## The Social Pirates -:

## Story No. 3 .- The Parasite

maid as she finished performing the tri- harmlessfling service for which Mona Hartley, Mary's chum, had summoned her.

"Thank you," said Mona. "Here-" "Oh, thank you, Miss," said the girl flushing with pleasure as she received her

The maid went out, and Mary sitting back in the deep chair that was so placed that she could look out, without moving, and see the park with its ever changing panorama, laughed.

"Mona," she said. "Wil you tell me why you sent for that girl to do a lot of made you indignant had anyone even offered to do them for you a few weeks

'I did it just because I like to be fuxurlous," said Mona. She stretched out her arms, and took a step or two. "Mary -don't you love it, too?" Here we are. you and I. Some people would say we ought to be hunted fugitives, flying around the country under assumed names -and instead, we're living here, right within sight of the scene of our exploits in the most expensive hotel in town."

said Mona. "But I don't feel a bit sorry clutches of the law for years. The police for our two worthy (7) victims. They thought I was rich-and easy. But it cles in the country have done their best was mighty funny to see the way they whited if I happened to mention casually that any girl I knew was married."

"We did get their money with our plan," said Mary, "and I may be all wrong, but I haven't any acruples about them, either It will be all right to collect the expenses for our campaign if we always take care to present the bill to someone who deserves what he gets as richly as those two men did."

"Speaking of that," said Mona, "we've just now, but if we don't watch out we'll there from time to time." silds off on the floor. We've got to be forehanded, you and I. We can't wait He's an old man, you say?" till the wolf is at the door-we want to turn him away before he remembers to start looking for us."

"You're right," said Mary, "I'm keen enough when we've once started. Mona other matters! But it's a good thing would get started."

"You're not started yet, you know." here forever and bask in the luxury of has ways." this place!"

Mary, confidently. "But-I like the luxury of all this just as much as you do, think it was a dreadful story, Mona!" Still-I wish we had some

"We can't afford that luxury, my dear-and it's about the only one can't too! Not until we've made road to travel before that time comes."

"Yes because, after all, we have got We'll stick to that agreement, I think."

the way-talking about the law, consider get a report from one." me and my doings! I've made a-well, not a friend, but an acquaintance, here!" "In the hotel, Mona? Who?"

Mona, proudly, "For heaven's sake!" said Mary, with the report.

"Why-and how?"

things! It's quite entertaining. Come that he may have to make a break for on down-I'll introduce you to him." his freedom! And here—you remember

as if she were in deadly trouble!"

Mena and Mary had not long to wait before the woman, greatly dejected, left the detectives and went to the elevator. Her manner made it plain that he had not been able to comfort ber.

"Miss Burnett-Mr.Clyde," said Mona, "Miss Burnett lives with me, Mr. Clyde, Now-you're going to be nice to us, aren't you? We're dying with curtosity! What was the matter with that poor soul you were talking with just now? I'm sure ahe's in some sort of real trouble!"

I should say she was!" ejaculated Clyde angrily. "Of course, it's her own fault, in a way-and yet, when I think of a vantage of a woman's mistaks-|"

har voice and in every line of her fea- morrow.

what harm could it do, Mr. Clyde? We never tell on poul!

us," said Mons. "I think it's your duty to Thomas 2", Haynoids, as the agency bad This place was not in Chinatown, but jaw dropped, his hands went up, tell us, so that we'll never, by any chance, discussed his full name to be.

plain truth of it is that the poor lady duing for you you dear? he asked Mona, has a husband she down't get along any you put laid money, don't you? she too well with as it is and I know enough too well with as it is and I know enough of the case to be more it's like fault."

My Mone had a good deal more charity I might do things I wouldn't do for an for her sen their some women who have old someonew. El. ?" naver had to withstand temptation can As he spoke he equested her arm, sixty, was hately aure to find a man of the thun three infrustres the nave open-

Well, he that as it man," said Cirds, shoulder that ran through her frame. "also was founded enough a year or two "Oh. I hope you will, Mo. Hopemody." and choice of the properties.

The properties. thing. But there were the letters, What to stay-

"Oh!" said Mona quickly. "She lost the letters he'd sent her?"

