

The Man From Home

A Novelization of the Play of the Same Name

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CHAPTER VI
EASY PREY.

USUALLY when a man through inclination or environment decides that the manners of his people will not serve for him and that the customs of the land of his adoption are more applicable to his purpose he outdoes even the natives in his conformation to the existing modes.

Horace Granger-Simpson—the Granger was but a recent innovation due to the belief that Simpson by itself was altogether too hopelessly plebeian to attract even a modicum of attention—had progressed to such an extent that the youth of Kokomo would have stoned him instantly upon his arrival at the town depot.

He ambled with a rocking gait, drawn from the groundmen he had so carefully watched, down the steps of the hotel on to the terrace, and his attire would have attracted notice from a Hindoo idol. He wore spotlessly white flannels, white shoes pipelined to a dazzling degree, a thoroughly British straw hat, chamouis gloves and a pale blue scarf held together with a massive pearl.

For an instant Mme. in Contesse looked at him and then, with a little cry of greeting, rushed toward the steps and took both his startled hands. "Ah, my dear Horace Granger-Simpson!" she said excitedly. "Has your sister told you?"

Horace swallowed once or twice savagely and then made a heroic effort to keep down the radiance that was choking him, made two effectual dabs at his eyes with the handkerchief he took from his sleeve and responded joyfully, though brokenly:

"She has, indeed. I assure you I am quite overcome, my dear friends. Really, I assure you."

With a silvery laugh Mme. de Champigny stepped backward from him, making a little courtesy as she did so. The earl came forward with outstretched hands and grasped one of Horace's between both his own.

"My dear young friend," he said. "Not at all—not at all."

As the remark seemed a trifle ambiguous, Horace looked at him inquiringly, but, reading reassurance in his face, replied instantly:

"I assure you I am. I assure you I am. It's quite overpowering, isn't it?"

With a look of commiseration the countess regarded him and said softly:

"Ah, poor Al. Horace!"

From his sprawled attitude in the chair the honorable Almeric drew a protest.

"I say! Don't take it that way, you know. She's very happy."

Horace re-versed himself instantly and crossed the terrace quickly to grasp the hand of the bridegroom to be. The fact that it was as limp as a nackerel did not worry him an instant.

"She's worthy of it—she's worthy of it! I know she is! And when will it be, St. Aubyn?" he said.

"Enchanting!" cried the countess enthusiastically. "So clear is his grasp of the case, eh?"

Hawcastie flashed her a glance and turned to Horace.

"Oh, the date?" he said doubtfully. "I dare say within a year—two years."

There was another little cry of protest from the countess, and the earl glared at her menacingly. Horace started, too, and seemed to be about to enter a positive objection, but he contented himself with saying:

"Oh, but I say, you know, isn't that putting it jolly far off? The thing's settled, isn't it? Why not say a month instead of a year?"

"Ha-hum!" said the earl. "Oh, if you like! I don't know that there is any real objection."

The Man From Home

By BOOTH TARKINGTON and HARRY LEON WILSON

nor arrangements, the—er—settlement?" and interrupted himself with a friendly laugh and patted Horace upon the back. "Of course as men of the world—our world—you understand there are formalities in the nature of a settlement."

Horace, who was in the seventh heaven of delight at the approaching alliance between one of the ancient houses of Kokomo, Ind., and the honorable line of Hawcastie, broke in eagerly:

"Quite so, of course. I know! Certainly! Perfectly!"

"Then we'll have no difficulty about that, my boy. I'll wire my solicitor tonight and he'll be here within two days," said the earl carelessly. "If you wish to consult your own solicitor you can cable him, of course."

Suddenly Horace seemed taken with a fit of embarrassment.

"The fact is, Lord Hawcastie," he said. "I've a notion that our solicitor—Ethel's man of business, that is—of Kokomo, Ind., where our government—lived—in fact, a sort of guardian of hers—may be here at any time. I've heard from friends that he is coming in this direction."

The word had caught Hawcastie's attention, and he leaped at it.

"A sort of guardian? What sort, eh?" he inquired, seemingly taken aback.

"I really can't say," replied Horace apologetically. "Never saw him that I know of. You see, we've been on this side so many years, and there's been no occasion for this fellow to look us up, but he's never opposed anything Ethel wrote for. He seems to be an easy-going old chap."

"Hum!" said Hawcastie doubtfully. "Would he consent to your sister's marriage—or the matter of a settlement?"

Horace laughed cheerfully. "I have no doubt of it. If he has the slightest sense of duty toward my sister he'll be the first to welcome the alliance, won't he?"

"Then when he and my solicitor come they can have an evening together over a lot of musty papers, and the thing will be done. Again, my boy, I welcome you to our family. God bless you!"

He wrung Horace's hand again and turned away as if to hide his emotion, but really to wink at the countess.

"I'm overpowered, you know—really overpowered, you know," stammered Horace, fanning himself desperately with his hat.

"Come, Almeric," said the earl, and as the youthful heir to his house rose languidly he sidled close to the countess and whispered in her ear:

"Let him know it's a hundred and fifty thousand."

Then he and Almeric went up the steps into the hotel, leaving Horace and the countess gazing at each other delightedly.

She crossed over to him impulsively and, taking both his hands again, said: "My friend, I am happy for you."

"Think of it!" said Horace joyously. "In a fortnight at the most dear old Ethel will be the Hon. Mrs. St. Aubyn, future Countess of Hawcastie!"

"Yes," replied the countess, with drawing her hands and picking up her parasol, "and there is but the little arrangement of the settlement between your advocate and Lord Hawcastie's. But you Americans—you laugh at such things. You are big, so big, like your country!"

