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in his pocket. He glanced at the

"Why, of course,' 'he answered.

showing also in her face. Mara-

bels came a step or two nearer and

"I am very glad to hear you say

looked down at her.

even a scrap of feeling.

INSTALMENT XXXXIII.

Machherson intervened for the "I still have five minutes," he remarked. "Dessiter, with your first time in the debate.

nounced coldly. "You know your own business Dessiter looked at him in sur- ish smile. best. I suppose," Malakoff re- prise.

marked sulkily. "You can speak to her whenever Abel Deane rose to his feet. "The meeting is over," he an- you like." nounced. "You and I. Macpher- Miss Brown half swung round son, are for Downing Street."

QUEER PROPOSAL

The days that followed were the most exciting that Miss Brown had ever known. She took to coming become a great admirer of your to Whitehall an hour earlier in work." the morning and leaving later at night, but whenever she came and whenever she left there was an increasing quantity of work to be done. No outside help was pos-

The subject matter of some of the reports and correspondence it was the first time in their acwith which she had to deal was with scarcely an exception initialed and marked "for Miss Brown in a distant corner of the room saying therefore, that I admire from which place she sometimes your work, Miss Brown, I should watched with unseeing eves the like you to understand that

if you would be my wife." Marabels was there at least three or four times during the Often he stood by Miss Brown's one of bewildered surprise. Im- ed suddenly. side while with swift fingers she mediately afterward came a little "Nothing has happened, I trust, leaving Buckingham Palace afturned over papers and produced rush of color in her cheeks. the expression of a sphinx, scarce- disappointed in you, Miss Brown," why you came to meet me." ly ever speaking, which matched Marabels went on. "My words were "Can't you guess?" he asked.

ORMAN

Robertsen

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COMBE

1929

Miss Brown's own reserve. At such times their eyes never of marriage, but I shall be Prime was coming up?" dressed a direct remark to her, it has been suggested to me by mitted.

his eyes were fixed upon her. Once when he was confiding to She looked appealingly across the clubs, though, Mr. Paul."

dumb," he observed.

"They're pretty reading," Des- hesitation."

country within a week." ment.

produced a little pile of documents would be unnecessary. I offer you official manner. typed a neat tabulation for the an assured position, a comfortable "You are quite right not to," a little grimace. rubber band. Marabels placed them husband."

"There is nothing more I can morrow.

You will permit me to say, how- for dinner?" ever, that I regret it."

night, Colonel Dessiter." "Good night, Miss Brown."

She closed the door behind and went down the steps toward the elevator with trembling knees. "I am in entire disagreement permission, I should like to ad- lightly upon the arm. She hesiwith our friend Bretskopf," he an- dress a word or two to your sec- tated, to find Faul looking down into her face with his usual boy- fruit," Miss Brown ventured, with

"You forgive that I am here to meet you?" he asked eagerly. "Of course. Have you been wait-

"Barely half an hour. I came in her chair, her blue eyes very because--"

wide open something of surprise say nothing." "Miss Brown." he said, "I have He obeyed without a word, af- makes a difference."

ace of any sort of enthusiasm or so. Mr. Marabels," she replied. bulent agitation which she fail- from here-I have a question to suddenly conscious of the fact that cd utterly to understand.

quaintance he had ever addressed machine, a sort of mechanical and Miss Brown drew from the superman, she had always had the pocket of her coat a page from most profound admiration. He ex- one of the morning illustrated only." She moved her desk and "method, orderliness, are all in- isted for her as something entire- papers. typewriter and intrenched herself dications of the life behind. In ly outside the amenities of per- "Tell me. Mr. Paul, is that you sonal life. Why she should be so and your father?" affected by his amazing declara- She pointed to a picture in the few favored callers whom Dessiter admire you. I should be very glad afterward a mystery to her. Lac- Paul's father in full uniform. king any ordinary explanation, with a long line of medals and de-Dessiter dropped his cigarette she decided as they neared Nor- corations across his chest, and by day, always with an uncanny gift and forgot to pick it up. Miss thumberland Avenue, that it was his side Paul, in the white uniof selecting the information he Brown's eyes grew larger and because no man before had ever form of the Russian bodyguard,

larger, her demure little mouth asked her to marry him. was open, her first expression was "I am recovered," she announc- Underneath was a brief line:

to upset you?" from its properly indexed pace "I don't understand you," she "Nothing that should have upthe report of the particulars he de- faltered. sired. Always he remained with "Then for the first time I am whelming surprise. Now tell me

plain enough. I have never thought Isn't this the night Miss Frances glanced at the paper.

