, and bearing a heavy purple bruise above his temple, but with the brightness of victory flashing above all weariness like a dancing flame.

"Sweetheart!" he laughed, as Emily ran to meet him, heedless of all things except that he stood within touch once more. "My dear, I told them not to frighten you. Why, Emily—"

For as he put his one available arm about her, she hid her wet eyes on his shoulder.

"I am so happy," she explained breathlessly. "It is only that."
"You should not have been here at all, my dear. But it is good to see you. Who brought you? Bailey?"
"Catching sight of the man beside Dick. 'Good, I wanted some one to help me;

Rupert and I have got to find a hotel and we're not very active."

Emily would have slipped away from the clasp, scarlet with returning recollection, but Lestrage detained her to meet his shining eyes.

"The race is over," he reminded, for her ears alone. "I'm going to keep you, if you'll stay."

He turned to take a limping step, offering his hand cordially to the speechless Bailey, and faced for the first time the other man present.

"I think," said Ethan French, "that there need be no question of hotels. We have not understood each other, but you have the right to French-wood's hospitality. If you can travel, we will go there."

"No," answered David French, as quietly. "Never. You owe me nothing, sir. If I have worked in your factory, I took the workman's wages for it; if I have won honors for your car, I also won the prize-money given to the driver. I never meant so to establish any claim upon French-wood or you. I believe we stand even. Dick has taken my place, happily; Emily and I will go on our own road."

They looked at each other, the like-



"I Am So Happy."

ness between them most apparent, in the similar determination of mood which wiped laughter and warmth from the younger man's face. However coldly phrased and dictatorially spoken, it was an apology which Mr. French had offered and which had been declined. But—he had watched Lestrage all day; he had not lift the gauntlet.

"You are perfectly free," he conceded, "which gives you the opportunity of being generous."

His son moved, flushing through his pallor.

"I wish you would not put it that way, sir," he objected.

"There is no other way. I have been wrong and I have no control over you; will you come home?"

There was no other argument but that that could have succeeded, and the three who knew Lestrage knew that could not fail.

"You want me because I am a French," David rebelled in the final protest. "You have a substitute."

"Perhaps I want you otherwise. And we will not speak in passion; there can be no substitute for you."

"French and French," murmured Dick coaxingly. "We can run that factory, Lestrage!"

"There's more than steering-knuckles needing your eye on them, and you love the place, Mr. David," said Bailey from his corner.

From one to the other David's glance went, to rest on Emily's delicate, earnest face in its setting of yellow-bronze curls. Full and straight her dark eyes answered his, the conventional Emily's answer to his pride and old resentment and new reluctance to yield his liberty.

"After all, you were born a French," she reminded, her soft accents just audible. "If that is your work?"

Very slowly David turned to his father.

"I never learned to do things by halves," he said. "If you want me, sir—"

And Ethan French understood, and first offered his hand.

Rupert was discovered asleep in a camp-chair outside the tent, a few minutes later, when Dick went in search of him.

"The limousine's waiting," his awakener informed him. "You don't feel bad, do you?"

The mechanician rose cautiously, wincing.

"Well, if every joint in my chassis wasn't sore, I'd feel better," he admitted grimly. "But I'm still running. What did you kiss me awake for, when I need my sleeps?"

"Did you suppose we could get Lestrage home without you, Jack Rupert?"

"I ain't supposing you could. I'm ready."

NATION WIDE TO HELP

UPLIFT OF WOMANHOOD TO GET HELP FROM PRESENT INQUIRIES.

BIG CRUSADE IS BOUND TO RESULT

Several Witnesses Tell Their Version of Who And What Is to Blame for Downfall of Girls and Women and the Remedy.

The whipping post for white slave traffickers and seducers of women, a tax on bachelorhood, more careful training of children and abolition of joyrides and ragtime dancing were advocated as remedies for the social evil at a hearing in Washington, D. C., conducted by the Illinois senatorial vice commission, which went to Washington primarily to interest President Wilson in a nation-wide vice crusade. The commission secured the promise of President Wilson to consider the request for him to call a conference of governors and representatives of vice commissioners from various states to study the social problem, the conference to be held in Washington, D. C., as soon as practicable.

Low Wages Discussed.

At the hearing attended by many prominent women and men interested in social welfare work the low wage question as a cause of girls going wrong was discussed, several of the witnesses deprecating the idea, insisting that lack of education and resisting force had much more to do with the downfall of women. Men, too, were blamed as primarily responsible for the degradation of girls.

Witnesses who declared that low wages were not responsible for social vice, admitted, however, on being questioned by Lieutenant Governor O'Hara, head of the commission, that higher wages for working girls would better equip them to resist evil, and all recommended that a minimum wage law for girls would be of great benefit.

Minimum \$8 the Week.

Eight dollars a week as a minimum wage for women was the generally accepted sum estimated by the witnesses.

Mrs. H. W. Wiley advocated sex hygiene as one of the basic remedies for the social evil, urged women police for cities and enfranchisement of women.

Mrs. Wiley and other witnesses also declared that employers of under-paid girls and women had not the moral right to give money to charities out of the earnings of their enterprises until they first had increased the wages of their employees.

