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# The Man From Home

By BOOTH TARKINGTON and HARRY LEON WILSON

A Novelization of the Play of the Same Name

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CHAPTER VII  
SNUBBED!

LARGESSE, sweet Countess of Hawcastle!" the woman cried. "Largesse! And an revoir! Adieu! I leave you with your dear brother!"

She ran quickly up the steps with a flirt of her parasol, and Horace took his sister's hand with tears in his eyes. "Dear old sis! Dear old pal!" he said, and she turned a radiant look upon him.

"Isn't it glorious, Hoddy?" she said with exalted tone. "Look!" and held up the book she carried. "It's Burke's 'Peagee.' And Froissart's 'Chronicles'—I've been reading it all over



"Oh, I say, what a go! Motor car breaks down on the way here. One of the Johnnies, a German chap, discharges the chauffeur, and the other Johnny—one of your Yankee chaps, Ethel—hires two silly little donkeys, like rabbits, you know, to pull the machine. Then, as they can't make it, you know, he puts himself in the straps with them and proceeds, attended by the populace. Ha, ha!"

He laughed long and loudly.

"I went up to this Yankee chap, I mean to say—he was pulling and tugging along, you see—and I said, 'There you are, three of you in a row, aren't you?' meaning him and the two donkeys, you see, Ethel, and all he could answer was that he 'picked the best company in sight.' No meaning to it. I had him, you know, I rather think, didn't I?"

At this moment Lord Hawcastle entered with a bundle of newspapers under his arm and proceeded to settle himself at one of the tables. Almeric approached him.

"English papers, governor? I'll take the pink un. I'm off." And he picked up the tinted sheet as he spoke. Ethel came up to him and touched him on the arm.

"Going for a stroll, Almeric? Would you like me to go with you, dear?"

He looked at her vacantly for an instant and then stammered:

"Well, I rather thought I'd have a quiet bit of reading, you know."

Ethel drew back quickly and said in a very small voice:

"Oh, I beg your pardon."

Then she sat down hurriedly by Lord Hawcastle.

cries of "Bravo, Americano!" and "Yankee Doodle!" Horace ran to the gates, but they were closed, and the uproar continued. Ethel stood by one of the tables, amazement written on her features, and turned to her brother as he came back shaking his head.

"What is that?" she asked tremulously. Lady Creech, all in a flutter, entered from the hotel. At a glance one would set her down for an aristocrat. There was no doubt of it. From the topmost tip of her white hair to the toe of her solid shoe she was an aristocrat.

"One of your fellow countrymen, my dear," she said to Ethel. "Your Americans are really too!"

"Not my Americans, Lady Creech!" said Ethel spiritedly.

"Not our, you know. One could hardly say that, now?" reiterated Horace.

Almeric entered, at once laughing and beating his boot with his crop. Almost exhausted with his mirth, he threw himself into a chair and burst out:

"Oh, I say, what a go! Motor car breaks down on the way here. One of the Johnnies, a German chap, discharges the chauffeur, and the other Johnny—one of your Yankee chaps, Ethel—hires two silly little donkeys, like rabbits, you know, to pull the machine. Then, as they can't make it, you know, he puts himself in the straps with them and proceeds, attended by the populace. Ha, ha!"

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"What better use could be made of a fortune, Hoddy, than to maintain the state and high condition of so ancient a house?"

He looked at her affectionately and took her hand.

"It does seem impossible that we were born in Indiana, doesn't it, sister?" And the tones of his voice were those of incredulity.

She smiled at him fondly.

"But isn't it good that the pater 'made his pile,' as the Americans say, and let us come over here while we were young to find the nobler things, Hoddy—the nobler things?"

"The nobler things—the nobler things! Why, sis, when old Hawcastle dies I'll be saying offhand, you know, 'My sister, the Countess of Hawcastle'!"

For a moment Ethel remained thoughtful and then turned to her brother.

"You don't imagine that father's friend, this old Mr. Pike, will be—will be queer, do you?"

"Well, the governor himself was rather raw, you know. This is probably a harmless old chap, easy to handle."

"I wish I knew. I shouldn't like Almeric's family to think we had queer connections of any sort, and he might turn out to be quite shockingly American. I—I couldn't bear that, Hoddy!"

There was a note of genuine pathos in her voice, and her brother responded instantly:

"Then keep him out of the way. That's simple enough," he said. "None of them, except the solicitor, need see him."

Almost in a burst like an eruption there came an uproar outside the gates beyond the hotel—wild laughter, riotous cheering and the notes of the tarantella played by mandolins and guitar, then more shouts and cheers and

(To be continued.)

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