CHAPTER X.

Wilmot was just leaving Mr. Esholt's room with a number of letters and other documents in his hand, when a servant came to tell him that there was a gentleman at with him. Wilmot went at once, thinking are said to feel when brought to bay. He Women is a feel with the wind is a feel with the with the wind is a feel wind in the wind in the wind is a feel wind in the wind in the wind is a feel wind in the it was probably a messenger from Mr. Kimber; but the person he found waiting in the entrance hall was a total stranger to him. He was an under-sized, dark-complexioned, dapper-looking man, apparently about thirty years old. He had keen brightglancing eyes, an insinuating manner, and a soft sleeky voice. He wore a suit of mourning, new and very shiny, with two large jet studs showing prominently on the ample bosom of his shirt. Wilmot bit his lip as he went forward, as if to keep down some inward agitation.

"You are Mr. Wilmot Burrell, I presume?" said the stranger, seeming to take him in at a glance from head to foot. "That is my name," answered Wilmot

stiffly. "As I have called on a private matter of some importance, I had better, perhaps, begin by introducing myself," went on the other, as he extracted a card from his case and presented it with a smile and a little bow. Wilmot took it, and read thereon a name he had never heard before: "Mr. Reginald Vampy."

"You say you have called to see me on a private matter," he said, his eyes wandering from the card to the stranger's face and then back again. He was evidently ill at ease about something.

"Precisely .- I see you are busy "-with a glance at the letters-" but five minutes will suffice for me to say all I have to say."

After a moment's hesitation, Wilmot said "Come this way, Mr. Vampy;" and with that he led the way towards the study. Mr. Vampy followed with a remark or two as to the unsettled state of the weather, to which the other hardly responded. As soon as they interests of both of you. Shall I ring for a were inside the room and the door shut, the little precautionary measure already described took place, after which the two men sat last question. down at the table, facing each other.

To Agues, hiding there in the dark against her will, the situation was one that filled her with dismay. There was no way out but through the study. Should she, or should she not, make her presence known? But how account for being there ?-how explain why she did not come forward at the moment Wilmot drew back the portiere and announce herself? But even while she was asking herself these questions, the two men began to speak, and she recognised that the half caught bis breath for a moment; then he moment for retreat had gone by. With her said in a faint voice : "Go on, sir, if you remarked." consent or without it, she must perforce please." stay where she was till the interview should come to an end.

bush. Brevity, as I take it, is not merely due? the soul of wit, but that of business as well. "Every likelihood, Mr. Vampy-a likeli-I have here in my possession "-and he pro- hood which is as strong to-day as it was six duced a bulky pocket-book as he spoke-"a | weeks ago." certain slip of paper bearing your signature his thumb and finger as he spoke.

If Wilmot Burrell's face had been pale before, it was ashen now. His mouth worked with a strange nervous twitching. For a few moments all power of speech seemed escape the other's notice. taken from him. Mr. Vampy put back the

hands in any way."

quiet precise way; "but in business circum- unfortunate necessity of doing as their supposing-and we always actions."

Again there was a brief silence. Wilmot by me?" seemed to be weighing every word in his Wilmot moistened his parched lips with what then? mind before giving utterance to it. " Even his tongue. Then he said: "Will you tell No answer. granting such to be the case, Mr. Vampy- me what return it is in my power to make?" port of your call upon me this evening."

A peculiar smile wrinkled the curves of -eh ?" Mr. Vampy's mouth and peered out of the to ice as he saw it.

not far to seek. My people have had a pre- a position to meet two hundred and fifty "It seems to me," said Mr. Vampy, after writes a very bold bluff sort of hand. Now, singular to say, our cashier-he is one of the satisfied with the endorsement of the bill I other." ture, and that when that gentleman wrote Do you accept our proposition?" it, if write it he did, he must either have myself clearly understood?"

acknowledged to himself with an inward was doubly so now. He stared at the little shiver.

presently, " may I inquire the name of the | watch for the secone time.

firm you so ably represent?"

not at liberty to enlighten you on. When alone.'