"Lost them-or they were stolen from her. It doesn't much matter which, 'ane point is they've turned up. In the easonable sum-any sum she could have nanaged to get together. But she figured on her husband's money, not on what she can command herself. He

won't believe she can't get it." "Oh-and what does he intend to do?" "Turn them over-some of them-to her silly things for you, which would have husband, if she doesnt make good in the time he's given her. She's come to me, half mad with terror. How he could help being sorry for her, or believing she can't get the money, I don't see! But I've heard things nearly as bad about him before!"

"What a dreadful thing!" said Mary. 'Is there nothing that can be done to

"Not without the very thing she's most afraid of-publicity! If I tried to make a move, the first thing this man Reynotes would do would be to expose her. It's his only weapon-but it's a terribly strong one. It's kept him out of the and half the big private detective agento get something on him-and he defles

"It seems incredible!" said Mons, with thining eyes.

"True enough-but there are the facts! He's got more money than he can possibly know what to do with. I believe the hing's come to be sport for him-that he takes a vicious, deprayed sort of pleasure in seeing his victims squirm. He has a wonderful place out in the suburbs. and-well, I don't know that this is a thing to repeat before you young ladies, got to keep our eyes open, Mary mine. but his peighbors do a great deal of We're living in the very lap of luxury talking about the women who are seen

"Ugh!" said Mons. "What a beast. "He must be about 60," said Clyde, "As

repulsive and vile looking an old scoundrel as you'd find in a long day's hunt,

"You were right," said Mona. "It's an -you'll admit I did my part in the ugly story. But I'm glad you told it to us. Oh, I do hope that poor woman I've got a partner like you, or I never finds some way to beat him! How much time has she?" "He said a week-but he'll give her

said Mona, dryly. "I've not the slightest more than that. He won't strike until des of what to do next. Have you? he's quite certain that there's no way My mind's empty. I just want to stay of getting the money out of her. I know

Back in their own room Mary shuddered.

"I'm not glad he told us," said she. "I "Bo do I!" sald Mona. "But, Marycan't you see? Where could we find a better person to present our next bill it admiringly. against society for settlement?"

"Oh-oh! I didn't think!" said Mary. "But, Mona-a man like that is no Toma and I think we've quite a long burn our fingers if we tried to serve him along you might wear it for your own!" as we did Gerry!"

"Then we'll serve him very differ-We don't break the law. ently," said Mona. "Oh, let me think! I know there's some way of outwitting "Good night, Mr. Reynolds!" 'Yes we'll only bend it, like the big an old villain like that and wouldn't I corporations. It's silly to break the law love to do it, just! I know one thing, more fewels to show you." it's so easy to get around it! For us- too-the more we know about him the all we have to do is to select our victims better our chance will be. You heard you'd be afraid of thieves!"

from among those who are breaking the what Clyde said—the private detective "I'm guarded against them," he law themselves. Then we're safe. By agencies must all know about him. We'll shrewdly. "Look—I'll show you!"

Mary it was who attended to this, and did it, too, without letting the agency suspect that either she or Mona was "The house detective, no less?" said concerned in the matter in any way. And Mary, with a sober face, studied

"He lends money—as well as getting it came a tapping at her door. "Oh, I don't know it just seemed to by blackmall," she said. "He's very voice. "Is everything all right?" me he might be useful! He's an inter- rich-and, oh! He keeps a lot of money esting person, really-and he likes me and jewels as well at his place-he's affectation of sleepiness in her voice. the things they lose, and all sorts of may turn on him at any minute, and written on his face.

