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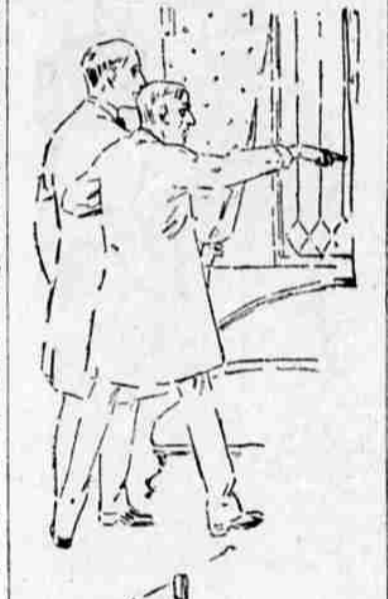
The Tribune is Up-To-Date

The Man From Home

A Novelization of the Play of the Same Name
By BOOTH TARKINGTON and HARRY LEON WILSON.
Copyright, 1909, by American Press Association

She dropped her head. "You're bullying me! I don't see why you talk so brutally to me."
"Do you think I'd do it for anything but you?" he asked.
"You are odious, insufferable!" she cried, with a dash of temper.
"Don't you think I know you despise me?" he asked bitterly. And she flared again.
"I do not despise you. If I had stayed at home and grown up there I should probably have been a provincial young woman, playing 'Sweet Genevieve' on the organ for you tonight," she said. "My life has not been that, however, and you have humiliated me from the moment of your arrival here. You have made me ashamed both of you and myself. And now you have some preposterous plan that will shame me again—both of us—once more before these gentlefolk."
There was a bustling without and some loud talking, and Pike smiled wanly.
"I think them gentlefolk are here," he said. As he spoke the door was thrown open, and Lady Creech hurriedly entered, followed by the countess, Horace, Almerie and the earl. The latter bowed sardonically to Pike, and Lady Creech hurried to Ethel with a cry of astonishment.
"My dear child! What are you doing here in this dreadful place with this dreadful person?" she demanded shrilly.
"My dear! Les covenances!" cried madame.
"Ethel! I am surprised! Come away at once!" demanded Horace.
"Oh, I say, you know, Miss Ethel, really!" echoed Almerie. "You can't stay here, you know!"
Pike stopped them with a gesture and said:
"I'm her guardian, and she's here by my authority, and, what's more, she'll stay by my authority."
Horace turned to the earl.
"Lord Hawcastle, will you insist upon Ethel's leaving? It's quite on the cards we shall have a disagreeable scene here."
Hawcastle smiled evilly.
"I see no reason for it. We're here simply for Mr. Pike's answer. He knows where he stands, and he knows where we stand," said the earl suavely, and the American met his smile evenly.
"I reckon you're right so far," he said.
"And your answer will be yes?" asked the earl, but Pike shook his head.
"You're wrong there," he answered, and Hawcastle changed front in an instant.
"Perhaps you are right, Mr. Granger-Simpson," he said. "There may be painful things done. Better your sister were spared them. Take her away."
Pike snapped at them all and moved to the door, where he faced them.
"Miss Ethel, you'll stay right where you are!" he commanded, and, paying no attention, Pike turned to Hawcastle.
"You're here for an answer, you say?"
"Yes," answered the earl, after an instant's pause, and Dan went closer to him.
"An answer to what?" he demanded, looking the other in the eye.
"An answer to our request that you accede to the wishes of this young lady," replied the earl uneasily.
"And if I don't what are you going to do?" demanded Pike quickly. Horace at once broke in.
"Ethel, you must go!" he implored. But Pike waved him to silence.
"Tell her. Why do you come here sure of the answer you want?" he insisted savagely.
"A gentleman would spare her that," said Hawcastle, with uneasiness, and the American laughed.
"I won't!" he snapped. "Speak out! Why?" But the earl would not answer directly, so Pike turned to Ethel.
"This afternoon I tried to help a poor devil, a broken down Russian running away from Siberia, where he'd been for nine years."
Ethel half rose in her chair and faced him eagerly.
"A poor, weak thing," he went on, "hounded like you've seen a rat in the gutter by dogs and bootblacks. Some of your friends here saw us bring him into this apartment. They know we've got him here now. If I don't agree to hand over you and \$750,000 of the money John Simpson made it means that the man I tried to help goes back to Siberia and I go to an Italian jail for two years or as much more as they

can make it."
"Nonsense," cried Hawcastle. But Ethel waved him aside and turned, with a withering look on Pike.
"I knew you had some further humiliation in store for me. Do you think I would believe that an English nobleman would stoop!"
Pike interrupted her ruthlessly and bitterly.
"Stoop?" he cried. "Why, ten years ago in St. Petersburg there was a poor devil of a revolutionist who in his crazy patriotism took government money for the cause he believed in. He made the mistake of keeping that money in the house, when this man"—he pointed to Hawcastle—"knew it was there. He also made the mistake of having a wife this man coveted and stole, as he coveted and stole the money. Oh, he made a good job of it! Don't think that tonight is the first time he has given information to the police. He did it then, and the husband went to Siberia!"
Hawcastle was the picture of amazement and horror as he staggered up.
"A dastardly slander!" he cried.
"And he'll do it again tonight!" Pike went on. "I go to an Italian jail"—he whirled and pointed an accusing finger at Mme. de Champigny—"and that same poor devil of a husband goes back to Siberia!"
"It's—it's a ghastly lie!" croaked Hawcastle, his face livid.
"You came for your answer," went on Pike stridently, "and, by the living



"He has betrayed me himself!"
God, I've got it for you!" He stepped to the door of the inner chamber and threw it open.
"Ivanoff!" he called, and the Russian came into the room. At the sight of him Hawcastle fell back against the mantel, and the countess collapsed in a heap on the floor. Ivanoff saw none but her and, striding to her, lifted both clinched hands above her head.
"Ivan—oh, mother of God! Ivan! Don't kill me!" she gasped.
For a moment he stood over her, then collapsed into a chair, where he wilted, sobbing violently.
(To be continued.)

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