



JULES VERNE'S TOMBSTONE AT ALIENS
PORTRAYING HIS "SERIALS"

AMAZING STORIES

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In Our Next Issue:

PIRACY PREFERRED, by John W. Campbell, Jr. In this story, as in his previous ones, our young author offers us a rare combination of accurate science with excellently written fiction—which makes a perfect **AMAZING STORY**. This time, Mr. Campbell looks into the future of aviation—a subject which at the present time compels a universal interest.

THE NON-GRAVITATIONAL VORTEX, by A. Hyatt Verrill. When we discover what gravitation is, scientists will perhaps find it less impossible to annihilate gravity. This is an extraordinary tale, dealing with vortices that develop a strange phenomenon—the local annihilation of gravitation.

ELEMENT No. 87, by Ralph Linn. Chemists have determined from various considerations that there can be only 92 original elements in the chemical scale. Only comparatively recently have a goodly number of these been discovered. But there still remain a few about which chemists know little or nothing, and there is no telling what possibilities an undiscovered element might hold. Our author uses this idea in an exceedingly clever bit of scientific fiction.

THE UNIVERSE WRECKERS, by Edmond Hamilton. (A Serial in 3 parts) Part II. In this instalment our four travelers experience many dangers with the extraordinary beings of Neptune, which is nearly 3 thousand million miles from the sun, but they learn the source of the power that has caused the increased rotation of the sun, which threatens the life of all the nearer planets in the solar system.

FLAMINGO, by Clarence Edward Heller. Much has been said in the daily journals of wonderful robots, the direct successors of the almost historical "steam man" of two generations ago. But think what would happen if not only the servant and the manual worker were replaced by robots—if even our great singers and famous actors were likewise replaced in such manner. Our new author has woven a charming extravaganza of the amusements of the future—not so very far in the future, at that.

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Our Cover

This month illustrates a scene from Part I of the story entitled, "The Universe Wreckers," by Edmond Hamilton, in which the four travelers, fitted out in their space-walker suits, are making the necessary repairs to their space-flier, which sustained some damages while going through the asteroid zone on their way to Neptune.

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The Pea Vine Mystery

"Things all are shadows, shadows all,
And ghosts within an idiot's brain—
A little while, they fade and fall,
A little while, they come again."

—SPECTER

THERE lay the body. The man was known to have been subject to fits which would seize him and render him unconscious for sometimes two days at a time—but these were usual with him and he had been given many more years to live by the doctors. It was practically certain he had not died of one of these seizures. Then what had killed him?

He was found where he had fallen, into a mass of tangled roots of the common pea, in a hole which had been recently dug. It was with some difficulty that they disentangled the vines, particularly from around his neck. Strangulation? Possibly, but these seizures were never known to cause the man to struggle when an attack came on—he simply dropped, unconscious.

As there was no mark on him, and no stones near for

his head to hit, the cause had to be either the fit, or strangulation by cutting off his air supply.

The county farm agent commenced to study the mystery and finally came out with a most astonishing theory—he claimed that at that time of year pea vines grew very rapidly. He also claimed that not only did they grow rapidly, but that their strength was prodigious—that as they grew they could lift a 300-pound weight for every square inch exposed. He claimed that the heat of the man's body, along with a recent shower, and combined with the trophism of the roots to seek the ground again, caused them to crisscross over the man's throat, swell and strangle him while he was unconscious. This theory was finally accepted.

By A. L. HODGES.