"There he is," said Mona. "But he's "Yes. It is nice to have men consid- think of her, he would not have the busy. Mary-I don't believe that woman's erate again, isn't it? We've had enough time to pursue her with his horrible atjust lost a ring or something! She looks experience with the other sort! But tentions. His "clients," people of all here-it goes into that in detail here. It sorts and conditions, since all appeared It was true. A woman whose face bore seems he's rather mad about our sex, to be grist that came to his evil mill. signs of a storm of emotion was pleading my dear. Now I know we can handle began to arrive soon after breakfast,

"We'll have to find out why," said have a weakness, and that's one we can stream. It was easy to understand that play on. "It's risky work, Mona."

choose you. So I'll be the victim of his readhouse. 00-year-old charms-only I won'tl" "How are you going to manage it?" said Mona.

doesn't do to map out a lot of plans ahead, before you know the people you've got to deal with. They won't work, and you tend to stick to them, despite yourself. It's better to approach a thing like know. this with an open mind, if you can manman who is scoundred enough to take ad- age to do it. It seems to me I've got a miage of a woman's mistake. "Won've simply got to tell us more than if I can find it. I think that's just the that," said Mons, determination plain in thing for my call on old Reynolds to-

"Well-I don't know," said Clyde, doubt- that day. Much sa the two girls liked went to a place she had not visited for up! "I get lots of information in con- it, they realised that it was not the a long time-a place that had threatened. Downstairs, Mena waited tensely, plafidence that I'm not at liberty to hest place to use as headquarters during once, to entrap her and drag her down. fol in hand. She heard a wendow relead, Oh, please please and Mary. "Why execute And it was from a small fur- smoke option a place where the drug is library. There was a kneeling figure bedon't know this woman an we would quarter where no questions were asked romance that constitutes its chief appear. Mona called to him: "Hands up!" that Mona, in whice's weeds, set out to many who are forming its acquaint. Stallings swung around in diamay. At for the suburban home of nid Reynolds— area for the first time. And, besides, it might be a warning to fur the auturban home of not Raynolds | ance for the first fime.

But she didn't say it hast- eachied. Tor a pretty woman like you

and Mona had hard work to repress the sort she needed. Here would be no com- he had worked on the combination abuse

All the time she realized that he was | two time?" he said, gloatingly. He fan- | up at the sight of a dozen or more pack- | She recoiled, and his face grew dark , appraising her, weighing her charms, in cied that she, who had once escaped, was ages of letters. He had given up hope with anger. fact. "But I'm very short just now, my now about to fall back into his clutches of the jewels, and he piled everything Mary Burnett watched the pretty hotel lost-and people won't believe they're dear-very short. Business is bad. Still- once more. And he knew that those who nearly together. And then, as she "Playing me for a good thing" Well-I'd like to help you! I don't know about a returned did not escape a second time. | watched him, tensely, Mona heard a step loan-that would be hard to manage. But-ah, I have it!"

"Yes?" she said. "I need a housekeeper! I've just had He began to 'roll a pill' for her. to Consas the one I had-a hussy, my hands of a man who knows their value- | dear, and that's the truth! I could give or thinks he does. She'd have paid any you the place. That would give you a place to stay where you'd be comfortable. And I could pay you something-"

Mona pretended to heeftate, but she was overloyed. He had received her in his office and she was already studying his safe. And so, dubiously, she consented. Reynolds did not give her chanco to change her mind. He sent for his servants at once, and introduced her as the new mistress. Mona shivered as she saw the way the maids looked at her.

Mona, as a matter of fact, had anticipated the possibility that Reynolds would propose some such grrangements. With that in mind she had warned Mary that she might not return, and had made arrangements for keeping in touch with chum. She was well content. She was by no means insensible to the risk she was running, to the false position in which she had deliberately placed herself. But she was confident, too, of er ability to cope with Raynolds. She knew, from the way he looked at her, that she had a power over him, and she meant to use it to the fullest possible

That night, indeed, after she had once gone to her own room and assured herself that she could lock berself in, she deliberately ventured into the lion's den, metaphorically speaking. She went down to the office, which Reynolds also used as a library. He was sitting there alone -the servants had all retired. At the sight of her he started up, plainly pleased, but Mona drew back in con-

"I-I took the liberty of coming down letters Reynolds held. She told her story going to her room. Five minutes later

read myself to sleep." "Help yourself, my dear," he said. You-" he chuckled meaningly, and leared at her-"you're welcome to more all limits! Sure I'll get your letters than a book from me!"

