

A PLOT FOR EMPIRE.

THRILLING STORY OF CONTINENTAL CONSPIRACY AGAINST BRITAIN.

"He must be made to leave it." "By force?" "If necessary," Mr. Sablin answered coolly.

Lady Deringham raised her hand to her forehead and sat thinking. The man's growing earnestness bewildered her.

"Victor," she said firmly, "I refuse; you can go away at once! I will have no more to say or to do with you."

"What is it?" she asked hoarsely. CHAPTER XXVI. Mr. Blatherwick sat St. Anthony.

"I am afraid," Harcutt said, "that either the letter was a hoax, or the writer has thought better of the matter."

"I will take his place then, if I may," she said, seating herself in the chair which the waiter was holding for her.

"Yes," Wolfenden agreed thoughtfully, with his eyes fixed upon the two departing figures.

CHAPTER XXVII. By Chance or Design?

Wolfenden sent his phaeton to the station with Harcutt, who had been summoned back to town upon important business.

"I am happy," Mr. Blatherwick said, "to be able to believe that the letter was after all a hoax."

"I do not understand you," Lord Wolfenden said. "What do you mean by that?"

"I do not know what pleasure you can find in making a fool of a decent little chap like that," he said.

"I am afraid," she said, with a sigh, "that you used to flirt with me."

"Well," the former exclaimed, drinking up his liquor, "it is a sell!"

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A good deal has appeared in the newspapers lately about bridge whist, a game which is taking a great hold on card players from ocean to ocean.

"I shall be very pleased," he answered, smilingly. "I ought perhaps to tell you that the horses are very fresh and don't go well together; they have a nasty habit of running away down hill."

"On one condition," she said, smiling up at him. "I will be granted already," he declared.

"That you let me drive for just a mile," he handed her the reins at once, and changed seats.

"I am not contemplating making any one an admirable wife," matrimony does not attract me at all.

"I am afraid," she said, with a sigh, "that you used to flirt with me."

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