

SYHOPSIS.

CHAPTER III .- Continued.

e t directions with assurances that they would hasten back as soon as to which they had assigned them- one's breath away without hitting him selves. Bling chance decreed that It was so with us but upon a much Alan, Clay and Professor Desmond vaster scale. First we had our violent should remain. Judge Fulton as master of the house remained with them.

They gathered themselves into a close group. "Your theory now, pro- rushed away dragging the air after it. fessor?" they asked as their fellows The gale which followed that was disappeared. Desmond, tall and gaunt, his hand slowly over a forehead lined mospheric equilibrium. As soon as by long years of study and thought.

"My friends," he began hesitatingly, "we have not only witnessed but are living to tell of a miracle so astonishing that human history contains nothing which even approaches it. You will understand perfectly that any attempted explanation upon my part will It may be entirely disproved in the light of subsequent developments. That being borne in mind, I think upon your part you will readily concede that while my prophecy as to our destruction went astray, yet our escape was by a hair's breadth of a few score miles. And while I did not calculate with entire accuracy, I did calculate even closer than you could have wished."

"And our being missed-how can that be accounted for if the earth was the object of attack? How can the attracted object miss the magnet and pass on as this body seems to have

"It cannot. And that is the very thing that proves to us that the earth was not the magnet in this case, and It was the error on my part which tends to explain the miss. The body which passed us was and undoubtedly at this moment is bound for some other point in space many million miles beyond us, perhaps for some vast body or group of bodies of which we have no knowledge, perhaps for one of ns we can see OF, again, possibly like some of the comets it has an orbit of well nich incalculable extent, and like a comet passes a any event it took small notice of usno more in fact than had we been a soap bubble. We merely happened to be in its path."

"But why did not the earth divert this much smaller body to itself when they were in such close contact?"

"That may be accounted for by assuming that because of the entirely different natures of their compositions they did not happen to attract each other, as for example glass ignores the lodestone while Iron does not. And because of the terrific speed of the traveler it shot through our sphere of Influence by sheer momentum, as an fron ball may be thrown or shot past a magnet which would divert and retain it had not its momentum carried It by. Some comets which pass very close in their circuit around the sun are only kept from falling into it by their awful momentum, the speed of some of them at that period of their flight being over a million miles an hour. These are the possible solutions which occur to me at this time. However, I am free to admit that my reasoning faculties have been considerabty disturbed, and tomorrow I may entirely reverse my opinion of tonight."

"Did it touch us at all?" "I think not-except atmospherical-

"Why the vibrations, the winds, the kerrible air pressure and the vacuum In which we all so nearly perished?"

"More speculation. The earth undoubledly sensed the approach of the my sterious stranger and evidenced it to the extent of quivers of apprehension. The other physical manifestations were probably electrical, magmetic and ethereal, while the pressure and vacuum were caused by actual physical contact."

"But did you not say there was no

physical contact?" "Except the physical contact of sume the earth to be a ball as large all vegetable they were identical. as an apple, and our friend of a few sents the earth to be moving but God, what's that?"

The Flying Man The Lash of Circumstance," Barbara of the Snows Copyright, 1912, by Harry Irving Greene

the thickness of a piece of paper bewinds, then the compression when the our heads, and lastly the vacuum as it caused by the air rushing back to that was restored the wind ceased." "And the awful roar?"

space at an inconceivable velocity when it comes in close contact with the air. Very well. Now that bullet might not make a sound that the human ear could hear in passing through anything as intangible as space, but bullet travels with a velocity of only how thin the ether of space may be we might well expect sound to accomat that enormous speed."

be possible in the event such is the case that it is inhabited by human beings?"

"I would scarcely think so. In the straight towards her, first place its size would hardly seem to justify such a thing, yet were its other conditions favorable its area is sufficient to support a population of several millions, that is judging its conditions to be similar to those upon may be safely assumed that if it does possess a human population-and by human I mean reasoning and speaking lutter in finding herself in the clutches certain point every so many years. In creatures, they would in all probability be vastly different from us physically, and therefore in the nature of things. mentally. But as to what these differences might consist of no one can have any conception." He started as though surprised, leaned forward and rubbed his finger across Alan's bosom. A black streak instantly appeared in the wake of the finger. Were you not dressed in black when you arrived here this evening?" he demanded crisply. "And you, too, doctor -and you?"

