Canadian Hotel Directory

Hotel

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oner at all. This is the sort of treat-ment that forces a man to talk to himself.

misself.

"I must bide my time," he thought, as he gazed seawards, where the blue sea met the blue sky. "Sooner or later one of the men will give me a chance. It is a fine bribe to offer—the lordship of the world."

Yes, that was his chance, that sooner or later rogues will fall out, and that among a body of men actuated by those of greed, there is sure to be some traitor who will sell his comrades for gold. Let there be a quarrel—one of those harsh punishments that the leader meted out at times to insubordinates—and there would be a weapon ready to the hand of the man who was content to wait. An offer to divulge the secret—to work An offer to divulge the secret—to wark. An offer to divulge the secret—to work hand in hand with the traitor.

"Hi! you come out of that," said a sharp voice, "we don't want you to drown yourself."

Lowick looked round and saw a tall man sayuntaring clowly across the

Lowick looked round and saw a tan man sauntering slowly across the sand—a remarkable fline-looking man with a short-pointed black beard, and a neatly-trimmed black moustache. He was clad in a spotless suit of white duck and a Panama hat. His face and hands were burnt almost to the color of mahogany.

of mahogany.

"We don't want to lose you," said
Senor Smith, "at least, not yet."

Ralph Lowick rose slowly to his
feet, and though he was a tall man
the other overtopped him by four

inches.

"I was having a bath," he said, quietly. "I don't intend to commit suicide—at least, not yet."

"H'm," said the big man, thoughtfully. "We shall have to guard against that. You have too much freedom. Come out of that water."

Ralph Lowick obeyed. He had passed the stage when he guarelled with

ed the stage when he quarelled with this man, and gave back insult for insult. He was content now to wait

his time.
"I live in hopes," said Lowick, pleasantly.

"I live in hopes," said Lowick, pleasantly.

"So do I," was the grim reply. "We must try and persuade you."

"Take care you don't carry your—er—persuasions too far, Mr. Smith. You might kill the goose that you hope is going to lay a golden egg for you."

"We shall be careful," said Smith, stroking his moustache—"I think we have been careful. Well, I've news for you, my friend—good news."

Ralph Lowick looked at him inquiringly, but without much show of interest. It pleased Senor Smith to talk like this at times. He had probably devised some new form of punishment.

"There is a vessel in sight," Smith continued, and he smiled as he saw the light of hope flash into Lowick's

eyes.
"It is the Vallombrosa," the man "It is the Vallombrosa," the man went on, after a pause, and again he smiled as he saw the sullen look of despair. "She has signalled to us that she has a friend of yours on board."

"A friend of mine?" queried Lowick, sharply.

"Yes. Miss Joan Endermine."

"Yes. Miss Joan Endermine."
Lowick's face grew white under the tan. Then he clenched his fists and made a spring forward, falling to the ground as the heavy weight checked

his feet.
Senor Smith laughed.
"You lie!" cried Lowick, rising to his feet. "You lie, you mongrel!"
The Spaniard's dark eyes glittered at the insult, but he kept his temper admirably. "I have read the signals," he answered. "Miss Joan Endermine is on board."
"You you have dared to carry her

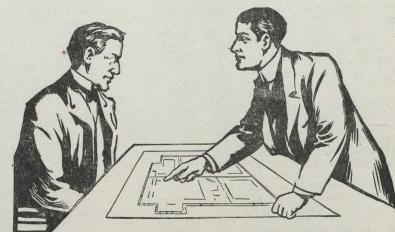
"You—you have dared to carry her off—to bring her here. You shall pay for this—I'll have your life. You vile scoundrel—to bring a woman into this

scoundrel—to bring a woman into this den of thieves and murderers. Oh, but you shall pay for it!"

He spoke fiercely, incoherently, and a slight foam gathered at the corners of his parched mouth. He had been for eight hours in the burning sun, and not one drop of water had passed his line.

ips.
"She shall come to no harm," said Smith, quietly. "She will be treated here with as much respect as if she were in her own home. And she has come here for your sake."
"You lie! You forced her to come

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