and, looking up, would find that man. Yours is the type which ap- promptly. "I know Frances would change at a friend's house near, thought to themselves another ly, anyway. I've played the game life Miss Brown was a little to without any sort of expression, peals to me. I repeat my offer." be terribly disappointed if we and up till now we have escaped one to feed!" Miss Brown rose to her feet, dined anywhere else. No night discovery. It was most unfortu-

the direction of his eyes. are serious?" she asked incredu- very, very sorry. It may be, But Paul, with his shabby bow- though, for the best. You have ler hat in his hand and his over-"I 'am not a man," he answer- heard the rumors tonight?"

peat his words. However, the oc- and a few facts-all day long," twilight.

think he is," Marabels said, "he'll marry you." crisis. Abel Deane will have to ed, as he took off her coat. "We agree to having them out of the Marabels considered for a mo- choose between alienating his for- are going to dine with Mr. Paul. eign supporters and seeing the He knew you were going to be up Dessiter lit the inevitable cigar- "Is there anything more I should whole scheme crumble away." and he came all the way to White-

Miss Brown had been busy desire? From my observation of not discuss these matters," Miss side to get me to promise."

outside, and secured them with a home and all the attentions of a Paul assented. "You must excuse "Oh, I don't know," she exclaimme that I am very, very interested. ed discontentedly. "What's the

"All three of which I must res- Those three men who have There was a moment's silence.
To all appearances Miss Brown was now quite calm. She glanced about them except their birth. at the clock, put the cover on her Their discomfiture here would be typewriter and, moving across the a joy to us because any blow to room, took down her coat and the Russia of today helps us forward toward the Russia of to-

"It is quite naturar." Miss Erown "Nothing, thank you," he replied, looking at her curiously.

"I will not insult my estimate has to do with your country. You
of your character," Marabels said, shall now tell me, if you please, "by asking if your decision is final. What you are going to offer us

He laughed heartily. "I am very sorry," Miss Brown "Forgive me that I am so garrejoined. "Good night. And good rulous," he begged. "There will be a clear soup-not so bad. There will be at least the cheese with it to remind you that if we could have afforded it it would have been petito marmite. And then there is some veal. It is very good veal. My father usually grumbles, but he has dined off it already and he says that it is good veal." "Then there is a compot of

> a barely repressed smile. "How did you guess?' 'he demanded.

"Bananas and oranges and thin slices of apples.' "Wonderful! But you see," he went on apologetically. "fruit is a "Do you mind not telling me very difficult matter. For twopence now." she interrupted, "but extra you can have a small jug walk with me until I speak, and of cream. There is no profit on that, I can assure you, and it

ter a single anxious downward "It sounds a most delicious dinglance. Miss Brown was wholly ner," Miss Brown declared, "and I anable to account for the curious am getting hungry talking about motion which possessed her. Her it. I'll fetch Frances and you can she rely on seeing us in three-quarters was conscious that the tears were of an hour. But before you go, Mr. very near her eyes. It was a tur- Paul-I am going to take a taxt

