
FRENCHY

"As a matter of form?" inquired Blake, smiling.

"As a matter of form," answered St. Hilaire gravely.

"I have already said I give my consent willingly, for you, Bayard, are a man. I've had enough of your princes of Moroccos or Moravias. I've said that Katherine should choose for herself. She'd do it anyway. But before we go any farther in this matter let me tell you about the rumors that are in circulation in regard to my financial standing——"

"Mistaire Blake, that does not make the least difference to me."

"But it is important to me. It is true that I have been rather unfortunate lately, but those who think they have got me down are going to miss their guess. Zachary Blake is not down and out by a long shot. And I declare to you that my daughter shall be just as well provided for on her wedding-day as if she married a lord!"