By Geo. Barr McCutcheon HOME AND FARM MAGAZINE SECTION SERIAL.

A Fool and His Money

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*********** SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS INSTALLMENTS.

INSTALLMENTS.

In the opening instalments of "A Fool and His Money," Geo. Barr McCutcheon's charming novel, serial rights for which have been specially obtained for the Home and Farm Magazine Section, we learn of John Bellamy Smart, the young man who is telling this story. He has just written his first novel, and at the same time has fallen heir to an immense fortune left him by his uncle. He is 35 years of age.

After a visit to London, Smart takes a trip on the River Danube. After finding an old-world town, he discovers an ancient castle, which he purchases from its owner, the Count. With his secretary, Poopendyke, he takes possession of the immense signicture, which is supposed to be tenanted only by the caretaker and his family, the Schmicks. To Smart's amazement, the first night, he hears the cry of a baby. Later he discovers a woman's face at an upper window. He is too much interested to attend. the cry of a baby. Later he discovers a woman's face at an upper window. He is too much interested to attend to his correspondence, as is desired by his secretary. Smart determines to solve the mystery of the cast wing of the castle and caters a window by means of a ladder. He is blocked by a stout door on which is pinned a note reading: "Please keep out. This is private property." Later he meets the woman, who creatly puzzles him. the woman, who greatly puzzles him.

CHAPTER IV.

I Become an Ancestor.

RUE to the promise she had extract ed from me, I had off my work-men the next morning. They trooped in bright and early, considertrooped in bright and early, consider gallant—when it comes to a pinch. Be ably augmented by fresh recruits who sides, I was reasonably certain that she enme to share the benefits of my innocuous prodigality, and if I live to be I was wrong. She were a white, filmy at thousand I shall never again experione, but it served the purpose. I naturally one such a neisome half hour as the rally concluded that she was homely. one spent in listening to their indignant protests against my tyranical op pression of the poor and needy. In the end, I agreed to pay them, one and all, to conceal my disapopintment. "How go on. for a full day's work, and they went is the baby?" away mollified, calling me a true gentle man to my face and heaven knows what to my back

I spoke gently to them of the sick With one voice they all shout-

ed: "But our babies are sick!"

One octogenarian-a carpenter's ap prentice-heatedly informed me, through Schmick, that he had a child two weeks old that would die before morning if deprived of proper food and nourishment. Somewhat impressed by this pitiful lament, I enquired how his was geting along. The ancient, being in a placid state of senility, courteously thanked me for my interest, and an swered that she had been dead for forty-nine years, come September. I overlooked the slight discrepancy.

During the remainder of the day, I party?" to take his typewriter out to the stables, where I dictated scores of let tors to him. I canont Prince of the stables of the s in the kitchen about noon-time, and my secretary breakfasted, lunched and severely reprimanded him. We went dired without discrimination. quite to the extreme, however, when we tiptoed about our lofty halls. All of the ofternoon we kept a sharp lookout for the doctor, but if he came we were nonthe wiser. Britton went into the town at three with the letters and a telegram to my friends in vienna, imploring them to look up a corps of efficient servants for me and to send them on posthaste. I would have included a request for a competent nurse-maid if it hadn't you," been for a report from Poopendyke, who announced that be bod caught a walls themselves. You'll not be able to glimpse of a very nursy looking person discharge them. My grandfather tried range to break in about five o'clock at one of the upper windows earlier in it fifty years ago and failed. After that It will afford me a great deal of pleas-

I souldn't however for the life of !! me understand why my neighbor ec. other day. As well try to remove the joined such rigid silence in our part of mountain, Mr. Smart. They know you struck the stone balustrade an em the eastle and yet permitted 'hat coufounded dog of hers to yowl and bark How was I to know that the I said, triumphantly. heast had treed a lizard in the lower be here by the end of the week." "Oh, de hall and couldn't dislodge it!" "Oh," she sighed plaintively, "how meekingly. hall and couldn't dislodge it?

Britton returned with news. The ferrymen, with great joy in the telling, informed him that the reason for tourists parties was just beginning and that wo might expect, with them, to do a thriving and prosperous business during the next month or two. Indeed, word already had been received by the tourists company's agent in the tewn find suitable words to express my susthat a party of one hundred and sixty tained astonishment, I repeated: "By about a sick baby-or a doctor! It's all WEAR-EVER HOSIERY COLIPANY, nine would arrive the next day but one Jove!" but in a subdued tone. poppy-cock. Tomorrow you will find from Munchen, bent on visiting my "I have thought it over, Mr. Smart," yourself, bug and baggage, sitting at

forced by sundry beams and slabs, for better together if we stay apart. I knew the overpowering nature of the collective tourist,

I may be pardoned if I digress at this time to state that the party of one hundred and sixty-nine, both stern and opopsite, besieged my eastle on the next day but one, with the punctuality of locusts, and despite all of my precaujections, effected an entrance and overran the place like a swarm of ants. The feat that could not have been accomplished by an armed forced was suecessfully managed by a group of peda gogues from Ohio, to whom "Keep off the Grass" and "No Trespass" are signs of utter impotence on 'he part signs of utter impotence on 'he part of him who puts them up, and ever shall be, world without end. They came, they saw, they conquered, and they tried to "I will not have my new cook giving soberly. "Good night."

y when she appeared at her secret little know." window. Naturally, I am too much of a gentleman to have projected unfair fear. "This ceans of illuminating her face, such as the use of a pocket electric lamp or any-thing of that sort. I am nothing if not "I-I would wear a thick black veil. In this buying the place and coming here to up-

"Good evening," she said, on open

was so good of you to stop the work-

"Won't you take off your veil and stay awhile?" I asked, politely face-tious. "It isn't quite fair to me, you

Her next remark brought a blush of onfusion to my check. A silly notion to town every whip-stitch on errands and induced me to don my full even when a telephone—in your name, of had induced me to don my full even ing regalia, spike-tail coat and all. Nothing could have been more ludi- factory." erously incongruous than my appearance, I am sure, and I never felt more uncomfortable in my life.