They looked at each other in wonderment. From head to foot they were gray, as gray as had ashes been filtered over them through a sieve, while by the glow of the lanterns and brighter electric lights the ground seemed to be carpeted with a sooty snow. In their absorbed listening they had not noticed the phenomenon, but now as they lifted their faces upward they were conscious of the falling of a soft, impalpable substance, fine as flour, sinking as gently as thistle down. Desmond brushed a spoonful of it into his palm, scanned it, rubbed it between his fingers, smelled of it, even tasted it, then shook his head.

"Undoubtedly organic dust brushed from the visitor by atmospheric friction," he muttered. He suddenly bent over with another sharp exclamation of surprise. "Hello! What's this?"

A small twig had come twirling down to his feet and he picked it up and turned it over slowly as they crowded around him. "Any of you ever seen anything like this?" he demanded at length as he passed it from hand to hand. Critically they scanned and size of a lead pencil and at its end was a leaf black as jet, perfectly round and about the size of a silver dollar. Upon the leaf and extending from rim to rim was stamped in glittering white a strange cabalistic design. Doris leaning forward for a better view their buffeting atmospheres, supposing gasped sharply and clutched at the orthat the visitor carried its own atmos- nament below her throat. Removing phere along with it, or the contact of it with a quick motion she laid it beits solid body itself with our atmos- side the leaf, while from all sides phere in case it had none of its own, arose expressions of amazement. For The result would have been practical in size, in color, in design, in all rety the same in either case. Now for spects save that her trinket was of the sake of the argument let us as jade and diamonds whilst the leaf was

"A most marvelous coincidence, moments ago to be a much smaller muttered Desmond dreamily, his eyes ball-say the size of a pea. For the half closed. "Inexplicable. The plot purpose of the illustration we will also is thickening fast. Dust falls. Vegetasuppose the larger ball which repre- tion descends. What if after all-my

slowly. New you throw the smaller | He turned his face quickly upward.

Professor Designed of the Peak charrya-ory causes a great sensation throughout the country by announcing that what ap-wars to be a satellite is approaching at errific speed. Destruction of the earth is before from the throat of man, fowl or scale in that fraction of a second and peal and threat as though the thing Fraced. Panic prevails everywhere. The scale in that traction of a second and pear and threat as though the thin next seatellite barely missies the earth. The atscospheric disturbance knocks people unsections, but does no damage.

Fraction of an inch when the balls are that uttered it knew not what his next should be and in his indecision utsets and threat as though the thing was the small bull approaches and threat as though the thing was the small bull approaches and threat as though the thing was the same of the s as the small ball approaches and tered the double note. And while those forces the air ahead of it, next a com- below were still staring open mouthed Selection was made and the seven pression of air at the closest point be- and speechless before the oncoming chosen ones departed in several differ- tween them, and third the suction of this new mystery, there came a which all rapidly moving bodies cre- rush as of mighty wings, a fanning of ate behind them and which is a partial the air that swept their faces, while they had observed conditions abroad vacuum. This is illustrated by the from out of the darkness there set-In the respective portions of the town fact that a cannon ball may snatch thed before them a monstrous shape that rooted them in their tracks and caused every hair upon their heads to limbs, yet manlike in such a way as no visiting body was hurtling directly over | mortal eye had ever seen before, with huge bulging eyes, a cavernous mouth hung with loosely flapping lips, thin arms and legs that seemed to be made of cords instead of flesh and muscle ruzged without uncouthness, passed place in the restoration of normal at and his reddish body loosely hung about by a strange skin, he was more the fantastic apparition of a delirium than any creature known to man since "It could hardly be expected that the grotesque flying shapes of prehisthe passage of a large body through toric ages. And more marvelous than all else, attached to his shoulders by would be attended by absolute silence | huge brachial muscles that ran downward to his hips were a great pair of another body. You know the sound batlike wings with a spread of full be but my individual theory, and that that a bullet makes in passing through thirty feet, and with these now fully extended he crouched before them in the attitude of a bird just alighting. Slowly he scanned them, his great eyes glowing luminously in the dusk, you must remember that this body of his broad mouth working fantastically which we speak is hundreds of miles and his head craned forward as in diameter and that whilst a modern though trying to read in their faces

what manner of creatures they were. two thousand miles an hour, this small and whether his next movement world may well be going two hundred should be one of friendship, antagonthousand miles an hour-one hundred ism or flight. Then his eyes settled times as fast. Therefore, no matter upon Doris, who now paralyzed by a terror infinitely greater than had possessed her at the approach of the hospany an object of that size traveling tile world, could only stare at the monster like one chained to the spot. "You spoke, professor, of the vis- Then slowly he raised one long arm itor's having an atmosphere. Would it until its index finger pointed at the ornament which she held in her hand. and with a strange croaking sound and a curious birdlike hop he came

CHAPTER IV.

