

"Love in the Wilds"

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CHAPTER XL "ALL IS SAFE-ALL MUST BE

tions set him thinking again.

and laying it aside.

ever," replied the machine.

"I will see him," he said.

envelope and tore it open.

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ight. It penetrates. It usually instant relief. And you'll find platum is just as soothing and for chaps, chilblains and rough-kin. Do prove this for yourself.

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some inexplicable reason or impulse

The valet glided out, and almost in-

stantly glided in again, stepped aside

saw a dark face, deadened and made

The captain nodded approvingly. The sight of the many superscrip-

"She sent word to say that she was "Captain Dartmouth! Ah, I wonder

engaged with Sir Charles, and she how long we shall halt at that? Cap-

gesture with his hand, but not so with Vitzarelli's plans, perchance slight but that the sleek, silent ma- prince-prince! It is a grand title, "So she would not see you but gave -prince!"

tain Dartmouth's man that Sir Charles tenderness, the soft, gentle knock of Anderson is no better-rather worse his valet came at the door again. -and that I am engaged too much to . "Come in!" see him."

- Captain Dartmouth nodded. "Did you see-"

-I beg pardon, sir, I had forgotten- sciously he was, perhaps, not unconand the old lady, Mrs. Lucas."

A hasty expression of annoyance ant to his master's ears.

"She there, too!" he muttered; then added: "Thanks, that will do." And the discreet, machine glided

noiselessly out of the room. Captain Dartmouth rose from his black-and-gold chair with lowered

brows and commenced to walk the

noy me. That shallow-pated fool must break his worthless neck at this inopportune moment and fall into the queer woman's hands! Strange, very strange! But I feel some undefined fear, some shadow of dread in that direction. Bah! Undefined, indeed What can happen? What can come out through that old maid? She has one old cat there already--Mrs. Lucas, the old viper who used to rule the roost here. Hem! Did I do wisely to turn her out? Would it not have been better to have pensioned her off and kept her under my own eye? Bah!" he repeated again, with a shrug of the shoulders "All is safe-all must be safe

With a smile of cunning that was almost dellant upon his handsome

the youth, humbly, but with anything but a servile air.

The captain listened for a moment, as if to an echo.

He thought that he recognized the roice; yet scarcely the voice—he had Only Tablets with "Bayer Cross" never heard so gruff and unmelodious a one-rather a certain something in the accent of the words.

present aware. Pray why do you wish "I-I have ventured to implore an interview, sir." replied the youth, "to

ask your assistance." The captain frowned. "The major-domo or the b

But the youth ventured to interrup

im with a slight flush. "Oh not that kind of assistance

"Well?" asked the captain, coldly. The youth went on, not glibly, and with a hesitation that partook of fever-

"I will tell my story sir in as few words as possible, not even waiting to

senting to give me an interview." Then, seeing evident signs of impatience on the wealthy captain's face,

the youth ran on, rather brokenly: "I was born in the adjoining village -Crayford-born and bred there, and was intended for a farmer; but al- a secretary, you say? Can you speak ways, since childhood, had a hankering for the sea, and at thirteen ran

away to the sea-coast. I took ship tain Dartmouth-Count Dartmouthwent four voyages. In the third I was wrecked and fell into the hands of a foreign merchant off the Cape coast, who employed me as clerk and secreeven in Italian. Grand-next to king sir. Being unwell, and fearing that the "Scarcely a message, sir. 'Tell Cap- peating the magic word with fond climate would be fatal, I ran away and came to England. I have been living

in London for three weeks, searching for employment, and, finding none, at last ventured to tramp down home. But, having arrived here, I find all my "I am very sorry to disturb you, family dead, sir, dead-every-one, fa-He stopped. The machine waited and sir; but a young fellow—I am not sure ther, mother, and brother—I only had lifted for a moment his liquid, deep- whether a gentleman or not-demands one-and-and-I have no one to whom I can apply for assistance. Mr. Vignes had been valet to a Rus- Stopping at the post-office last even-"Did you see any one else, Vignes?" sian nobleman, and though he used ing to rest awhile, I heard of you, sir, "No one, excepting the domestic and the word "audience" almost uncon- and of your kindness of heart, and I accept the first, which requests my

scious that the ring of it was pleas- with an impulse to find my way to ond." your presence and beg of you some The youth took up a pen and, after escaped the captain almost before he "He will take no refusal, and is so place in the household—as groom, or reading the letters, wrote in a clear, "What name does he give?" asked the captain, opening his first letter

The captain was very much inter-"He will give none-none whatheen a master of the art of concealment much too long to show it.

The youth's tale seemed probable The captain hesitated for a moment and credible, however, and, still op-It was not usual for him to see anonymous applicants. He made this, for

"You were born in the next village, do you say? What is your name?" "Stanfield-John Stanfield, sir," re-

plied the youth. The captain laid down the letter last glanced at and, fixed his eyes upon the hideous spectacles, said, with un

pleasant distinctness: "And how much, pray, did you bring away with you from your last mas-

spectacles-spectacles such as are worn by persons afflicted with weak hands but after eving the captain's decidedly red head of hair and an imlapsed into the old impassability and, with a look, he said:

> "It wasn't money, sir; it-was-an affair of the heart."

"Oh, a love affair, eh?" said the captain, leaning back in the chair and glancing from the youth to the mirror, in which his own elegant form and face were reflected. "So you made love to the master's daughter, eh? And got whipped for it, and then ran away?"

The youth nodded. "And you ask me to take you into my employ with these credentials?" asked the captain, with a smile of nockery, but with a sharp, inward look and the thought: "A ready tool! In my power and under my thumb the

lad will be useful." "Yes, sir," sighed the youth, in his gruff voice.

"What assurance have I that you will not fall in love with my valuables?

"Sir!" exclaimed the youth-"sir, wear by all I hold sacred-"

The Captain held up his hand. "My lad," he said, with a sneer, "I d almost felt inclined to do so hing for you, but the conclusion of your adjuration will decide me. I never believe a man who swears by all he holds most sacred. Your story

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"Most true, sir. Would I could give

"Hem!" said the centain even with a smile. "You were a clerk and and write French?"

something of French and Italian: have learned of the sailors, and-"

Captain Dartmouth flung him a let-

The youth took it up with a hand particularly small and brown, and, after hesitating a moment, repeated, with a fair accent, a tolerably free

He threw him a short note of the count's-simply an invitation. This, also, the youth translated.

"That is passable," said the captain, after a moment's consideration, "Now was struck, as it were, all of a sudden, name as a director; I refuse the sec-

Reginald Dartmouth glanced at

"How long were you bound to the

gentleman from whom you escaped?" John Stanfield thought for a moment, then, with lowered head, said: "Seven years."

"How much of that apprenticeship do you leave uncompleted?" (to be continued.)

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