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 ST. JOHN'S

"Love in the Wilds"

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

CHAPTER X.
 THE TAMING PROCESS.

"And you are keeping me," he said, coolly. "Which is it to be? Am I to go alone, or will you come and show me the best ways and prettiest ditches?"

"If you wanted me to show you the way, why didn't you ask me?" she said, catching at the loophole and leaving the room.

Again the captain smiled and, whistling an air from one of the operas, went down the terrace.

"Get the pony saddled for Miss Grace," he said.

The man touched his hat and, turning the cob over to another groom, hurried to get the pony out.

Presently Grace ran out all habited and all eagerness.

Her face puckered with annoyance as the man led the pony to the steps, and, striking her dainty riding-whip against her habit, she said, irritably: "No Dolly, Simmonds! Who told you to saddle her, you stupid!"

The man looked at the captain, who had addressed him, and held the stirrup for her to mount.

"I told him, Miss Darrell," he said.

"You?" said Grace. "And pray, sir, who told you?"

"No one," he said, with the same indifferent coolness.

Grace looked from the man to the captain and from him back again; then she came slowly down the steps and, disregarding his hand, sprang into the saddle, her face darkened by a frown.

The captain did not seem to notice it, and they rode on in silence for a few minutes, when Grace, who could not keep anything underground for more than five minutes, said, abruptly: "And pray, Mr. Impudence, what made you order this little bit of a beast out?"

"What were my reasons for preferring that you should ride this pretty little pony instead of the big hunter I saw you on this morning, Miss Darrell?"

Grace clinched her hand and turned her angry eyes upon him.

"Yes, Mr. Dartmouth!" she repeated, mocking his languid tones. "Oh, don't 'Miss Darrell' me, ma'am; I shall hate the name as much as I do—"

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He saw the horse taken to the stable and groomed, and ordered the gun and parcel to be taken to his room.

Grace was sitting in the dining-room, pretending to do some needle-work—only pretending; for she never kept the needle in her hand for more than ten minutes; "working fidgeted her," she said—and ran to the window to peep.

The captain caught a glimpse of her face behind the curtain but said nothing.

After luncheon he took his gun and accompanied the squire in a walk.

The old man was pleased to have him, and they went over the farm, piggeries, cow houses, and all.

A week before, Captain Reginald Dartmouth would as soon have thought of going down a coal mine as pottering round pig houses, but now a change had come over the spirit of his dream.

He listened to the squire's little bits of information and statistics with interest, and asked questions that showed he was not indifferent to the extent and well-being of the estate.

"Ah," said the squire, as he turned to go back. "I ain't so young as you, Reginald, and can't look after things as they should be looked after," and he smothered a sigh.

Captain Dartmouth knew he was thinking of the outcast, who had been young enough and did look after things, and said:

"Oh, I think everything is in capital case, sir. The men go about their work pretty well."

"But they want looking after," said the squire, leaning on his stick and frowning at a hayrick. "They want some one down here every morning to set things going."

Captain Dartmouth swung his gun under his arm.

"If I can be of any use while I am here," he said, "pray let me. If you like, I will look them up in the morning. It will be amusement for me, and, perhaps, let you feel more at your ease."

The squire thanked him.

"It's very good of you, Reginald," he said. "I should not think of troubling you. You'd find it a nuisance and get tired of the whole concern in two mornings. Besides, you don't know anything of farming."

"I know but a very little, it's true," said the captain. "But I'm not too old to learn. And as for being bored with it, I expect I should feel rather the other way—get too interested. Soldiering is rather slow work if you haven't got any killing to do."

The squire laughed grimly.

"Well," he said, "if you like to give 'em a look up and see after things a bit while you're down here, of course I shall be very much obliged to you. But don't go and bore yourself, as you call it, that's all. Throw it up when you're tired of it."

"Trust me to do that," said the captain, languidly, and he walked off.

It was one step in the right direction—a long step, too, and the captain knew it.

