

The Romance of a South African Trading Station,

## CHAPTER LXV. THE UNMASKING.

Reginald Dartmouth nodded; but | evening. I have traveled far-beguil-Mr. Reeves, seemingly provoked be- ed hither by a false and dishonorable yond endurance by his cool insolence, exclaimed:

Hugh Darrell, the dale is yours and sume. Whether it can or not, I must has been yours since the moment the breath left your father's body. This is no time for explanation; but you see before you a villain, who, by a series of daring crimes, has usurped your estate and squandered your property! Silence!" he continued, his swarthy, calm face working with passion as Reginald Dartmouth made a step forward and seemed about to speak. "At the moment of your entrance," he

looked from one to the other with a bewildered but stern expression of interrogation-"at the moment of your entrance I was taxing him with his not be so easily dispensed with. You crimes. Here beside you are the wit- will please consider yourself our prinesses who can and will hang him; soner!" here beneath my hand lies the last

the last and valid one, bequeaths all to you save a small sum to him. Read it-read it."

And he held it out. Hugh took it and glanced at the heading; then, with his eyes full of

ruse-I refuse to submit to further indignity. Your absurd romance, sir, "No! How dare you say 'Yes,' sir? can be recited in my absence, I prebeg to be allowed to depart. Business of an important nature compels my immediate return to town." he continued, with calm nonchalance, addressing Hugh. "If you wish to com-There he broke off. municate with me, either through this -this person, your solicitor, or personally, Mr. Darrell, here is my London address."

And with a scornful air he throw his enameled card upon the table and continued, turning to Hugh, who made a movement toward the door. Mr. Reeves stepped before him. "Softly, sir!" he exclaimed, in his hard dry tones. "Your presence can

"Your prisoner?" repeated Reginald will of your father, which the villain Dartmouth, with a dark sneer. "Pray, hade way with for an earlier one sir, how long have you held the office eaving the estate to him. This one, of parish constable ?- nay, do not tronble to answer, but first produce your warrant."

Mr. Reeves's face darkened. "You wish to drive me to extremities" he said significantly "I do," retorted Reginald Darttears, shook his head and returned mouth, defiantly. "Produce your war-



Mr. Earnest Clark, Police

"For three years I suffered

I believe my condi-

brought about by

I had frequent

of nerves and I had indigestion,

from nervousness and sleep-

headaches, neuralgic pains and

was short of breath and easily

tired. I commenced a treat-

ment of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, and seven boxes of this

medicine cured me of all my

symptoms. I am now feeling

one hundred per cent. better

than I was, and have to thank

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food for

the good health I am now en-

GERALD S. DOYLE,

whispering some soothing words, Sir

Water St., St. John's,

Distributing Ageni.

Nerve Food

essness.

tion was

overwork.

twitching

muscles.

joying.'

Was it for this he had returned? To find his father dead-dead? To un **Could Not Sleep** mask a villain? No-he had come post-haste to mee

Cecil, the fair, sweet-faced lad that had crept into his heart. Officer, 338 King St., Kingston, Where was he?" Ont., writes: lifted his eyes and looked

"Go!" he said; "and make good your tart. Before an hour has passed the varrant you desire shall follow you."

With another sneer the wily villah irned to shoot a glance of hate

Hugh passed his hand across his

brow and, with a heavy sigh, sank in

to the chair Reginald Dartmouth had

around and left the room.

vacated.

1000 mo the clatter of herses' thoughts he rose and Sir Charles were conferring in an agitated under-tone with the lawyer Mrs. Lucas and Doctor Todly had left the room.

Mr. Reeves turned as Hugh approached and held out his hand. Hugh shook it, but spoke to Re becca, who had risen and now stood with downcast eyes before him. "Rebecca," he said-"I must call on by the old name-we shall all awake directly. Tell me; are you glad

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, 50 cents a box, 6 for \$2.75, all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co,, Ltd., Toronto. "Oh, so glad; so very glad!" answerd Rebecca, with a burst of emotion "Hugh, Hugh, why have you staye Dr. Chase's

"Because\_"

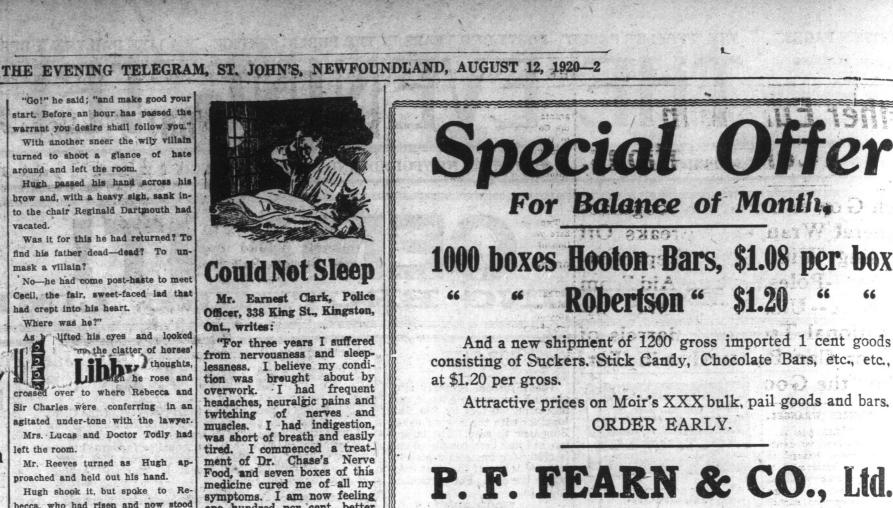
"We will have no more explanation to-night. Sir Charles, you will com