For Marabels, as a magnificent They passed under a gas lamp,

tion remained then and for long centre page. It was a snapshot of also with medals and decorations. Two of our Russian guests

ter the Levee this afternoon -General Prince Serge Alexis of Norgadia, a connection of the late Czar, and his only son, Prince Paul of Norgadia. Paul flushed a little as he

met. He scarcely ever even ad- Minister within a few months and "Why I believe it is," she ad- raphers were too quick for us," have led you to his mother and have known it. They are of the have anything to do with me he said. "Please do not tell father and introduced you with a world who know how to hide such Noel Frankland and Paul yet sometimes when he was at the the present occupant of that of little set speech as his fiancee." | things." other end of the room, talking in fice that a wife is almost a neces- "will you can. We go once a year to "And they wouldn't have a Prince with a family to go once a year to "Well, anyhow, it wouldn't have a Prince with a family to go a low tone to Dessiter, she would sity. It would be impossible for -and bring her." humor my father. He thinks it is Frances sighed. "That's the and not a penny to do it is fancy that he was watching her, me to live with an ordinary wo- "Of course I will," she assented a duty we owe the family. We half humorous, half pitiful, "and cruel part of things. Life's beast- Perhaps for the first time"

Dessiter an event of great im- room toward Dessiter, but his facer are take you a little way." Let me take you a little way." portance, he lowered his voice. was averted.

Dessiter, glancing up, followed "I am to take it then that you pen that night, of course. I am on the step of the taxi.

| coat flapping about him, had al-Marabels continued in his usual ed, "who wastes or needs to re- "I hear nothing but rumors- ready disappeared into the misty

"I have an appointment with casion is perhaps unusual, al- Miss Brown declared. Frances had removed her out-Abel Deane tonight, Dessiter. I though I had hoped that you "There's a late edition just out door clothes and was lounging in want all your intimate reports of would have been able to answer which announces semi-officially her dressing gown, not as usual Malakoff. Bretskopf and Krasset." me one way or the other without that the government has refused upon the bed, but in the one easy Abel Deane's condition that one of chair. An unopened evening paper siter observed, as he crossed the "I will try to do so then," Miss these foreigners should be allowed lay by her side and an unlighted room toward Miss Brown's desk. Brown acquiesced. "I thank you a place upon the commission. If cigarette drooped from her lips. "If Abel Deane is the man I very much, but I do not wish to it is the truth, there will be a "Hurry up," Miss Brown enjoin-

have said—any information you "You will forgive me, but I do hall and waited half an hour outamong the files in the safe. She you I had gathered that such Brown reminded him in her best Frances' face softened for a moment, and then she indulged in

"You don't know?" her friend repeated. "Why, I thought you liked Mr. Paul." Frances, lip curled for a mo-

ment, the light shone out of her "Of course, I like Paul," she repeated. "Any fool would. He's one

of the dearest beings alive. He makes any of the other men one meets seem absolutely impossible, but don't you see, Edith, what's the good of it all? That poor boy, carrying the restaurant upon his back, supporting his mother, father and sister, and only doing it by sheer slavery! What's the good of adoring him? What place is there for me or for you or for any of us in his life, except just a few moments of pleasant friendship?

And then-look here!" She flung the same illustrated paper which Miss Brown had seen

"A Prince!" she scoffed. "A pretty Princess I should make. wouldn't I, trying to live on what was left over after Paul had fed the family. Poor boy," she went on. "I'd do anything in the world to help him, give him anything in the world he asked for, but it wouldn't help either of us. You're a little fool. Edith, to keep on bothering me about him. He's a great deal more dangerous to me than all the Franklands in the world ever were. You don't know! how near I was last time I saw: him to throwing my arms round his neck and telling him what a dear I thought him, and asking whether there wasn't any way I could make him a little happier." Miss Brown went over and passed her arms round Frances' shoulders. There was sympathy in her tone, grave though it was.