Mr. Esholt will favour me with an inter- count?" view." As he spoke he took out his watch

and glanced at it.

suspicion of already."

at the other, as not knowing what to say thou, into the bargain."

my possession."

to what I am indebted for the honour certainties in all things mundane, not ex- Carlo. of this interview? I presume your only object in coming here was to inform Mr. Esholt of your clever discovery; why, then, you should have sought this preliminary interview with me, I am at a loss to understand. Mr. Esholt is up-stairs, and although far from well, I have no doubt he will see you on a matter which so closely concerns the servant, Mr. Vampy, to take up your card ?" He half rose from his chair as he asked the

"I admire your impetuosity, Mr. Burrell," answered the other in his sleek evenly modulated tones, "although, under the circumstances, it is perhaps scarcely judicious on your part to give way to it. Apparently it has not suggested itself to you that in coming here I might possibly be actuated by a motive very different from the one you have imputed to me."

A great throb of hope seemed to vibrate through every nerve in Wilmot's body; he

little document to which our conversation | slow sullen tones, still without looking up : "As your time is valuable, and mine, refers was first launched on an unapprecia- "We have a big settling-day at the office on perhaps, scarcely less so," began Mr. Vampy, tive world, there was some likelihood of its the twenty-fourth."

on one side of it and that of Mr. Robert Esh. your sake, Mr. Burrell. Supposing, in have nothing to do with anything further. olt on the other. It is, in fact, a bill, drawn that case-I merely say supposing - our firm As it happens, I have some acquaintance at two months' date, for the sum of two should see their way to allow the bill to with the interior working of Mr. Esholt's hundred and fifty pounds, and will fall due come to maturity in their own hands and office; but I had no idea, Mr Burrell, that a fortnight from to-day. In all probability, without negotiating it further, it may be you held a position in it sufficiently enerous you recognise the document in question?" accepted as a fact that it would be met in and confidential to allow of your being able Mr. Vampy held up a slip of paper between due course on its presentation on the to-well, to meet a liability like the one we twenty-fourth?"

> fact, Mr. Vampy," he replied, but with quences to yourself." just a shade of hesitation, which did not "The explanation is simple enough,"

Burrell, while actuated by every desire to and another clerk."

although, mind you, a gross breach of con- "I will. The bill I hold is for the sum of is still a little screw loose somewhere-just fidence must have been committed some- two hundred and fifty pounds. You shall a possibility, in fact, that your house of where in order to make such a thing possible give me a supplementary document-merely cards may come tumbling about your ears at -the bill does not fall due for a fortnight, your own note of hand-for a further sum the last moment. "The best-laid schemes consequently-you will pardon my saying of one hundred pounds, making in all three of mice and men"-you know the rest. And so-I fail in some degree to gather the pur- hundred and fifty, which amount you will in such a case, what would become of my be in a position to meet this day fortnight poor little bill? Have you nothing further

corners of his eyes. It was not a pleasant clenched his hands. He was so utterly taken cards that he had built for himself; he resmile, and Wilmot's marrow seemed to turn aback that he needed a few moments to re- cognised that fact now, in the pitiless light cover himself. But the brain works nimbly thrown on it by his visitor, as he had "The reason of my visit, Mr. Burrell, is in the great crises of our lives. "If I am in never had the courage to recognise it before.

in two or three small but very recognisable glancing over the title-page. Presently he yourself together and of running straight for particulars from Mr. Esholt's usual signa- said: "Well, Mr. Burrell, what say you? the future."

"I accept it." been ill or-shall we say-slightly "mel- "Good. On the supposition that you question his lips were powerless to ask. low," or in fact anything you please except might do so, I brought with me a little form As if in answer to it, Mr. Vampy leaned in his ordinary business mood. Such being duly drawn up, to which I will presently forward a little way and said in a low im- black ones and a paper of white ones. me to wait upon you, or upon Mr. Esholt, doing so, however, I must ask you to be well enough to go back to business by the clothes, you want some spools of thread, took it away from here, not a bit the worse or both of you with the view of satisfying good enough to enlighten me as to the means | twenty-fourth.' that most suspicious of cashiers that the en- you propose to adopt, or the source from dorsement in question is really that of the which you propose deriving the funds to person it purports to be. I hope I have made enable you to meet your engagements on the day in question.'

