

ESMERALDA

to be unpatriotic, what with the war and all; but you know what I mean—so unfinished, but of great value to the senator.

And Captain Tugwell was important for three reasons. First, because he was Lord Castlewing's cousin, which fact automatically carried certain social obligations; and secondly, because he was young, possessed, I believe, of a considerable competence in his own right, and, according to some tastes, very handsome. Personally I thought the latter supposition debatable. He was tall and slim and blond, and wore an absurd little mustache. I have never been able to raise a mustache myself; but as I do not consider hirsute ornamentation hygienic this is no loss. I am a small man, but I flatter myself that my clothes are in rather better taste than Captain Tugwell's. It seemed indeed strange that so taciturn a young man should be given to wearing such extremely loud tweeds.

I may here mention that he possessed