Advocates Early Marriages.

Dr. W. C. Woodward, health officer of the District of Columbia, urged the encouragement of early marriage among young men as one of the remedies for the social evil, and he placed the responsibility for the downfall of 90 per cent of women directly at the door of the men, rather than in the counting room of the department store or factory. He approved a suggestion by Senator Beall of Illinois of a law imposing a tax upon bachelors between 24 and 42, saying all men over 32 years should pay an annual tax of \$100. Dr. Woodward presented some astonishing statistics, among them that 50 per cent of the men, as shown in his list of patients received for all causes, were diseased, and that 10 per cent were afflicted with loathsome diseases.

Source of Disease.

"Unlawful places," said Dr. Woodward, "are the morasses from which these diseases come. State education is the best means for eradicating these places."

PRESIDENT WILSON VS. CHINA

Defends His Position and Interests of Our Government.

Washington.—President Wilson's recent statement withdrawing the aid of this government from what was popularly known as "the six-power loan" does not mean the retirement of the United States from participation in far eastern diplomacy.

The president Saturday talked about China informally with some of his callers, among them George Bronson Rea, secretary of the commission empowered by the Chinese provisional government to construct 10,000 miles of the trunk railways of China.

Mr. Rea explained to the president that without the aid of the United States government American capital had been enlisted in the railway enterprise, but it was desirable to know how far the United States would go in protecting what Mr. Rea termed "honorable contracts between American business men and the Chinese government," independent of political connection.

The president asked Mr. Rea to prepare and submit to him a memorandum, and promised to study the question very carefully.

Duke of Connaught Sails.

Halifax, N. S.—The duke of Connaught, governor general of Canada, accompanied by the duchess and Princess Patricia of Connaught, sailed Saturday with their suite for England.

"Did you tell that young man he couldn't stay after midnight?"

"Yes, papa."

"Then why didn't he go?"

"He wanted to know if the order had been confirmed by mamma."

MINES AND MINERS

Gold to the value of from \$9000 to \$10,000 a month is being produced by the mill of the Humboldt mine of eastern Oregon, according to advices.

Thomas Meyers, while handling machinery for the Belcher mine at Whitney, Oregon, recently, was killed by a heavy fly wheel falling on him. His back was broken.

The Young America group of four claims, near Bossburg, Wash., credited with a yield of \$100,000, has been leased for two years from the Robens Silver Mining company.

Unalterable opposition to any reduction in the tariff on lead and zinc was announced by James H. Brady, United States senator from Idaho. Senator Brady declares that he will exert every effort to defeat the Underwood lead bill.

Dawson, Y. T.—Jacob Uielson, aged 32, was arrested recently and held without bail, charged with dynamiting Guggenheim gold dredge No. 1 at the mouth of Bonanza creek, on the night of February 22, when \$25,000 damage was inflicted.

Ore in a body having the unusual width of 61 feet is reported to have been struck in the property of the Carmen Creek Mining company in Lemhi county, Idaho. Values of \$50 to \$60 in copper, silver and gold are said to have been made available in solid streaks at a depth of 300 feet.

An increased production, elimination of overhead costs through the employment of one set of officials, extension of effort and largely increased receipts are anticipated through the proposed consolidation of the Republic Mines corporation and the North Washington Power and Reduction company.

John P. White, international president of the United Mine Workers of America, announces that a basis of settlement satisfactory to the miners has been reached with the representatives of the Paint Creek Collieries company, whose miners in West Virginia have been on strike for about 10 months.

Last week the Mother Lode mine of the British Columbia Copper company made the heaviest shipment of the year, 7,613 tons of ore from that property being treated at the company's smelter at Greenwood, B. C. British Columbia Copper company's receipts made a new record for the year, the smelter handling 14,550 tons of ore last week.

The annual report of the Homestake Mining company, operating the Homestake mine at Deadwood, S. D., for the year ended December 31, 1913, shows a total income of \$6,790,897, and a surplus of \$2,267,888, equal to 10.38 per cent on the issued capitalization of \$21,840,000. The dividends for the year were \$1,310,400, to which were added \$151,700 on January 25, 1913, making the total disbursements to date \$29,200,968.

Fairbanks, Alaska.—Pay dirt going as high as \$30 a square foot has been found by Adolph Bock, an old-time mining man, on Sullivan creek, in the hot springs district, according to word received here recently. The prospect is said to be 100 feet wide. Prospectors say the discovery means an increase of \$100,000 in the season's output and is the richest made in the district in several years.

New York.

Bar silver, 56 1/2c; Mexican dollars, 47 1/2c.

Copper—Quiet; spot and March, \$14 @ 14.75; electrolytic, \$15 @ 15.12; lake, \$15.25 @ 15.37; casting, \$14.75 @ 14.87.

Lead—Steady, \$4.30 @ 4.40.

Spelter—Easy, \$6.15 @ 6.30.

Antimony—Dull; Cookson's, \$9 @ 9.25.

Copper exports this month, 24,627 tons.