Of a surety he had done that, as Wilmot | If Wilmot had been staggered before, he "Pray, Mr. Vampy," he contrived to say ed his meaning. Mr. Vampy looked at his

" Pardon, me," said Wilmot at length, a

I called at your Water Street office this " Pardon me, Mr. Burrell, but is afternoon," he continued, "and was inform- not our interview of a private and ed that I should find you here, I was also confidential nature throughout? When told that Mr. Esholt was ill. Possibly, you come to think the matter over ment of the church debt is paid. however, he is not too ill to see me for half you will recognise that I am asking of you a minute, so as to enable me to satisfy my nothing unreasonable. You have promised The forest area of the United States is age of 8,442,163 gallons of water a day more reports that institution in a flourishing conneople with regard to the little matter to meet a certain engagement by a certain estimated at 481,764,598 acres.

date; all I want to know is the method by which you purpose arriving at the result in question. Without doubting your bona fides Monte Carlo to be Closed Forever the in the least, you will allow me to hint that there is nothing to hinder you between now and the twenty-fourth from starting for On the 16th of April, 1892, the great Paris, or New York, or Timbuctoo, in which gambling establishment at Monaco will close case what, may I ask, would be the value of its doors forever. On that day the agreewhich has brought me here. Perhaps, Mr. | the little bill which my firm, wisely or un- ment between the government of the prin-Burrell, you will kindly ascertain whether wisely, have taken upon themselves to dis- cipality and the world-famed hell of Monte

Wilmot abruptly pushed back his chair chance of its being renewed. It was the and began to pace the room like a man in a knowledge of the present ruler's determin-Wilmot felt as nearly all hunted animals strait from which he sees no way of escape. ed attitude in the matter which has alone

least set him at defiance and dare him to put yourself about. A little confidential suppression of this plague-spot of Europedo his worst. Like many other men, he information is all I ask for, which there steps which both President Grevy and Presiwas only a coward up to a certain point; can be no difficulty in your affording dent Carnot have repeatedly been urged to

ton Cup; and if she pulls it off, I shall be her former stays in the south of France the

cepting horse-racing, and I am sure you are far too astute an individual not to have at least two strings to your bow in the little game you are now playing. Supposing for a moment Persephone does not come in first | Heine, has enabled him to dispense with the -what then?"

The momentary elation which had shown itself in Wilmct's eyes a minute or two before had now died out again; his face put on the same dull ashen hue it had worn earlier in the interview. He had resumed his seat, and was nervously tearing a sheet "Prince" Roland Bonaparte and Prince and he will give you a good trouncing !" of paper into minute shreds. After a moment or two he said, but without raising his eyes from the table: "Even if that should happen which you say might happen-not that it will, mind you -I have other means left of meeting my engagements when they

"And those means are?" -- queried Vampy's silky voice.

There was no reply. The sheet of paper was still being torn and retorn. "I am awaiting your answer, Mr. Burrell. Time is on the wing, as some poet has very justly

Wilmot drew in his breath and set his "I presume, Mr. Burrell, that when the teeth hard for a moment; then he said, in

"I will not waste it by beating about the being duly honoured when it should fall "I understand. The bill will be met by you out of the day's proceeds."

Wilmot no ided. "And after that - But that is a matter which concerns vourself alone. So long as my "I am glad to hear it-very glad, for people can rely on having their money, they have been discussing, without running the

answered Wilmot, still sullenly, for at no "That is to say, Mr. Burrell, so far as time was he one to stand being catechised slip into his pocket-book and quietly waited. one may accept anything as a fact in a without resenting it. "So long as Mr. At length Wilmot spoke. "The bill you world in which promissory notes play such Esholt is away ill, Mr. Kimber, the headheld was given on the distinct understand- an important part." Mr. Vampy chuckled clerk and cashier, undertakes the general ing that it should be accepted as deposit, softly to himself, and then resumed more management of the business, while his own and not be discounted or allowed to change soberly: "So far, so good. Our firm, Mr. ordinary duties are divided between myself