prehend my utter ignorance when I whelmed by a combination of tell you that I know not if I am safe that Sir Charles judged it best to in offering you the hospitality of the gently remove her from the apart-Dale, Nay." he continued, turning sadment, and, aided by Mrs. Lucas and ly to Mr. Reeves, "I scarcely know Dr. Todly, got her to the carriage," that I am not wrong in calling it the which was waiting. Leaving her in their charge, and

Dale, it is so changed." Mr.' Reeves groaned.

"Changed, indeed," he said. "What Charles returned to the library, where, I have to tell you-But, there; as you notwithstanding his decision not to ensay, there must be no explanation to- ter into explanations, Mr. Reeves was night. You have ridden far and fast, telling the newly-arrived heir the story and"-glancing at his rough, work- of the hidden will; the still darker man's clothes-"are in unsuitable and suspicion of foul play in connection uncomfortable garments. Miss Good- with the squire's death he had wisely man has been begging me to offer you determined not to communicate until shelter beneath the roof of the War- a more fitting time.

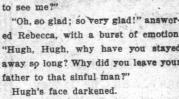
ren until the Dale can be made ready." Hugh listened with his face conceal-"Come, Hugh; do come!" pleaded ed by his hand, but the two could see Rebecca. "Mr. Reeves and all of you that he was weeping, and that the come and help me to bear all this, or story of his father's death was affect-I shall give way. Oh, Hugh, Hugh, ing him more than anything, and leaving no room in his seemed so excited and overrecital of Reginald Dartmouth's evi deeds. Mr. Reeves traced the course of events-with the before-mentioned omission-up to Hugh's sudden and opportune arrival, then broke off with: "But, there, I've done what I had sternly decided not to do, harassed and tortured you, already wearied, much wearied, by the story of the whole affair. Now, sir, ere I am silent let me ask you one question. How came youwas it chance or design that brought you here at this critical moment?" Hugh looked up with a strange expression and a dash of color that was almost a blush. "Not chance, certainly," he said, with hesitation. "You have only just arrived in England, of course?" said Sir Charles. "No," said Hugh; "I have been in England some time.



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"I can not read it," he said, simply; "my brain is in a whirl. Rebecca what is all this I hear?" Rebecca could only sob afresh, and nurmur:

"It's all true, Hugh; all true." Then Hugh turned to Reginald Dartmouth.

"And what say you to this accusation, sir?" he demanded, sternly. Reginald Dartmouth, who had been watching the faces around him with keen attention and noting every tone as well as every word of each speaker, replied, with a coolness that his face and livid lips belied:

"What have I to say, Mr. Darrellfor I presume you are the long-lost Hugh Darrell? Simply this, and this only: that I do not deign to answer such absurd and groundless accusations as this person has made." And as he spoke he drew himsolf up with an air of deflance. Hugh regarded him with a long and

viercing gaze. "So that is your reply, at?" he said

Fith slow distinctness. "It sounds to me somewhat guilty. But we will hear what Mr. Reeves has to say. And you, sir; nay I beg the honor of your name?"

And he looked at Sir Charles. "This gentleman," said Mr. Reeves, Is Sir Charles Anderson, a cousin of Mas Goodman. He has been a trus friend, although an unknown one. He it was who discovered this will, and through his means we have been able to lay a still greater crime at this nan's door."

Hugh held out his hand with a grave courtesy. Sir Charles took !! nd, pressed it eagerly, glancing at tenecca as he did so.

"Now, sir," said Hugh, turning to the lawyer, "let us hear your state-Inont"

Mr. Reaves, with his hand on the bio and his eyes fixed upon Reginald Dartmouth, commenced to speak; bu he accused interrupted him with scornful gesture.

"I'ardon me," he said; "I have listd to a long tirade once before this m



"Indeed!" echoed the lawyer, staring at him over his spectacles as he rose and paced the room, and muttering, inwardly:

"Just the same as ever-reserved and eccentric.' "Yes," said Hugh, with a strange smile, "I have been in England, a pri-

soner in the docks." Mr. Reeves glanced at his clothes. "Prisoner-docks! Good Heavens!" he exclaimed.

The idea of the heir of Dale being a prisoner and in the docks seemed

Hugh smiled sadly.

"The story is too long or I'd tell you," he said, wearily. "As to how I came upon the scene at this late hour I may say that I came-by appoint

"By appointment?" exclaimed Si Charles The lawyer was too astounded

speak, but rang the bell. "I'm forgetting everything in my astohishment," he said. "Here, in your

Astonishment," he said. "Here, in your own house, may I presume to order you some refreshment, Mr. Darrell?" Hugh shook his head. (To be continu



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