NEW REGULATION FOR PARCEL POST USES

Collect-On-Delivery Features to Be Added to the Service About July 1.

The collect-on-delivery feature will be added to the parcel post department of the postal service July 1, 1913. Under the approved regulations a parcel bearing the required amount of parcel postage stamps may be sent anywhere in the United States and the amount due from the purchaser collected and remitted by the post-office department. The regulations provide that the parcel must bear the amount due from the addressee, and the collection will be made provided the amount is not in excess of one hundred dollars. The fee will be ten cents, to be affixed by the sender in parcel post stamps. This also registers the parcel to an amount not in excess of fifty dollars.

With the inauguration of this feature of the parcel post laws, there will be a vast increase in the availability of the uses of the parcel post as applied to the dealer. Then with the aid of the telephone he can solicit his orders from distant customers, ship his orders by post and collect for them through the rural carrier.

In the past one of the greatest drawbacks to the use of the postal service has been the necessity of extending credit and collecting in advance; both methods being, in many cases, undesirable, if not prohibitive.

We would advise our readers to carefully study their local distributing areas in the light of increasing business by the use of the rural carriers and be fully prepared to launch a campaign of advertising along this new line as soon as advantage can be taken of this way of selling for cash.

GREAT FLOODS IN EAST

THOUSANDS OF PERSONS HOMELESS IN OHIO AND INDIANA—HUNDREDS DROWNED.

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS PROPERTY LOSS

Delaware, Dayton, Columbus and Many Other Ohio Towns Swept by Worst Floods in Many Years—Bridges Are Washed Away.

Disastrous floods inundated important areas of Ohio and Indiana Tuesday, bringing loss of life in their train and driving thousands of persons from their homes.

At Delaware, Ohio, 20 persons were drowned. Dayton is deep under water and great loss of life is feared. The property loss will run into the millions. In the flooded districts rivers were out of their banks, dams were bursting; and inhabitants of the lowland fleeing for their lives. Governor Cox called out the militia to protect property and keep order. The loss in live stock has been heavy. Following is a resume of the situation:

Dayton, Ohio—Dam above city said to have broken; five to 15 feet of water in the streets. Twenty-five to 40 persons said to be drowned.

Delaware, Ohio—Twenty persons drowned; militia ordered to patrol streets; relief supplies being sent.

Columbus, Ohio—Bridges near Columbus on Scioto river washed out and railway traffic paralyzed.

Lima, Ohio—There are 10 miles of railroad trains of all kinds stalled by washouts between Lima and LaFayette. The Ottawa river is on the rampage.

Akron, Ohio—Dam north of city broken. Horsemen rode through valley warning farmers, who with their families fled by the hundreds to higher ground.

Larue, Ohio—Inundated.

Kokomo, Ind.—Southern part of city flooded. City in darkness last night when electric light plant stopped. Use of militia authorized.

Indianapolis—Hundreds of persons living in suburbs driven from homes by rise of Eagle creek and White river. Thousands of head live stock in state perished.

Marion, Ind.—Levee broke and 500 people lee for their lives.

Ellwood, Ind.—Three hundred homeless by flood.

Lafayette, Ind.—Bridge washed out. Two men missing. Detention hospital flooded, but inmates escaped.

St. Louis, Mo.—One person drowned and many families flee from western part of city because of rise of river Des Peres.

Middletown, O.—Bridge washed out. Fifteen persons missing. Water and electric light plants out of commission.

The Three Rivers Join.

Three rivers, the Miami, Stillwater and Mad, and Wolf creek conjoin right in the heart of Dayton. As the city, particularly North Dayton and a north section called Riverdale, lies almost on a level with the four streams, it is protected from high water by levees 25 feet high which guide the streams through the city from its northern to its southern end.

North Dayton is generally first to suffer during high water. It is a manufacturing and residence district. Riverdale is a residence district.

Columbus, Ohio—Information was received at the state capitol building from Dayton that 40 persons had been killed as a result of the flood in that vicinity.

Mayor Is Drowned.

Columbus, Ohio.—B. V. Leas, mayor of Delaware, a town of 10,000 inhabitants 25 miles north of here, is reported to be drowned.

TO STOP FIRING

Bombardment of Scutari Is Ordered Stopped by Servian Government.

Belgrade, Servia.—The bombardment of Scutari is understood to have been stopped on orders from the Servian government.

Servia acted on the advice of the French and Russian ministers, who notified the Servian premier that the powers had come to the unalterable decision that Scutari must belong to the future state of Albania.

The proprietor of a Turkish bath establishment in Milwaukee was much taken by the physical perfection of a young man he saw in a butcher's shop. After minute survey of the huge muscles of the young man, the Turkish bath proprietor offered him a position as rubber in his establishment.

"I'll give you more than you're getting here, said he. What does this man pay you?"

"Ten dollars a week and my week's meat, said the butcher employe. What is the meat worth?"

About \$4.
The Turkish bath man did some rapid figuring.
"Look here, said he finally. I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll give you \$10 and \$5 worth of baths weekly. That will be a dollar more than you get from the butcher."
April 10—American association—September 29.