The Battle on the Lawn. stabbed the night air like a vocal daggey, such a scream as a woman might

of a flend. Yet it was not Doris who



He Struck Lightning Blows as an Eagle Strikes.

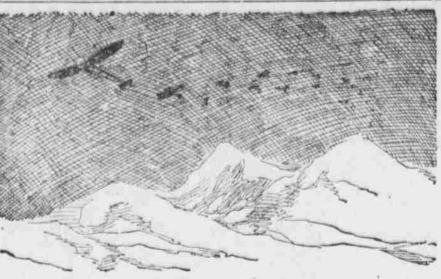
uttered it, but some woman who stood stood alone before the advancing one, seemed to be falling upon a stone ball past the larger one so closely that every eye following, every ear alert | With an inarticulate cry he inunched wall

it just skims it but with a distance | From above came first a strange cry | himself forward and thrust aside the | upon her.

anguage, "Clear out." The hand remained poised in the March gazed into the face of the newplate. His forehead was broad and of lawn as though in search of some lent in volume at least to an ordinary prick and pull. Manlike of head and his mouth enormous and studded with strength and immunity from attack stroke at him-" magnificent, even teeth save for the found that he could do little more long canines. His ears were those of than hamper the creature's moveovered by thinly scattered and ex- encountered rushed headlong in with eedingly coarse brown hair. Taken all his knife ready for a sweeping thrust, ing of a species different from any of tunity, threw all his strength into a threat or violence, March fancied he felled by a tremendous blow or kick saw the first fierce glare that had delivered with such lightning quickof half appeal. With a final command | ered it ever knew from where it came. where he was, Alan began hustling crouching in the center of the battlethe house. But scarcely had he gone his huge eyes glowing like those of insinuation. "I hope the poor fellow tector's shoulder, not angrily as it ap | from his side where Tolliver's bullet peared, but more as an insistent child had raked him across the ribs. keeps reaching for a coveted bauble, or a man grasps for some clusive object which he greatly desires to pos- street in search of assistance, but oth- ment in shooting the creature when sess. Steadily March warded off the attacks with patient determination to steps in wild eyed horror and incapa- Perhaps he was merely bewildered or frustrate them at all cost but with no ble of movement. With a hop that cov- trying in his way to be friendly," she attempt at retaliation, while as stead- ered at least ten feet the creature was said. March became emphatic, ily the other pursued with no attempt close before them, scanning them, to injure either of his quarry. It was peering into their faces and seeming too impulsive and raised the dickens thrust and parry, thrust and parry to be bewildered as they collapsed be- by it. But of course we were all tween them and safety behind the momentarily forgotten, as the latter Yet I am convinced that he intended stout doors, Alan's hope arose and he was attempting to rise, and with a us no harm until he was wounded. The deathlike hush that had fallen whispered a word of encouragement to malevolent scream leaped upon him. But it was plain enough to be seen upon them was pierced by a scream, the automatically moving girl. And That he purposed some terrible act that either you personally or that favored places on this earth. But it so sharp and terror filled that it then at the very threshold of pacific escape the armistice was suddenly shattered.

> reeled with a pathetic, animal like cry straightened himself up. and a convulsive clutching at his side. Again the weapon spoke and again with a rush and thrust her behind the aid of his companions.

Tolliver was lying upon his back white and motionless, the Flying Man. his face now hideously distorted, leaping about and over the prostrate one as with amazing strength and agility he alternately attacked and defended prehistoric bat, disappearing in a himself from the rushes of the five men who assalled him from every side with a cyclone of kicks and blows. His wings now closely folded close beside her. Shrill and piercing, somewhat like a fan projected not it cut to their very marrow, yet so un- over a yard on either side of him, but canny had been the night and so brief with them he struck lightning blows the interval between the hurtling pas- as an eagle strikes when battling sage of the monster of the skies that close in with its enemy. Doctor Rayit. The twig was about the length had so nearly souffed out their lives mond, a heavy and powerful man. and the appearance of this grotesque launching himself fairly upon the oththing from another world, that their er threw an arm about his neck with overstrung nerves were still all the purpose to pull him down, only aquiver and beneath the woman's wild the next second to be hurled bodily ery they swerved and leaped backward | into space by his enemy whose limbs as a horse swerves and backs beneath though thin seemed to possess the a slashing whip cut, wild eyed and iron tendons and strength of the forequivering. In a solid bunch they hud- legs of a horse. Professor Desmond dled against the front of the Fulton attempting to rush in received a home, the men thrusting the women blow across the forehead from a jointbehind them as they turned, unarmed ed wing that cut it open as by a but desperate, to combat as best they spade, and fell unconscious upon his could this monstrous flying thing that back with a broad scar gaping wide, had been brushed from a world gone the mark of which is plainly to be dian with her own hand when the forever into space, and who now cast seen upon his brow today. March aramong them in all likelihood possessed riving with a rush at this moment human means of transporting himself. bodily upon the other's back and did pulsive, was feeling for the first time moment rendered helpless, forced his and belabering his foe as best he way to the front rank just in time to could with his powerful fist. But each her veins. Her small bands tightened see that Doris, still rooted to the spot. time his knuckles landed they



