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The Passionate Elopement

By COMPTON MACKENZIE

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS

Westminster Gazette.—"Mr. Mackenzie's book is a novel of *genre*, and with infinite care and obvious love of detail has he set himself to paint a literary picture in the manner of Hogarth. He is no imitator, he owes no thanks to any predecessor in the fashioning of his book. . . . Mr. Mackenzie recreates (the atmosphere) so admirably that it is no exaggeration to say that, thanks to his brilliant scene-painting, we shall gain an even more vivid appreciation of the work of his great forerunners. Lightly and vividly does Mr. Mackenzie sketch in his characters . . . but they do not on that account lack personality. Each of them is definitely and faithfully drawn, with sensibility, sympathy, and humour."

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Standard.—"One has only to look at the delightful binding, the wide margins, the lashing of the 'c's' and 't's,' the headings of some of the chapters—'The Pump Room,' 'The Order of the Exquisite Mob,' 'The Horrid Adventures of Beau Ripple and Mrs. Courteen'—to see that we are in for the prettiest explication of manners. . . . And there is at the end of it all Mr. Mackenzie's humour—a really charming captivating humour. It is a quality of which we cannot in these days have too much."

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English Review.—"All his characters are real and warm with life. 'The *Passionate Elopement*' should be read slowly, and followed from the smiles and extravagance of the opening chapters, through many sounding and poetical passages to the thrilling end of the Love Chase; the quiet irony of the close leaves one smiling, but with the wiser smile of Horace Ripple, who meditates on the colours of life."

Outlook.—"There is nothing to suggest that the novel is the work of a new writer. Judging from internal evidence alone, it would indubitably seem to have come from a practised pen. . . . Marked by a mellow thoughtfulness that is as agreeable as it is surprising."

Spectator.—"As an essay in literary *bravura* the book is quite remarkable."

Sunday Times.—"Mr. Mackenzie has wrought an admirable piece of work, which has the daintiness of a piece of Dresden China and the polish of a poem by Mr. Austin Dobson."

Glasgow News.—"Fresh and faded, mocking yet passionate, compact of tinsel and gold is this little tragedy of a winter season in view of the pump room. . . . Through it all, the old tale has a dainty, fluttering, unusual, and very real beauty."

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