Horace followed her across the terrace to the wall.

"Ah, believe me, dear countess," he said, "the great world—your world, countess—has thoroughly alienated me."

The countess turned her shapely head and looked at him admiringly and with a touch of irony at the surprise she was about to give him.

"Ah, you retain one quality. You are careless, you are free," and she laid her right hand upon his arm, and Horace thrilled at the intimate touch.

"Well," he laughed, "perhaps in other things I fancy I should be thought something else, shouldn't I?"

She laughed openly at him now, but earnestly withal, and said:

"You are a debonair man of the world, and yet you are still American in that you are abominably rich. The settlement—such matter as that, over which a Frenchman, an Italian, might hesitate—you laugh. Such matter as \$150,000—you set it aside, you laugh. You say, 'Oh, yes; take it!'"

CONCEALED LOANS TO BANKS BARRED.

Examiners Puzzled About Group of Speculative Financiers Who Control Chain of Depositories.

Methods adopted by the bank examiners of New York, New Jersey and Delaware to stop the practice of certain country banks of borrowing money by what the bank examiners call "concealed loans" were put into effect yesterday.

At the same time the bank examiners are puzzled as to what action, if any, to take concerning a group of speculative financiers who, the examiners say, have recently joined together and acquired a chain of country banks throughout the State mentioned.

The plan used by the banks to conceal their borrowings includes the sale of bills receivable owned by the bank to the bank's president or other officers, who give the bank a note which is promptly discounted by the bank and the cash obtained from the bank's correspondent in New York.

Commenting on this plan Mr. Chas. A. Hanna, chairman of the bank examiners, says:

"There is nearly always an understanding that the personal note will be taken care of by the bank, which sold its bills receivable. The bills receivable are usually indorsed 'without recourse' by the selling bank, the indorsement often being written in lead pencil, which can be erased when the notes are returned to the bank that sold them. This plan is used by William Adler, of the State National Bank, of New Orleans, and F. G. Bigelow, of Milwaukee, both of whom came to grief by reason of their ambitious financial plans, of which this system of 'raising the wind' was a most important detail."

"By the second plan the country bank sells its bills receivable to the New York bank outright, indorsing them 'without recourse,' but with an implied or agreed understanding on the part of the selling bank that it will take care of them at maturity."

"By the third plan the country bank sells some of its railroad stocks to the city bank, with an agreement to repurchase same at maturity."

Blooms That Poison.
The majority of people think that the tulip has no equal and that the true of a great number of the fashionable variegated kinds. The old self-colored sorts, however, particularly those of a deep crimson hue, have a powerful odor, which is dangerous when inhaled. This odor is of saffron flavor and affects many people in very peculiar manner. If breathed deeply, it has the effect of producing lightheadedness, which continues for some time, causing the sufferer to do and say all manner of remarkable and ridiculous things. Its influence often lasts for an hour or two and is followed by deep depression.

Another common flower whose odor has evil properties is the poppy. This is doubtless due to the quantity of opium which the blossom contains. Numbers of individuals, especially young ladies of highly strung temperament, complain of the drowsy sensation which comes after walking through a field of these flowers and afterward of violent headaches and a disinclination to move about. In Asia Minor, where the poppy is grown in vast quantities for the purpose of extracting the drug tourists are frequently incapacitated for many hours after inspecting a poppy plantation, and two cases of death among English tourists were traced to the same cause last year.

All flowers grown from bulbs are dangerous in rooms where there is illness. Although bunches of flowers are invariably taken as presents to patients, such blooms as hyacinths, lilies of the valley, tuberoses and even daffodils and narcissuses should be carefully avoided. The perfume is as dangerous to a person in a critical state of health as a dose of morphia would be, without possessing the beneficial effects which that drug sometimes confers.

Perhaps the most remarkable effect which any garden flower has on the human body is that which follows the handling of a particular variety of primula known as obconica. Experienced gardeners are always careful to wear gloves when potting this plant, as should there be even such a slight scratch or prick on the hands or fingers, evil results are almost certain to follow.

The first noticeable result is a slight itching of the hands and arms, and this precedes the breaking out of a skin disease which frequently extends to the body. It dies away in the autumn when the leaves fall, and by Christmas the sufferer is free, but the primula has by no means finished its deadly work. When spring comes again and the sap rises in plants and trees, the dread disease makes its re-appearance and continues all through the summer.

This continues for many years, frequently for the whole of the victim's lifetime, and there is no known remedy for it. Cases of poisoning through eating the berries of the belladonna, or deadly nightshade, are all too frequent, but there is the gravest danger in even handling this attractive plant.

It is a very common practice in the country among parties of young people to pick the berries of the belladonna at each other with the fingers for sport. Then, when heated by the fun and ruffled, the face is sometimes mopped with a handkerchief upon which fingers sticky with the juice of the berries have been wiped.

Should but a little of this get into one of the eyes a fearful calamity may ensue. Iritis, or paralysis of the iris of the eye, which invariably results in blindness, has been known to come on, and against this dread disease medical skill has not proved successful.

This, too, is in face of the paradoxical fact that treatment with tincture of belladonna is the one usually adopted in the elementary stages of iritis.

The dainty heroine who is so often to be heard of as idly plucking to pieces the petals of a flower must beware of the blossoms she chooses for the purpose. Lilies, begonias, rhododendrons and peonies are likely to set up festers, which consequent loss of finger nails if treated in this way.

As a diver the loon excels, and naturally, for it is his sole means of livelihood. Not only is he marvellously quick, but he can remain under water for a seemingly endless time. In swimming and water he uses both wings and feet, and can go forward several hundred yards in this fashion.

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