Once again he got a hold upon the

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Dale, and the rest might be left to chance and his scheming.

He was a good shot—most men in his position are—and he returned with a good bag.

The squire was pleased.

Grace stood by the table while the birds were being counted.

"What a good many you have shot!" she said, picking up a pheasant and stroking its feathers. "Poor things! I should like to shoot one, though," and she looked at the gun in his hand wistfully.

"Oh, I dare say, my tomboy!" laughed the squire. "You'd like to do everything the men do. There, go and dress yourself, madam."

The captain left the room after her. "So you'd like to shoot the birds, Miss Grace?" he said, half playfully.

"Why, you couldn't lift the gun."

"Couldn't I?" she said, disdainfully, stopping on the first stair and looking down on him. "Hold it up and see."

With his lazy laugh he held it up, and she caught it and lifted it to her shoulder.

The captain, though of course he didn't look it, was astonished.

"Bravo!" he said. "I didn't think you could, 'pon my word."

"You men never think we girls can do anything," she said, curving her lips. "Why, I'd fire it off if I had the chance."

"I don't doubt it—and be knocked backwards," he said, coming up to her.

"Nonsense, Mr. Impudence," she said—the title she always gave him when he teased her. "You load it for me, and I'll promise you I don't get knocked down."

"Thank you," he said, taking the gun from her. "I won't chance it; you'd be the first to blame me if you got hurt—"

She tossed her head contemptuously.

"Blame you! Who'd think of blaming you?" she said, and marched away.

After dinner, when the squire was snoozing in the arm-chair and the other two were in the drawing-room, the captain rang the bell, and sent for the parcel that had come with the gun.

Grace, turning over the leaves of the old book of travels, pricked up her ears—she had the usual amount of curiosity belonging to her sex.

The captain laid the parcel on the table and cut the strings. Grace looked up, and then catching his eye resumed reading her book.

The captain took two large volumes from the paper and opened one out on his knee.

Grace peeped up and then looked down again.

The captain saw the sly glance and waited.

Fashion Plates.

316



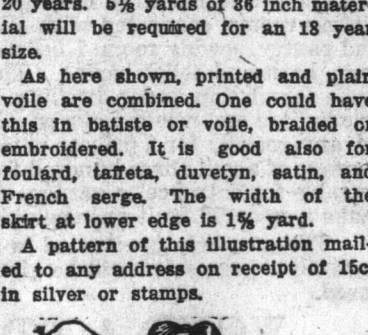
A VERY PRETTY AND STYLISH MODEL.

Pattern 316 was employed for this style. It is cut in 3 Sizes: 16, 18 and 20 years. 5 1/2 yards of 36 inch material will be required for an 18 year size.

As here shown, printed and plain voile are combined. One could have this in batiste or voile, braided or embroidered. It is good also for foulard, taffeta, duvetyne, satin, and French serge. The width of the skirt at lower edge is 1 1/2 yard.

A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 15c. in silver or stamps.

2878



A COMFORTABLE HOUSE DRESS.

2878. Here is a model that is especially desirable for mature figures. The sleeve may be in wrist length, close fitting and finished with or without a cuff, or it may be in elbow length with a neat cuff finish. Width of dress at lower edge is about 2 1/2 yards. Percale, drill, khaki, chambray, gingham, poplin, flannel and lawn may be used for this design.

The Pattern is cut in 7 Sizes: 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48 inches bust measure. Size 48 will require 6 yards of 36 inch material.

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316



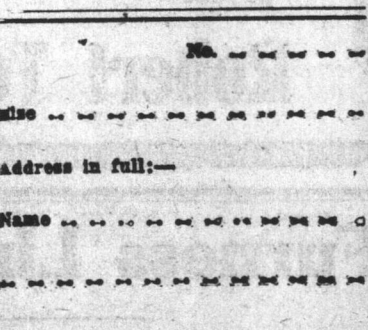
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