an average human being, his head mests. Edwards seeing the foe thus women who had so recently gazed into n all it was the face of a human be- and March, keenly alive to the oppor- rying up to the place where they had this world, yet of one who as Desn and backward surge in an attempt to over-lafter a moment she came down again and defined it was "a reasoning, speak | balance the one he held in order that as rapidly as she had ascended and ing creature," and who possessed tre- the blade might find its mark. But the ran to her father, who was supporting mendous possibilities for destructive- one beneath him reared and leaped Desmond. King had returned from his ness and yet who was not wholly de aside as a horse might beneath its fruitless search for a weapon, Dr. Rayprayed or vicious. And now as he rider, and the next instant March mond had regained his feet and no aced him in determined opposition found himself arising half stunned one appeared to have been injured seto his desire to reach the girl, and from the grass several yards distant, riously. vet opposing him without gesture of Edwards lay inert where he had been manded. greeted his opposition fade into a look ness that none but the one who deliv- rapid happening of events that folof his hand for the intruder to remain As for the Flying Man, he now stood brow clouded. "Ran away! I don't Doris towards the steps leading into field with his wings half spread and kind," she announced in reply to an a yard when the winged one was an enormous beetle. He was moaning is not seriously hurt. Suppose we again clutching at her over her pro- and the blood was running profusely look about the place for him, for he

Some of the women had fled beneath of March. the trees or gone screaming down the

Warned by the sharp click of the the creature quivered and screamed, leaped off his victim and from his lips while Alan saw leap into his eyes in burst a wild scream that unmistakably place of the mild luminosity that had denoted that he had learned to fear abode there a giare so ghoulish that this fire spitting thing which had stung it froze his blood as though the other him so keenly. With a leap aside of had suddenly been transformed into a inconceivable quickness he landed upman cating tiger. One glance showed on the steps of the porch, the blood him that his pursuer's gaze was not now streaming down his leg and leavnow fixed upon Doris but upon Tol- ing its dark mark wherever he liver, and taking advantage of the op- stepped. Alan sighted quickly and portunity he hustled her up the steps pulled the trigger. The hammer fell with a metallic clack upon an imperstout door. From without there burst feet cartridge and no explosion folforth a wild medley, of shricks, yells. lowed. Once more he cocked it, but deep bellowed croaks and the sound as he raised his arm his antagonist of heavy blows, and releasing the girl leaped like a great frog into the air. he went flying down the steps to the the huge wings flew out as released springs uncoil, bent downward with a power so tremendous that the blast from them swept the watchers as a gale, beat again and upward between the trees the body of the Flying Man shot into the murk like a mammoth flash. But a moment later his scream came back to them, malicious

and exultant. Alan threw his useless firearm down with an imprecation upon its falseness. And as he did so there burst through the door and came darting down the steps a figure with hair flying and eyes ablaze, bearing in her hand a naked, rusty cutlass which she thrust into March's hand as her eyes flew about. "Where is he? Oh, where is he?" she gasped. Alan

pointed upward. "Gone-flapped away like a chicken hawk," he burst forth angrily, his desire for battle fully aroused and his disappointment acute that the invader had escaped. The girl's face darkened. Doris was of good old fighting stock as well as himself. Had not her great grandfather been a minute man? And had not her grandmother shot an Insavages attacked their prairie schooner way back in the '50s? And now of Satanic malice as well as of super- saw an opportunity to launch himself Doris herself, warm hearted and im-March caught in the press and for a so, encircling the throat with one arm in her life the flores warlike strain of blood of her forbears coursing through

possession of myself, and when I heard the shouls and blows I looked | could -Laudor.