She went to the shelves and after she had selected a novel, made for the door. course! Say-you'd like a chap who got letters and I'm afraid he'll come here."
"Bit down," he said. "Bit down and talk those letters for you pretty well, said Mona. to me a little. You're bonny company for | wouldn't you?" an old fellow like me. But-I'm not too

"Oh, no," she said. "I mustn't stay. He cackied at that, and she started se

she saw him go to his safe and open it. But, though she tried, she couldn't make out the combination-ho was shrewd enough to prevent that. When he turned back he held out a necklace to her, a that he would live up absolutely, string of sparkling brilliants. "Look at the prettles!" he said.

Mona took the necklace and looked at "It's beautiful," she said. "I envy you that, I believe!"

"Ha-ha!" he chuckled. "Try it on, my and saved enough to give us a nice in- linson Gerry! We might very easily dear! Who knows? If you and I get Mona pretended not to understand, and returned it to him.

"Now I must go to bed," she said.

"More" she said. "I'm guarded against them," he said, And in the next few moments thanks to his vanity, Monta was able to

make a mental chart of the whole burgiar slarm system that protected the place. She had hoped for this, rather than expected it. And then she went to her room. But in a few moments there "It's me!" said her employer's cracked

"Quite, thanks," said Mona, with an ever so much. He tells me about all afraid of banks. I don't wonder. I sup-the trouble women make for him here pose he knows that one of his victims his own room, disappointment plainly

his freedom! And here-you remember bright and fresh, in the morning. Sho So, in a few minutes, they went down to the luxurious lobby of the hotel. But Mary had to wait for her introduction. When shocked."

When was afraid of Reynolds by day. As she suspected, he had plenty to keep him occupied, so that while he might him occupied, so that while he might have the him! A man like that was bound to and came all day long, in a steady

his business was a profitable one. Mona, meanwhile, had affairs of her "I'll take the risk. I'm flashler than own that demanded her attention. The you are, though a man who has any first was a meeting with Mary-previsense wouldn't hesitate a minute to ously arranged for, and held at a nearby

"Everything looks fine, my dear," "Don't know yet-I've got to see him real burglar for me some one who can burglar alarm system so far as she first. One thing I've learned is that it crack a safe. I can't do that-and it's could, cutting some wires, disarranging the safe that contains what we're after. others. She also, on a sudden impulse, Do you think you can?"

"I can try," some awfully disreputable people, you she saw that it was open-and that he,

a dependable safe cracker. I'll leave smiled. And, in her own room, she that to you. As usual, the really hard listened breathlessly. She heard an auto work is for you to do."

They moved away from the Grand hotel on the night of her talk with Mona she still dozed; he had not heard her come

tell us, so that we'll never, by any chance, make the same interest of t of their fillow amokers.

nearly fallen a victim to the amounts one house. I'll lat you so if you can open The case is he sure it a lite fault."

The case is he sure it a lite fault."

The same is a man to take the woman's side."

That depends on the people." he species and she heathed, even secretic." with a fixed perpose in her tited, in rewith a fixed purpose in her time, in re- "Plany," each Stallings, confidently, new har acquaintance with it. It had "Qu'y, it's nothing but a cigar heat" to be, however, close here, she felt, che He was an good as his word. In less mum estiminate, but only the very plot his practiced ears catching the citck of

custs at the eight of Mary.

me," she said. She affected a great las- he was coming down. She wheeled amazement at the sight of her. situde. Ching came, and welcomed her, around, and Stallings seized his chance "Listen, Ching," said Mary, "You faith with Mary,

want money?" "Yes." said Ching, who, save for an to find his housekeeper covering a bur-

inability to get his tongue around an giar with her revolver. R. spoke almost perfect English. "Then do something for me, and you lings. She had seen him take the let- we'll meet again!" shall have it-\$50. See? Here it is. I ers, but pretended that she had not. want to know if there is a man here. As he got up he made a sudden lunge

for her and seized the hand that held the who knows how to blow safes." Ching thought for a moment. now, cried out in terror, and crouched "Stallings." he said. "He did a job in Frisco-now he is in hiding here. Come, against the wall. And while they strug-

show him to you." He guided her to one of the little pri- lings: vate rooms. And there she found Stallings, a young, keen-faced man. He had getaway!" been amoking, but Mary saw at once that he was an old-timer-that the drug had no perceptible effect upon him "Want company" she said. "I'd like

to smoke my pipe here with you." "Welcome," he said. He wasn't at all the sort one would expect to be a cracksman. He was rather an attractive young man and only his eyes betrayed him. He looked like any young fellow with plenty of money-a successful young business man, perhaps

Mary studied him, and decided on a bold "I know all about you," she said You're a safe blower."

