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—OR—
The Romance of a South African Trading Station.

CHAPTER XXXVI.
THE UNSOLVED ENIGMA.

"And you ask for ten thousand more immediately, with a prospect of still further calls."

"Loans, loans, my dear Dartmouth—say loans. All will be repaid."

When the Count Vitzarelli enters Rome as conqueror or dictator of Italy!" broke in Reginald Dartmouth, coldly.

The count's face lighted up.

"Yes, yes!" he said. "And that, thank Heaven, may not be long!"

"Or it may," said Reginald Dartmouth. "There is a chance, you see, my dear count; a very risky chance. Now, we Englishmen, shop-keepers as we are, require some security for our money. Show me, if you can, what shadow of security I possess that Italy will be Count Vitzarelli's and that my money will be mine again."

The count shrugged his shoulders.

"What further information can I give you than you already possess, my dear Dartmouth?"

Reginald Dartmouth smiled subtly.

None he knew.

"And, further, my dear count," he resumed, this time more slowly and, if possible, more softly—"I speak now as a man of the world to a man of the world—what security do I possess, supposing Italy the count's, that all I have staked will be returned to me?"

The question was a direct insult, and the high-born count sprang to his feet with all his Italian passion blazing in his face.

"Sir!" he exclaimed. "This insult—"

"Nay," said the captain. "An insult can not be where none is intended. Sit down, count, I pray. I spoke as a man of the world. In business to ask a man for security is not to insult him. When money changes



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head with a gesture almost of contempt.

"No count," he replied, rising as he spoke. "I ask for one to whom I have already given my heart; I ask for one who will give me a greater stake in the cause than even self-interest. Give me the woman I love and I am yours, count, till death."

"Her name—her name!" said the count, excitedly.

"Lucille Vitzarelli," replied Reginald Dartmouth, with impressive distinctness.

The count sprang to his feet with an exclamation upon his lips and a host of varied emotions flitting across his face, pride not being the least.

"Lucille!" he exclaimed, when the breath, driven from him by the sudden announcement, had returned sufficiently to allow of his speaking. "Lucille—my niece, the Countess Vitzarelli!"

"The same," returned Reginald Dartmouth, with cool sang-froid.

"But," breathed the count, sinking into the chair again and looking up into the immovable face with a troubled and hesitating glance—"but, are you aware, do you remember—"

Then, disliking to give utterance to his thoughts, he stopped.

"Your pause, count, in your gentle reminder of the respective stations of the sutor and the lady. You would have me remember that I am plain Captain Dartmouth, of good family and descent blood, perhaps, but still untitled and undecorated, and that your niece is of pure, blue blood, Countess of Vitzarelli, and an Italian princess. The reminder is unnecessary, inasmuch as I, for one moment, have never allowed myself to forget it."

And he smiled the subtle smile of power which had several times already irritated the Italian.

"I have never forgotten it, count, and I never shall. I pray you do not forget that we of England think so much of our old Norman blood as you of your kingly descent, and that with us titles go for nothing weighed against wealth and power. Both of these are mine. Your presence here—this small book—proves it. These I offer you, unlimited and unstinted, for the hand of your niece, Lucille, Countess Vitzarelli."

The count rose and paced the room.

"I, Captain Dartmouth—I will not sell Lucille, even for Italy. I can not. Ask me all else, even my life, and I give it you willingly. But this—is impossible."

And with a gesture of the hand, as if pushing the obnoxious proposal from him, he sank into the chair again.

Reginald Dartmouth eyed him with intense and cool enjoyment.

"You use harsh words, almost as harsh and more unnecessary than those you condemned in me awhile ago. I asked you not to sell your niece. I asked you to give her to me; I should have asked your consent only."

The count brightened up.

"My consent?" he said. "That is another matter."

"Just so," said Reginald Dartmouth, "and you will give that—say, and readily, because you feel within your heart perfectly assured that Lucille—the old man turned at the other's familiar use of the name—will never give hers. No excuse, I implore," he added, as the count, with a tell-tale flush, was about to speak.

"We are men of the world, my dear count, and your sharpness—I may use the word, I hope, without offense—does you credit and does not offend me. You give your consent to my espousal of your niece, Lucille, if I can obtain her's?"

And he opened his check-book upon the desk.

"Yes—one thing more," interposed the unsuspecting count, "and that is to name your bride."

Reginald Dartmouth smiled strangely.

"Is that a condition? Are there any saving chances to your agreement, my dear count? I ask for an Italian bride, one who has a share in our cause—do you wish me to name her?"

The count, troubled by the smiling scrutiny of the dark eyes, shifted on his seat.

"Is it possible for me to bind myself to the fulfilment of a half-expressed agreement?" he asked. "Name the bride you ask. Is it the Signora Bellini; Madam Pauline?"

Reginald Dartmouth shook his

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Pattern 2277 was used to make this comfortable model. It is cut in 7 Sizes: 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48 inches bust measure. A 38 inch size will require 6 1/4 yards of 36 inch material. This is a splendid style for mature figures. The lines are simple and pleasing and the skirt is of comfortable width.

Gingham, seersucker, linen, drill, poplin, lawn and chambray are excellent materials for this style.

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A GOOD "BLOUSE AND SKIRT STYLE" FOR THE GROWING GIRL.

3278

Pattern 3278 is portrayed in this model. It is cut in 4 Sizes: 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. A 12 year size will require 6 yards of 36 inch material for the blouse and skirt of one material. The skirt alone requires 3 yards of 36 inch material.

This will be effective in plaid suiting for the skirt, and pongee for the blouse. Linen, jean, wash silk and chambray are also good for the blouse, while the skirt may be of serge, gabardine or khaki.

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A skirt of black taffeta is smart worn with a black-trimmed white pique bolero.

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Revers appear on every sort of garment; on coat, blouse, dress and even on the formal frock.

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(To be Continued.)

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Boys' Am. Grey Tweed Suits,
Two-Piece Suits to fit ages 9 to 14 years.
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Boys' Heavy Khaki Drill Suits,
Ages 4 years to 10 years. Only \$4.90 suit, for all sizes.

These Khaki Suits will wear like a bit of iron. They are made Military Style but can be altered if required. The coat comes with four pockets, each with a Buttoned Flap, and Coat Buttons are detachable Military Metal Buttons. The Pants have two front pockets and one on the hip, and also Belt Support Straps. Consider this price of \$4.90 and you will find nobody will even just make a boy's suit for that price to-day (excluding the materials), unless the boy's mother. And she will do this even if she doesn't get a vote; and who will say that a capable woman like that doesn't deserve one.

We have some other Boys' Tweed Suits in stock in odd sizes at prices of some time ago.

We have Boys' Tweed Pants in stock at low prices.

We have even some Boys' Odd Vests in stock at the moment.

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Older Stock and Older Values,
ALL OUR BOYS' COTTON SUITS AND BLOUSES ARE SELLING AT LAST YEAR'S PRICES, SO THEY ARE CHEAP AS WELL AS GOOD STYLES.

We had more Boys' Cotton Suits and Blouses last year than we had Summer. This year we had more Summer.

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To tell the truth we purchased some of these this year, but you will find good values here despite that.

If the boy is going camping this Summer he may want an Oil Coat. We have them at last Fall's prices. Goods bought at this Spring's prices were mostly high, but the prices quoted for Fall staggered us. We can therefore advise you in all faith to buy before newer prices come into effect.

HENRY BLAIR

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