Judge Fulton, Edwards and King out of the door. You were all fight unlike any sound they had ever heard clawlike hand that was descending still remained upon their feet. Of ing and striking and running and these the first named was corpulent, jumping and I wanted to help but did "Get out," he cried, as though he short of wind and incapable of doing not know what to do. I knew I would vere speaking to one who spoke his more than running about and feint only be in the way unless I had a ing in order to divert his foe's atten- weapon, so I went raging through the tion, but this he was doing to the house trying to remember if we had ir, and from the distance of a yard best of his ability. Edwards, strong any such things. Finally I thought and active, was seeking an opportun- of this old sword which my unclecomer. And in that instant of sus- ity to close in, his pocket knife held he was in the Spanish-American war pense and tension the features of the open in his hand; while King, who you know-brought back from one of lying Man became photographed up- had evidently been partially stunned the sunken battleships. Well, it was n his memory as upon a sensitized by a blow, was stumbling about the hanging over the fireplace in the room he used to have when he lived with good height, indicating a brain equiva- weapon, a stone or a club. In his us, and I got on a chair and finally position upon the other's back and managed to get it down and came man's. His huge eyes were filmy but between the wings March had a tre- running out here. But of course I was luminous within, his nose beaklike, mendous advantage, yet despite his too late. If I could only have got one

> Her fierceness vanished in a flash at sight of the white face of the the eyes of the departed one from the distance of a foot, and she went scurimmediately fled after the flight. Then "Where is Clay?" she de-

to arise a moment before but in the lowed all had lost sight of him. "Doris' believe a word of it. He is not that cannot have gone far in so short a time." She started off by the side

"Do you think Clay used good judgers still remained huddled against the he was not attempting to harm us?

"Indeed I do not. He was altogether like a pair of fencers, and with the fore him without having been struck highly wrought up, and the appearlower rise of the porch beneath his a blow. Then turning about he saw ance of the creature was not condufeet and but a dozen more steps be- Telliver, whom he appeared to have cive to the quieting of one's nerves. sgainst this man who had been the ornament you wear appealed to him first to assail and wound him, none strangely. Its resemblance to the leaf who saw his face and attitude ever is wonderful and perhaps excited him From out of the front row where he questioned. But Alan getting upon somewhat. He appeared to wish to had stood with the other men staring his feet at that instant and stambling detain you and try and communicate at the strange spectacle before them, forward empty handed with the des with you more than to do any injury Tolliver now stepped with a revolver perate resolve to do his utmost to de as well as I could judge by his movegleaming in his hand. He threw it up, fend his rival, felt his foot fall upon ments and the expression in his eyes. aimed quickly and fired, and at the a hard object. Stooping he grasped Had Clay restrained himself we might crash of the weapon the Flying Man Clay's revolver. He cocked it as he have been able to establish some sort of an understanding with him which would eventually have led to our beupraised hammer the Flying Man ing able to communicate intelligibly with each other. For I am convinced that he is some sort of a human being who speaks some sort of a language. And try and imagine what a leap that would be for human knowledge! actual mouth-to-ear communication with a being from another celestial body. Heaven only knows what might have come of it if he could tell us of his travels on that flying home of his But as it is, I am afraid we have unleashed a flend upon ourselves-g creature who with his wonderful gift or flight and imbued with the belief that our only desire is to do him harm can if he so desires wreak a terrible vengeance upon us. And that he now considers himself an outlaw with a price upon his head I have small doubt, and being afraid to again trust himself amongst us and with no possibility on his part of escape from this world, there is no telling what crime or series of crimes he may attempt.

"And suppose there should be more than one of them, a dozen, a hundred, a thousand!" she exclaimed in an awed voice. The man's face grew very

serious. "Then so much the worse for the world. For if they possess the intelligence and potential vindictiveness which I am afraid they do, a score of them could well nigh drive a nation frantic. They could swoop down upon isolated places and equip themselves with guns and dynamite. They could destroy from above in the blackness of night. They could retire to fastnesses whenever they desired to rest and plan new war. Until they were destroyed one by one they could lay tribute upon the land for our wealth, our stock, our goods, our munitions-in fact, anything we possess except our women and children. And

And those!" she cried quickly, "And even those they could steal one by one as vultures steal chickens."

The girl shuddered (TO BE CONTINUED)

Greater Than Conquerors.

We cannot conquer fate and necessi-"As soon as you left me I regained ty, yet we can yield to them in such a manner as to be greater than if we