"A pinch?" he said, not very curiously. "Nothing like that," she told him. "It just happens I need some one in your line as badly as I'll ever need anything!" "Tell me!" he said, interested. "Why not?" said Mary. 'I'm pretty des- them. And then, with a cry of diamay,

And she recounted, with changes to fit her appearance, the story Clyde had in the confusion of his dismay Mona told of the woman in the hotel and the slipped away, pretending that she was

to borrow a book," she caid. "I like to well, and she could see the appeal was Mary was speeding back to the city, striking home to Stallings. "The hound" he said. "Bay-I'm no saint, you know, but he-well, he's past the wild affair of the night, well satisyou! Just give me the layout! Money and jewel's, too, you say? They'd help, of

"I certainly would!" said Mary, mean-

"Well-you'll have the chance to prove Remember, I'm only your housekeeper, it!" he said. "I'm on the level-I'll never bother you till I've put the letters in your hands."

Curiously enough, Mary was sure that she could trust him, that he, confessed thief though he was, had a certain code of his own to which she could be sure promised him a chart of some sort that would guide him among the burgiar alarm wires they both were sure must guard Reynolds' strong box. This hiary knew she would be able to obtain from Mona. Indeed, Mona had it for her when they met again, and Mary was able | teaspoonful of canthrox dissolved in a to report the success of her effort to cup of hot water, afterward rinsing secure the services of a dependable

Mary and Mona met almost daily to ompare notes. And at last Mona urged Mary to send her cracksman at once. "I'm getting nervous, Mary," she said. "Old Reynolds is frightfully persistent. He's a little bit afraid, but I think soon he'll come to the point where he'll feet that he'd just as soon get rid of me as

what I was afraid of. And, you see-I've got something of the same sort on my hands! I'm wondering how to get rid of Stallings after I've made use of htm:"

"Oh!" said Moua. "I wouldn't worry about that, Mary. I think I can see a way out of your troubles. But the only chance there is for me is baste!" "We'll come tonight," said Mary, "He

has planned it all. I'm to come with him, in a car-he has a chauffeur he says he can trust. I'm to wait-if there's any danger he will whistle and we're to run for it."

"That's pretty decent of him, you know," said Mona. "It seems a shame to trick him-and yet-I tell you what you'd better do, Mary. Slip away, if you can, after he comes here, without letting the chauffeur know you've gone. Get another car at the roadhouse-I'll arrange that for you. And then drive down the road at the back of the house and wait for me to join you."

So it was arranged. That afternoon Mona had a scene with Reynolds. And that night, when he, old Reynolds, retired to his own room, he did not undress, but walted. He had a plan in his evti old mind. She had told him she meant to read rather late; he sat waiting for her to come upstairs.

But Mona did little reading. As soon "But you've got to find a as all was quiet she disconnected the cut the telephone wires. Then she went said Mary. "I know upstairs. As she passed Reynolds' door himself, fully dressed, was dozing in a "Well, it's vital to my plan to have chair. She started at this sight; then come up in the road and stop a little Mary did, as she had told Mona, know distance away. And then, taking a rea lot of more or less shady people. And volver, she crept downstairs. Reynolds

such a campaign as they now planned to It was a luxurious resert of those who and a minute later she slipped into the

of their fullow amokers. You sent to prison," she call. "If that There had been a time whom hiary had safe can be broken, I don't want it in

room-empty the safe, please. tools people are to keep letters! They get | Well, well, that's too had! he said. | You allos easie come back one time. | Flatings obeyed, and his area lighted Plot by George Bronson Howard

Novelization by Hugh C. Weir ::: Copyright Kalem Company

"Stringing me, were you?" he cried.

"Don't you see? We're all in the same to pocket the letters. He would keep game!" said Mona.

