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to say that he played a very poor game but the "lives" were low, so that it did not matter to him; indeed, with his newly awakened love of gambling he would have liked the stakes higher.

While the game was in progress a new-comer entered. He was a tall, thin man, with sharp eyes and lantern jaws; he was very well dressed, perhaps a little too smartly, and he carried himself with an air strangely compounded of swagger and slink.

"Hello, Captain White!" exclaimed one; "and where have you turned up from?"

The captain smiled as he moved with a gliding, sinuous gait to the settee. "Just back from foreign service, boys," he said; and Sidney, though he was listening absently, was struck by the peculiar, toneless smoothness of the voice and its cockney accent.

"Why, let's see; how long is it you have been away?"

The captain shook his head. "Oh, a deuce of a time," he replied, with cheerful evasiveness, "though now I look round the old place it seems only the other day. What is it—pool? Count me in next game, boys!"

He sat and looked on, drinking two whiskies and sodas with a speed and facility which indicated a long practise in the operation, then found a cue and joined in. He played remarkably well, and Sidney watched him admiringly, and envied him as he put down the balls with the smoothness and ease of a professional.

"Here, this won't do, Captain; you'll have to come in with a couple of lives, won't he, Mr.— I beg your pardon, sir, I don't happen to know your name," said one of the men to Sidney.

(To be Continued.)

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UNCLAIMED LETTERS REMAINING IN G.P.O. to APRIL 4, 1910.

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 listing names of seamen, their ship names, and agents.

General Post Office, April 4, 1910. H. J. B. WOODS, P.M.G.

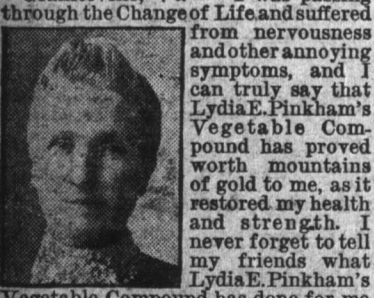
Which Was The Heir?

CHAPTER XXI. (Continued.) I love to hear you say that, darling," she murmured. "And I know it's true. But a registrar's I've read about that kind of marriage, and always hated the idea; but I suppose it can't be helped. Shall we be married at once?"

She hid her face modestly against his shoulder, so that he did not catch the eager, anxious gleam in her eyes. "Fancy us being husband and wife! Can you fancy it, dearest?"

WORTH MOUNTAINS OF GOLD

During Change of Life, says Mrs. Chas. Barclay



Grantville, Vt.—"I was passing through the Change of Life and suffered from nervousness and other annoying symptoms, and I can truly say that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has proved worth mountains of gold to me, as it restored my health and strength. I never forget to tell my friends what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me during this trying period. Complete restoration to health means so much to me that for the sake of other suffering women I am willing to make my trouble public so you may publish this letter."—Mrs. CHAS. BARCLAY, R.F.D., Grantville, Vt.

out. Of course, we must comply with all the proper legal forms.

"Of course!" she echoed, with a barely suppressed earnestness. "Oh, but think of your being away from me for a whole fortnight, Sidney! I'd—I'd almost rather not be married."

"I can run down in between. I've only to take rooms somewhere and live there for a day now and then," he explained.

To whom it may concern: This is to certify that I have used MINARD'S LINIMENT myself as well as prescribed it in my practice where a liniment was required and have never failed to get the desired effect.

C. A. KING, M. D.

They sat and talked for over an hour, and before that time she had convinced him that her consent had been wrung from her. She sped to the cottage—looking behind her with lingering glances—with a heart beating furiously with anticipatory triumph and glory—the Countess of Starborough!

But as Sidney went slowly to the house, his enthusiasm and eagerness rather diminished. After all, it was as important step he proposed taking; after all, he was the future earl, and—and, well, Rachel, for all her prettiness and charm, was scarcely fitted to the wife of so exalted a personage. Besides, there was an awkward secret respecting her father. She did not know that her father was a convict—perhaps if he told her, she wouldn't insist upon a marriage? But he had scarcely sunk low enough for such a piece of baseness, and he sighed perplexedly.

The next morning he went to London. He said nothing to Sir Edward of his visit, but he sent a respectful little note to the earl, asking if there was anything he could do for him in town, to which the earl returned the courteous reply that he could not think of troubling Mr. Bassington with any commissions, the same always being executed by his lordship's agents.

With this snub as a send-off, Sidney went off. On the way up he viewed the situation with even less satisfaction than that with which he had regarded it on the previous night. In fact when he was away from the glamour of Rachel's presence he was able to realize that he was playing the fool. But he told himself that the matter had gone too far for him to draw back, and in simple truth, he was too much afraid of Rachel to break his promise.

It had once been the height of his ambition to have rooms in George Street, St. James's—how poor an ambition it seemed now!—and he thought it would be a very good locality for his present purpose. As the cab carried him there it also occurred

to him that it would be safer if he took them in an assumed name, for someone might identify his own with that of the Starborough family.

CHAPTER XXII.

There are always plenty of rooms to be obtained in George Street at that time of the year, and as Sidney had plenty of money at his command, he chose a fairly handsome suite, paid for a month in advance, and said he would dine and sleep there that night.

The landlady was all obsequiousness—she had obtained twice her usual rent—and assured "Mr. Richards" that she would make him comfortable.

He sauntered about Piccadilly for an hour or two—Sir Edward had not yet put him up at the Fortune Club, so that he had nowhere to go—then returned to his solitary meal. It was all right enough, but he did not very much enjoy the admirably cooked sole cutlets and souffe, for the folly of the step he was going to take loomed heavily upon him all the while he was eating.

When he had got through the meal he wondered what he should do with himself. Then he thought of some billiard-rooms off the Strand, to which an acquaintance, on unusually flush occasions, had taken him, and, calling a cab, had himself driven there.

On his previous visits to this place he had thought it very "smart" and "sporting," but with his newly acquired experience, he looked round the rather dingy room with a barely concealed air of contempt.

It was a respectable place enough, and two or three clerks, a building barrister and a journalist were playing pool. Sidney seated himself on the raised settee, and ordering a whiskey and soda, watched the game. Presently he was invited to join, and he took a cue. It is scarcely necessary

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