

**THE FREE LANCES: A
ROMANCE OF THE
MEXICAN VALLEY; VOL. II**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649160815

The free lances: a romance of the Mexican valley; Vol. II by Mayne Reid

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MAYNE REID

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ROMANCE OF THE
MEXICAN VALLEY; VOL. II**

A. E. Burley
2/7/1901

THE FREE LANCES.

THE FREE LANCES.

A ROMANCE OF THE MEXICAN VALLEY.

BY

CAPTAIN MAYNE REID.

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOL. II.

LONDON:
REMINGTON & CO.,
134 NEW BOND STREET

1881.

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THE FREE LANCES.

CHAPTER XXI.

A WOMAN'S SCHEME.

“Y poor Ruperto is indeed in danger! Now I am sure of it. Ah! even to his life! And I may be the cause of his losing it.”

So spoke the Countess Almonté, half in soliloquy, though beside her sat her friend

Luisa Valverde. They were in a carriage on return from their fruitless visit to the Dictator. It was the Countess' own landau, which had remained waiting for them outside the Palace gates.

The other, absorbed with her own anxieties, might not have noticed what was said but for its nature. This, being in correspondence with what was at the moment in her own mind, caught her ear, almost making her start. For she, too, was thinking of a life endangered, and how much that danger might be due to herself. It was not poor Ruperto's life, but poor Florencio's.

"You the cause, Ysabel!" she said not in surprise, save at the similarity of their thoughts. "Ah! yes; I think I comprehend you."

"If not, *amiga*, don't ask explanation of it now. It's a hateful thing, and I dislike