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Which Was The Heir?

CHAPTER XXXIX. (Concluded.) 'WHO is he?' he asked. 'Of course you'll state your case fully—you won't keep anything back? I must know the worst, if worst it is; for I'm hoping you're mistaken.' 'Oh, I'm not mistaken,' said White, with an air of confidence that struck home. 'The heir is Mr. Edmund Bassington's son.'

him forward, to proclaim him the heir, if I don't come to terms with you, which I'm sure I shall, though.' 'Does the boy know of his claim, of his relationship to the Starboroughs?' asked Sidney. 'No,' replied Lane; 'he knows nothing. And he needn't know anything, can't know anything, unless I choose to tell him. That's where I come in. The fact is, this Mr. Edmund Bassington was rather a queer fish—seems to me all the Starborough family are what you call eccentric—he lived out there in Australia under an assumed name, and he died without telling it to his children.'

do business on the other side, and whether I get as much or not, you're out of it completely—chucked. You lose the title and the estates, and you go back to London as poor as you came from it; you just sink back to what you were before, whatever that may have been. There is no help for it. I don't suppose the heir would help you—or perhaps he might, throw you a beggarly hundred a year, just to make up for the disappointment. How would you like that? How does that prospect please you? Sidney's swarthy face went from yellow to something like green. The earl help him! He knew only too well that the earl would be only too glad to get rid of him; he knew that the earl had always disliked him, and he feared him with contempt. One hundred a year! He was not likely to give him even that. The earl might present him, through Mr. Oldham, with fifty pounds. Fifty pound against the title and estates of Starborough; and this scoundrel, this evil eyed, lantern-jawed villain, held the balance in his hand! Coward as he was, I think if Sidney Bassington could have got hold of the revolver he would have shot his extortioner. At any rate, there was murder in his mind. But he knew that there was no chance of his shooting the man, and that there was every chance, in fact a certainty, of the man shooting him if he attempted violence.

Harry Lauder's Severest Critic.

The popular Scotch comedian places the greatest reliance upon his wife's judgement in regard to new songs. "I have got books," he says, "heaps of them, of old music. Some of the books are nearly 200 years old. I can play the bagpipes, and the piano, too, sufficiently well to try over the songs, and when I am putting words and music together I have just my wife to give me her opinion. She is my critic, and I rely entirely on her judgement. When I try a new song she stands at the back of the stalls to watch me and me to listen, and when my turn is over she gives me her opinion. It is always sufficient for me. Even my patter I submit to my wife to criticize. The secret of successful songs? Well, I believe in tunes the audiences can easily hum, for they cannot all sing the words. You get such tunes among the old old melodies of the people, and I am hunting these up every day."

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comes to me suddenly. The terms you ask are tremendous ones, but I am afraid I shall have to agree to them. 'I am afraid you will,' commented Lane, drily. 'I don't deny they're a bit stiff, but this is the chance of my life, and I am making the most of it, naturally enough. And I'm not only thinking of myself, I've got a daughter; she's the apple of my eye; and when I've made this pile I'm going to settle down as a country gentleman and make her an heiress. She's been well brought up and highly educated, and is equal to any position 'owever high—but that don't interest you.' He was quite right; it did not interest Sidney in the very least. He was too much engrossed thinking of himself, of this terrible peril, this danger of losing all that had become so precious to him. He thought not only of the title and the estates and the wealth that would go with it, but of Eva Rashleigh. Perhaps it was this last thought, the desire for her, which assailed him most strongly. Give it all up, the thought of winning her! It was impossible! 'Let us cut the matter short,' he said. 'I agree to your terms. By the way, I have taken these documents for granted, I haven't suggested that they are forgeries.' Lane shrugged his shoulders. 'They're right enough,' he said, indifferently. 'I'm not clever enough to forge them; and I couldn't forge the stamps, you know. Besides I'm not the man to run my neck into a noose. I've had enough of—' 'Quod,' he was going to say, but he checked

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the boy who I was looking for; and he was down here. 'That's why you came down here—to look for him?' asked Sidney. White nodded. It did not suit him that Sidney should know that 'Captain White' was identical with 'Henry Lane, Mrs. Farren's son-in-law. Time enough to declare himself, if he did ever declare himself, when he had pulled off this little affair. 'That's it,' he said. 'I came after the boy. He's slipped away; but I know where to put my hand upon him. In fact, I'm fully prepared to bring

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Table with columns A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z. Lists names and addresses of individuals with unclaimed letters.

SEAMEN'S LIST. Table with columns A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z. Lists names and details of seamen.

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