"How very nice you look in your new suit," she said, and I was aware of a muffled quality in her ordinarily You clear, musical voice. She was haughing at me. "Are you giving a dinner ther.

dined without discrimination.
"For Gretel's benefit, I presume." "Ah! you do know Gretel, then?"

he a quaint old dearf" "I shall discharge her in the morn ing," said I severely. "She is a liar and her husband is a poltroon. They positively deny your existence in any

are fixtures, quite as much so as the madam ? " can't get on without them.

"I have discharged her as a cook," "A new one will

"and I believe we will get along much

Ambiguous remarks ordinarily reach my intelligence, but I was so stunned by preceding admissions that I could

only gasp:
"Do you mean to say you've been

subsisting all this time on my food ?" "Oh, dear me, no! How can you "On one condition," she said. "You think that of me? Gretel merely cooks must agree in advance to let me stay tions, all of my devices, all of my ob- the food I buy. She keeps a distinct on here for a month or two. It-it and separate account of everything, poor thing. I am sure you will not find anything wrong with your bills, Mr.

"I'm not quite sure that I did."

"I prefer to let matters stand just as the keys."
they are. Why should we discommode A good de

notice, madam. You surely can't ex two separate-'

"I-I quite agree with you. I'm

I resolved to be firm with her. She seemed to be taking too much for granted. "Much as I regret it, madam, I am ing the window.
"Good evening," said I, contriving get out, in fact. This sort of thing can't

She was silent for so long that I ex-"Very much better, thank you. It perienced a slow growth of compuneras so good of you to stop the work." slightly receding from my position, she gave me another shock.

"Don't you think it would be awfully eonvenient if you had a telephone put in, Mr. Smart!" she said. "It is such a nuisance to send Max or Rudolph over course-would be so much more satis-

"A telephone!" I gasped.

"Circumstances make it quite unwise for me to have a telephone in my own name, but you could have one in yours without creating the least suspicion. You are-

"Madam," I cried, and got no far-

"-perfectly free to have a tele phone if you want one," she continued. The doctor came this evening and it really wasn't necessary. Don't you see you could have telephoned for me and saved him the trip?'

(It was due to the most stupendous exertion of self-restraint on my part that I said: "Well, I'll be-jiggered," nstead of something a little less unique "Oh, I've known her for years. Isn't Her audacity staggered me. (I was not prepared at that time to speak of it as superciliousness.)

"Madam," I exploded, "will you be good enough to listen to met I am not be trifled with. Tomorrow sometime shape or form."

"They won't pay any attention to ing if I have to knock down all the I shall enter the east wing of this buildsaid she, with a laugh. "They doors on the place. Do you understand,

"I do hope, Mr. Smart, you can ar he made it a point to dismiss Conrad ure to give you some ten. May I expect you at five

Her calmness exasperated me. I phatic blow with my fist, sorely peeling the knuckles, and ground out:

"How awfolly stern you are!"
"I don't believe a word you say peppy-cock. Tomorrow you will find

ruin. In great trepidation, I had all of she went on in a business-like manner, the bottom of this hill, waiting for—"
the gates and doors locked and rein-"and I believe we will get along much ""Wait!" she cried. "Are you really,

truly in earnest?' "Most emphatically!"

"Then I-I shall surrender," she said, very slowly-and seriously, I was

glad to observe.
"That's more like it," I cried, eathusiastically.

"On one condition," she said. "You

most imperative, Mr. Smart."
"I shall be the sole judge of that, madam," I retorted, with some dignity. Smart. But did you hear what I said a "By the way," I went on, knitting my moment ago?" of the castle? Schmick says he's lost

A good deal depended on her answer.
"They shall be delivered to you to-

The little window closed with a snap buy picture posteards of me.

I mention this in passing, lest you pect her—or him—to prepare meals for and I was left alone in the smiling the balcony, thanking my lucky stars that it was a bright, moonlit night to pay her—or him—extra wages it would be all right," she added, quick—sent having my sleep curtailed in the ly when she appeared at her results. ly. "We do not require much, you slightest degree, held no brief against know." I laughed rather shortly-meanly, I velled in the promise of nocturnal distraction. Fearing, however, that I is most extraordinary, might drop off to sleep at three er four o'clock and thereby run the risk of over sleeping, I dashed off to the

> "Britton," I said. "I want to be called at seven o'clock sharp in the morning." Noting his polite struggle to conceal his astonishment, I told him of my second encounter with the lady across the way.

"She won't be expecting you at seven, sir," he remarked. "And, as on you, instead of the other way for that, she may be expecting to call

"Right!" said I, considerably dashed.

"Besides, sir, would it not be safer to wait till the tourist party ras come and gone?"

(To Be Continued.)

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