"And even then, dear," she whispered, "it wouldn't have been

dangerous at all. Paul would have

taken you into his great arms, he

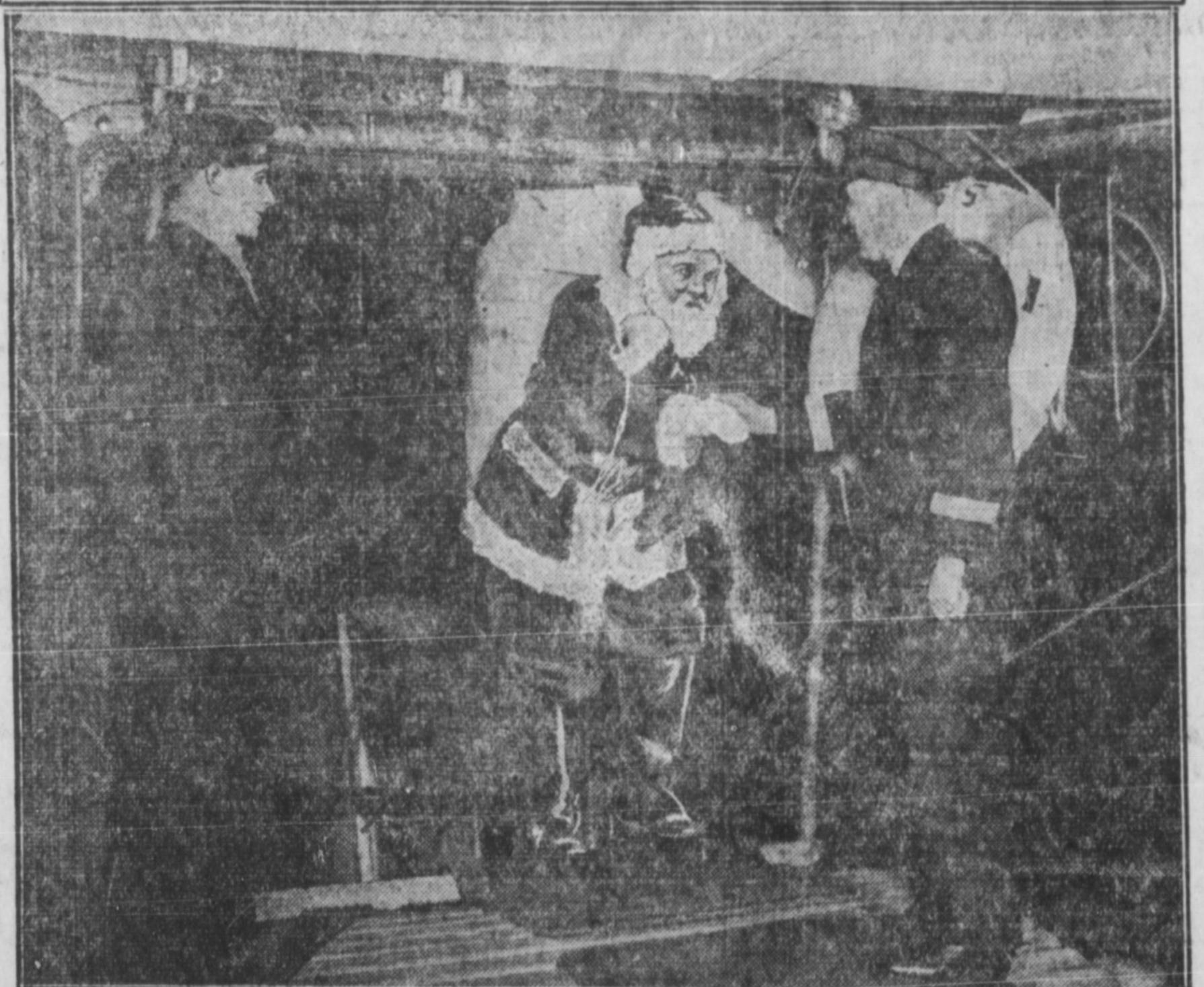
would have thought that it was

EIGHT This Story will commence soon in the Daily News

just the eustom among English "If they had felt like that," Miss the only two men worth the "I am very sorry that the photo- girls to be frank, and he would Brown declared, "you would never about who have ever wark

up to my twenty-seventh year, and (To Be Continued Tomoro

SANTA CLAUS WELCOMED ON SHIP



SCORES of happy youngsters received a surprise visit from Santa Claus on Saturday night on the Anchor-Donaldson liner "Athenia" prior to departure from Halifax for Europe. Bearded and garbed in the traditional manner, Santa dispensed gifts to all the boys and girls travelling in the big ship before vanishing as mysteriously as he came.

Boys and Girls

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