

Guy," remarked the American. I'm a sort of father confessor and mind-doctor shaken up together. My advice is well known to be worth ten dollars a drop, but you can have it for nothing—and you look as if you needed it."

It isn't only the adventure," said the Duke. "Anybody's welcome to hear all about that, and I'm surprised you haven't read it in the morning paper."

"Never can find the news in English papers," grumbled Vandervlane. "I get sort of lost in the woods of advertisements put in by old ladies who offer refined homes to officers' daughters, or want to exchange a moth-eaten canary for a lame poodle or a bag of potatoes. Besides, I didn't try this morning. I was too busy thinking about a little adventure of my own."

"It was the inner meaning—or what may be the inner meaning—of my adventure that kept me awake," went on the Duke, too intent on his

own affairs to notice his friend's diversion.

O "h!—woman in it?"

"The most beautiful woman in the world."

"I'll bet you she isn't that. Second most beautiful, I'll grant you."

"Why do you say that?"

Because my adventure has made me acquainted with the most beautiful woman who ever did, could, should or would live, and I'm going to find out her name before I'm twenty-four hours older."

"You don't know it?"

"Not yet, though that's a detail, as I know where she lives—and thereby hangs a tale. But I want to hear yours first."

The Duke nothing loth, began his narrative and had barely finished, when Haskins appeared at the half-open door of the bedroom, a parcel in his hand. "Beg pardon, Your Grace, but this just came by District Messenger, and under your Grace's address, there's the word 'Immediate.'"

TO BE CONTINUED.

ANYTHING TO OBLIGE.

HOUSE-AGENT (at last coming to an end of his inquiries): "Ah, now, there is only one other thing, Mr. Brown. Have you any children?"

PROSPECTIVE TENANT (at the end of his patience): "Yes I have four or five; still, I could drown one or two if you object to children in the house."

ENCOURAGING.

SHE: "I am afraid we shall have trouble with servants after we are married."

HE: "I won't mind that dear, as long as I have you."

SHE: "Do you notice the soft, warm scent of these flowers you brought me?"

HE: "No—er—I was thinking of the cold hard dollars they cost me."