"Get up" said Mona, sharply, to Stal- Well-I got the letters for you! Mayor didu't tell him

revolver. Reynolds, a coward revealed

gled Mona managed to whisper to Stal-

"I'm with you-I'll let you make your

"Telephone the police!" cried Mona to

Reynolds. He made for the instrument

and then stopped. As Mona had guessed

he dared not, with his record, call in the

police. And the next moment, at a sig-

nal from Mona, Stallings slipped through

'Ob, let him go" cried Mona. "He

He yielded at once.

the window and fied.

with Mona at her side.

letters.

In Mary's apertment they talked over

fied with the jewels Reynolds had given

"But I had to let your burglar get the

Her tears were justified. She had

scarcely spoken when there was a ring

at the door. Mona hid herself; Mary

admitted Stallings. He tossed her the

Mary," he said. "Now-make good!"

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"I took an awful chance for you,

est men I've met! They were back in the Grand Hotel a few days later. And Clyde, the house He made a dash for her-and just then "Yes-and I want Ching to cook for on the stairs. Reynolds had awakened- Mona appeared. Stallings started in detective, came up to them with a beaming fuce.

Stallings was able to emile a minute

The next moment Reynolds came in- later. "I've got to hand it to you girls!" he that?" said. "You certainly strung me along!

came from! What do you know atout They knew a great deal-but they End of Episode No. 1.

"A good sport," said Mona, as he we

"Remember that story I told you?" he

asked. "Well-our friend got her letters

back in the mail-no sign of where they

out. "I like him better than some by

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didn't get anything see, all the lewels are there! I saved them for you."

"You're the bravest woman I ever the average person knows so little, as blackheads. The common resort new!" crosked Terraids. "You're the bravest woman I ever anew!" croaked Reynolds.

"Let me see if they're all here." he examined the jewels; then straightener up. "Yes—all here." he said. "Here—take these—as a reward!"

He held up the necklace he had shown her before, and a tiara of equal value. Mona hesitated, but finally accepted them. And then, with a cry of dismay, iteynolds saw that the letters were gone. He was like a man beside himself, and in the confusion of his dismay Mona slipted away, pretending that she was going to her room. Five minutes later Mary was speeding back to the city,

HANNAH M—I am known as the only woman on the American stage who does not have to report to the use of switches and other make-shifts. If you will use my hair growing formula as follows, you will find that dandruff will be absolutely stopped, the hair roots will regain their youthful vigor, hair will grow quickly and luxuriantly, often several loches a month, and take on a very silky and healthy gloss. Your hair will also stop falling. Mix one ounce of betaquinol in water and alcohol, haif a pint each, or use a full pint of hay rum instead. This makes a very economical hair treatment is mixed in a few moments, and cannot be surpassed. Any drug store can supply you with the beta-quinol.

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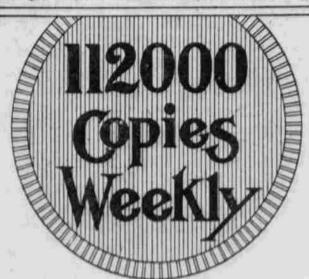
MISS PANNIE O.—As you state you

MISS PANNIE G.—As you state you were unable to get the beta-quinol at the drug store, for making my hair grower, I suggest you send fifty cents to "Secretary to Valeska Suratt, Thompson Bidg, Chicago," and my secretary will see that you get it at ones.

QUESTION.—If you will do this you will he able to remove superfluous hair thoroughly without injury to the skin or legwing a mark. Apply to the hairs some sulfo solution obtainable at any drug store. This will absolutely dissolve the hair instead of burning it. It never leaves a mark or red spot, and

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## A Big Farm Paper

A farm paper must be big in every way to be entirely success-

The Twentieth Century Farmer is one of America's great farm papers because it is big in thought, broad-minded in policies, lofty in ideals, deep in its investigations and study, immense in circulation, large in organization of picked executives

and assistants, unequaled in helpful activities, large in comparative size of each issue, unlimited in pulling power of its ads. It is accomplishing a big work by teaching the farmers in the Missouri valley to grow two bushels of corn or wheat where but one grew before-to produce 400 pounds of pork where but 200 pounds were produced before.

The Twentieth Century Farmer is mighty in its influence for good in agriculture.