"That is a point respecting what I have conduct their business on purely philan- "Nothing could be clearer so far," no information," replied Mr. Vampy in his thropic principles, find themselves under the answered Mr. Vampy blandly. "But stances sometimes alter cases, and as a mat- neighbours do. You will scarcely, there- to suppose a great deal in these ter of fact the bill has come into my people's fore, be surprised at my asking you what matters -supposing Mr. Esholt should be hands in the ordinary course of such trans- return you would be prepared to make in well enough to return to business earlier consideration of the service just hinted at than the twenty-fourth, and Mr. Kimber were to resume his ordinary functions-

"It seems to me, Mr. Burrell, that there to suggest, Mr. Burrell?"

Wilmot Burrell set his teeth hard and "Nothing." It was indeed a house of

vious acquaintance with the signature of Mr. pounds on the twenty-fourth, I shall be in a a pause, during which he had been softly Esholt, who, as you are doubtless aware, position to meet another hundred," he said tapping on the table with the nails of his to himself. "Should I not be in a position right hand," that there is one way, and alcohol lamp. to meet either, then one piece of paper will one only, by means of which my people will most suspicious of mortals—is not altogether be just of as much or as little value as the be able to make themselves absolutely sure pairs of shoe-strings. of their money, and you at the same time showed you just now. He says that it differs Mr. Vampy had picked up a book and was have one more chance afforded you of pulling want a new bottle of blacking.

> Wilmot looked up, and the eyes of the cream. two men met. Wilmot's eyes asked the

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Ingenious Australians,

debt has been hit upon in Melbourne, Aus. hat, you want a dozen of them. The policies are transferred to the church, of energy and friendliness. sums insured on their lives drop in, and later, thing else, be gentle in her manners. -[The when the only survivor dies the last install- | Ladies Home Journal.

MONACO.

Great Gambling Place no More.

Carlo expires, and there is not the remotest could not turn and rend his foe, much as he Vampy in a tone of mild banter; "there's availing itself of its position as suzerain would have liked to do so, but he could at not the slightest necessity for you to power to take immediate steps toward the and now that the worst had to be faced, me. May I be allowed to hint that pos- adopt, not only by popular sentiment, but now that no door of retreat seemed left open sibly there's a bit of horse-flesh at the also by nearly every one of the great monto him, his nerves braced themselves bottom of your little difficulties—that archies of the Old World. Russia, Germany, like bands of steel. Leaning for perhaps you are looking forward-eh? Italy, and Great Britain have been parward, with his elbows on the table, to the Croxton Autumn Meeting, this ticularly pressing in their applications to and looking his vistor straight in the day week, to recoup your fortunes and set the Paris government to put a stop to the eyes, he said in a cold hard voice that you on your legs again? Come, now, Mr. scandal; and it may safely be averred that was not without a touch of defiance in it : Burrell, confide in me-make a clean breast Queen Victoria would never have condescended to pay such marked and gracious whatever your name may be, if I were to "You've hit the right nail on the head, attention during her recent stay at Grasse to purty sure t' wake up folks wot hain't used tell you that the endorsement on that bill Vampy!" exclaimed Wilmot in one of those the Prince and Princess of Monaco had she the hearin' im. was not written by Mr. Robert Esholt?" | sudden bursts of confidence to which des- not received satisfactory assurance concern-"I should say that you would be telling perate men sometimes give way. "I've laid ing the approaching close of the gambling me nothing more than I had a very strong sixteen to one on Persephone for the Crox- palace at Monte Carlo. On the occasion of Wilmot sank back in his chair and stared able to wipe the slate clean and have a clear strict and stern old lady had indignantly refused the bouquets and baskets of flowers "Bravo, Mr. Burrell, bravo! When a man | sent to her by the late Prince Charles III., Mr. Vampy's irritating smile once more takes to riding across country, he should whereas this spring she not only received crept over his face. "I was pretty well as ride boldly or not at all. I hope with all the reigning Prince and Princess at Grasse sured before I entered this house," he went my heart Persephone will show the others a with all the honors due to sovereigns, but on, "that Mr. Esholt's pen had never writ- clean pair of heels-all the more because I even went so far as to send, first, her ambasten in his name on the back of the bill in happen to have a couple of fivers on her sador, the Earl Lytton, and a day later her myself, so that you and I may be said to daughter, Princess Beatrice, with Prince "In that case, sir, may I ask once more row in the same boat. Still, there are un- Battenberg, to return the visit at Monte

