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## INSUPANCE. The GOGGIN HARDWARE STORE, CHATHAM.

The Portman Square Conspiracy. 

The day's work over, Ernest Prosper Evans would often leave the shop in Duke street and go for a stroll among various squares and highways from which Mr. Jarvis ew his large and fashionable

The exteriors of the vast mansion hhabited by these favored mortals lled the young hosier with awe and wonder; and sometimes as he passe down Mount Street or through Gros-venor Square, he would catch brief glimpses of the splendours beyond. Often he knew the address, and had waited on the male occupants. utside a certain house in Lane he would murmur: "The Hon-ourable Bruce Lamb—silk vests, a dozen at a time, and no marking but the plain initials." Outside an-location of the plain initials." A TRAIN WRECKED BY BOERS the enemy up to 300. The 4.7 gun at Greylingstad also opened fire on the enemy, who uncoupled the en-Recently a pilot train, consisting

he had served the previous toon. Standing against the

whom he had served the previous afternoon. Standing against the railings of Portman Square, he looked up at the tall mansion opposite. There were lights on three of the floors, but the blinds were drawn.

He passed on with a sigh, walking in the direction of Seymour street, where dwelt Mr. Ncill, another and less potent customer. The door of one of the big houses opened as he crossed over, and a young man emerged. A pleasant light escaped from the great hall. Ernest Prosper from the great hall. Ernest Prosper from the great hall. Ernest Prosper with of the water in which to wash his hands before the banquet, and eventually to have the silver jug and basin for his own, together with forty yards of crimson velvet. A sum of money, ed, and, with a smiling "good-after in horses and buying jewellery. I'm afraid to say how much he got back; but it was a good deal over the hundred thousand, and I can't touch him."

He passed on with a sigh, walking in the direction of Seymour street, where dwelt Mr. Ncill, another and less potent customer. The door of one of the big houses opened as he crossed over, and a young man emerged. A pleasant light escaped from the great hall. Ernest Prosper with own the sole of the said cert. Shall I put a bit on for you?"

"I'd sooner back your lordship," replied Baxter.

Whereupon the young hosier bow det, and, with a smiling "good-after in made straight for Baxter's bank, and obtained notes in exchange for the cheque.

The marquis smiled.

"Excellent!" he said. "We must get these changed for gold, and then love of Norfolk, an and obtained notes in exchange for the firm. He water in which to wash his hands on for you?"

"I'd sooner back your lordship," replied Baxter.

Whereupon the young hosier bow led, and, with a smiling "good-after in made straight for Baxter's bank, and obtained notes in exchange for the firm water in which to wash his hands on for in for you?"

"I'd sooner back your lordship," of crimson velvet. A sum of money.

"The marquis met him at dinner."

The marquis smiled.

"



Lane he would murmir: "The Honourable Bruce Lamb—silk vests, a dozen at a time, and no marking but the plain initials." Outside another house in Belgrave Square it was different. Here he would say: "Lord Gargoyle, and coronets down to his dressing-gowns!"

The young hosier took an infinite delight in these excursions and the thoughts they inspired. If he could not share in the state secrets of a rising politician, he at least knew the exact size of his collars, his taste in neckwear, and his preferences in underclothing.

Bent on his favorite relaxation, young Evans had gone North one evening to call on a certain duke whom he had served the previous

"You don't wish to open any more eccounts?" lightly asked the hosier, whose identity the reader will easily "Not just now-not just now!"
said Baxter, purpling.
"The next article?" said Ernest Prosper Evans.-London Answers

What line is yours, may I ask?

olitely inquired the proprietor.
"Er—banking," said Mr. Baxter
And he owes me eighty thousand
ounds," he added with a flourish.

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AND TAKE NO OTHERS.

\*\*\*CETTA CONTROLLAND TO THE ASSESSMENT OF THE The marquis met him at dinnertime.

"Excellent!" he said. "We must
get these changed for gold, and then
we're safe."

But the ord of the marting at dinnertime of champion is vested in
the Dymoke family, and his perquisite is the golden cup out of which he
drinks his sovereign's health, after
throwing down the glove of challenge. The Duke of Norfolk, an

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