Now it is very annoying that of all of my friends this Goth should have so accurately diagnosed the secret working of my brain. For I hold myselt i tellectually—though physically I am a small man compared to him—infinitely his superior. I am of too refined, too aesthetic a taste to share his rough occupations and enjoyments, but he is, though a clumsy bar barian, of good private income in addition to his official salary. I have, I am sorry to say, a wholly inadequate income for one who would devote his days to the muses, to the beautiful, and to the study of its symbolism. I am gifted with a graceful imagination and a longing for the cultivation of the ideal, but am unfit for the rude realities of life and the rough battle for money. So that the acquaintance of Mactavish and some others is valuable to me-especially as I play billiards well. But hearing that my long unknown uncle and his fair daughter have come to England, I can think of nothing more favourable to my views than claiming their acquaintance, for, so far as I am aware, they have no other relatives. I doubt not the beautiful Australian will appreciate the culture of society, and nothing could be more natural than that I should marry her. I should make an admirable dilettante country Squire, and the refined repose of such a position would in all ways meet my wishes-varied with regular visits to London, of course. But I never supposed this great, broad shouldered Scotchman would so accurately guage my intentions.

However, I have got my invitation to Devonshire, am going there, and Mactavish and his personalities be hanged!

CHAPTER II.

I am at Beechlands. My uncle, a tall, broad chested man with an irongrey heard, thick and long, has we'ce med me cordially, though he need not have remarked: "You are small, James, in comparison with your father—however, much good's often packed in a small parcel." However, these childish aphorisms must, I suppose, b. expected from colonials. As for Amy, she is a pretty girl, in figure exquisitely proportioned, and, I am happy to say, not taller than myself. She is charming when she likes, but I have an idea she is somewhat satirical, a thing that I hate in women.

Amy is a daring horsewoman, devoted to lawn tennis, and excessively fond of leng country walks. I dislike walks save on nicely-laid paving-stones, where y u can get a hansom when tired. If I am ever master of Beechlands I shall traverse the roads and lengt—full of gravel and rule as they are, and requiring such boots as I shudder to wear—on wheels. Then she loves dogs, of which a whole kennel is kept, and their lumbering then she loves nogs, or which a whole kenner is kept, and their lumbering caresses invariably also mike me shudder. I always loathed them, but here I have to assume a virtue and pat the savage brutes, all the time thinking they're going to take hold of me.

My uncle—but this I expected—is mad on the subject of cattle raising,

and between his asking me to come into the stockyard and Amy's inviting me to inspect her crowd of various fowls—whose names I never can distinguish—in the poultry yard, I find my natural tastes very much opposed. Patience, however I and let me see if I cannot make Amy something more a creature of culture. I read her some of my triolets, and she looks at me dreamily with her magnificent violet eyes as if she appreciated them. She generally proposes a walk or a ride afterwards, and I enthusiastically perforce vote for the former; what I shall do to evade the latter when my uncle's new horses come next week is a matter which receives my constant consideration.

But to my intense joy, and my uncle's equally intense wrath, the dealer procrastinutes and demurs about the price and warranty, and the horses don't come yet. Meanwhile I try my best to induce Amy to share my own tastes.

(To be continued.

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