Prince Albert, whose marriage a couple feelings?" of years ago with the enormously wealthy widow the Duchesse de Richelieu, a daughter of the New Orleans and Parisian banker \$600,000 annually contributed toward the civil list of the sovereign of Monaco by the management of the Monte Carlo Casino, has Constantine Radzivoile, who are the principal shareholders of the Casino company, yet awhile. He staid for the last inning." have already perfected their arrangements for the transfer of their operations to Andorra, the little Pyrenean republic on the Franco-Spanish frontier line. Under their auspices a company entitled the Cercle des Etrangers d'Andorra (the Stangers' Club of Andorra) has been successfully floated at Paris, and no less than forty thousand \$100 shares have already been disposed of at a heavy premium. All the plans for the new buildings at Andorra have been perfected, and to those who are acquainted with the French Riviera it may be of interest to learn that the new theatre designed for Andorra is an exact reproduction of the theatre on the Jetty promenade at Nice.

It was not until after much hesitation that the syndicate owning the Monte Carlo Casino concession decided upon Andorra as the scene of their future operations. They had previously endeavored to secure an abidingplace for their roulette, their trente-et-quarante, and their rouge-et-noir tables in several other parts of Europe-including Valduz, the capital of the little principality of Liechtenstein; San Marino, the tiny republic in northern Italy; at Saxons-les-Bains; at Aix-les-Bains; and even at Belgrade and Sofia. Everywhere, however, their overtures were rejected, and after discussing the rival "That may be accepted as an undoubted risk of any immediate unpleasant conse-

Audorra has been an independent republic since the days of Charlemagne, who, in the year 778, confimed the rights, privileges, and freedom of "the valleys and sovereignties of Andorra." The territory comprises about 160 square miles, and the population numbers about 6000. It is governed by a council of twenty-four members, elected for four years by four heads of families in each parish. The council elect a first and second syndic, or mayor, to preside and to wield the executive power. The costume of these two dignitaries is of a character to strike awe into the hearts of those who may eventually visit the little republic for the purpose of trying their luck at the gambling-tables. It is composed of silver-buckled shoes, blue stockings, red garters, gray knee-breeches, broad scarlet sash, black cloak, catalan cap, and a gigantic black cocked hat perched on top of the cap. They take their oath of office by laying their left hand on the sacred "Books of the Valley"-the Digestium and the Politar-in which the history, the traditions, the laws, and the customs of the ancient republic are hopelessly jumbled together. The primitive character of the people may be estimated by the fact that the salary and allowances of the first syndic -the chief magistrate of the republicamount to the magnificent sum of sixty pesetas, or about twelve dollars, per an-

For a Girl's Summer Trunk.

If you wear a fluffy bang, you want your

If you wear laced shoes, you want a dozen authority of the State?"

If you varnish or polish your shoes, you

If you are fond of reading, you want your "No." favorite books.

If you are a good girl and mend your

If you make yourself sweet with infant- fee." powder and a puff, you want a sealed pack-

age of powder. A novel plan for extinguishing a church If you use bonnet pins to fasten on your me good money for it?"

the members of committee "drop off," the claims to be a Christian, must, before everyt again, and when you hear me tremple!"

London consumed in April, 1891, an aver-I than it did in April, 1890.

TIT-BITS.

authone?

"Is everything reversed in the

glass, papa?" asked Jimmieboy. "Yes-everything," said papa. "Then I'm glad I'm not a lookingboy," observed Jimmieboy. "I don't this I'd like to have an elephant ride around a circus ring on my shoulders."

He is More Comfortable Now.

"I am indeed grieved to hear that your poor husband has gone to a better

"Thank ye, sir ; but, poor dear ! it's just as well. This 'ere cold climate never suited his complaint."

A Feathered Alarmist.

" Mr. Carter, I'm 'most afeard we won't wake up at four in the mornin,' so I've had Kitridge bring up our old rooster t' tie t' the leg o' yer bed. He ginerally begins t' crow 'bout that time in the mornin', an's

Where to Begin.

He (despondently). "My dear, we really must economize. Now what can we get along without?" She. "I really don't know, Frank, unless

its your appetite."

Made Some Difference.

"Yes," she murmured, "I loved him. He was not worthy of me, but I felt I could not give him up. So my parents took me across the ocean.

"Did that make any difference in your

"Yes. The second day out I felt as if I could give up everything. And she changed the subject.

A Delay in The Proceedings.

Mrs. Slimson (to little Willie Slimson, who already notified the latter that he has no in- has been taking in the ball game). "So tention of renewing the lease, and accord- that's where you have been, is it? You just ingly M. Blanc, and his two brothers-in-law, wait till your father gets home, young man, Willie (confidently). "He won't be home

Royal Oculists.

"I see the Prince of Bavaria, being a skilful oculist, treats the poor among his subjects without charge. What a contrast to the conduct of the Prince of Wales !"

"Yes; but you must admit that the English Prince is doing a good deal to open the eyes of his future subjects."

Her Weakness.

O woman, in our hours of ease Uncertain, coy, and hard to please, When pain and anguish wring the brow, Then none so cheaply pleased as thou ! We've only to submit to take Hot rhubarb tea and anti-ache, And gizzard oil and ipecac, And porous plasters on the back, A flaxseed poultice, catnip tea, And Quackem's pet discovery, Hot-water bags, and sweats beside, And camphor nasally applied, And castor oil and vaseline, And coals with feathers burnt between, And soothing syrup, paregoric, Cold-water cloths, and drinks caloric, And all the housewife's category-'Iis then we see her in her glory, Needing, to make her bliss complete, But mustard plasters on our feet.

A Misfit Marriage License.

"I got a license here day before yesterday," said a man to a clerk in the Vital Statistics Office. "That docyment gave permission of the people of this sovereign State for the uniting in wedlock of Jeremiah Sassafras and Annabel McJunkin." " Yes."

"I paid fifty cents for that license in good hard cash.'

"Well, what of it?" "Annabel McJunkin won't have me." " That's bad. Went back on her promise, did she?"

"Not exactly, sir. You see she hadn't promised to marry me." "Then why did you get a license?"

"It was this way. I loved her, and wanted to marry her; and I thought if I got a license, and took it to her, she'd see I meant business, and would come to time." " And it didn't work ? "No, sir. I showed her the big seal of

the State, and told her that the eyes of the whole commonwealth, through the duly qualified officers, were upon her, and that her duty was to obey the mandate of the "What did she say to that?"

"She only laughed." "That's very sad."

"Sad's no name for it, sir; and I want to know what's to be done.'

"I don't see any remedy." "Is a weak girl with red hair to defy the

"That's about the way of it." "Can't you send an officer to impress upon her the dignity of the commonwealth, If you are inclined to sunburn, you want and to make her understand that the docya pot of strawberry cream or some cold ments issued by this office are not to be rifled with?"

"Well, I suppose I can get my money If you ever use pins, you want a block of back, can't I? " No."

"Here's the license just as it was when I

"We can't take it back, sir, or refund the "And you can't compel the girl to marry me after issuing that license and charging

" No. man in black as if he only half comprehendas the case may be-divide the total debt petulant, you want unlimited patience. of the present day is a hollow mockery. among themselves, and each man insures his | If you are inclined to be careless and in- Henceforth I am an anarchist of the reddest

life for the amount that falls to his share. | considerate, you want a very large package | redness. You hear me, insolent minion of a supine and powerless State! I go, but I this stage of the affair I grieve to say I am into private matters which concern myself and the annual payments on them are made and if you are lacking in politeness, then return! The day of vengeance draws nigh, And Jeremiah Sassafras was gone .--

[Harper's Bazar. The president of the Bank of Manitoba,

dition.