

steps which led up to the entrance. When we met he bowed with ostensible politeness but with an annoying measure of curiosity not unmingled with resentment, as I thought. Did he object to my presence at the home of Professor Agnew?

I bowed in return; and, just as I did so, the new man seemed to make a special effort to pull himself up to the full height that his half trained body would permit. It was as though the one important effort of his life, when in society at least, was to walk perfectly upright in imitation of the enviable grace of those human beings whom he aspired to equal.

After he had passed I turned and surveyed him, notwithstanding the breach of good manners, and observed that he sank down again into a more natural and comfortable position in all the tragedy of his lofty ambition. I began to pity him from the bottom of my heart in his painful efforts to reach that stage of physical perfection which only posterity, perhaps in many, many years or generations would be able to attain. I felt that this poor creature was laying the foundation of a pride in body grace for others, which he himself would never be permitted to enjoy. His ambitious efforts to walk perfectly erect would be visited upon generations still unborn and down the ages yet to come.

I stood watching the evidence of an almost unbelievable truth, so buried in thought in the depth of my sympathy, interest and curiosity, that I seemed to have lost the power to move away. Had a new and intelligent being been born to the civilized world?

I saw him mount his car just outside the large gate where, for some reason, he had parked it, and drive off in the direction away from the city.

No one else was in sight. The mansion and estate seemed to be deserted. While I stood listening and undecided, however, I could hear the sound of a mower sheering the grass in the distance. Birds were warbling in the branches of the admirable shade trees.

I walked up the wide, stone steps and stood on the porch under the high veranda. And I may say that a strange awe took possession of me in the presence of such massiveness and opulence.

Above the door and in the four corners of the veranda clusters of electric light globes were sending forth their artificial efforts although it was broad daylight, and I fancied the inmates had carelessly forgotten to switch them off.

Before making up my mind as to what would be my next move, something prompted me and I turned my head in the direction of the drive-way over which I had just passed. To my astonishment, a beautiful car, sparkling from its highly polished body in the sunshine, stood at the foot of the wide, stone steps. It had arrived from somewhere with the usual fearsome noiselessness which seemed to possess all mechanical things in action in this far-advanced mysterious land.

There were four persons in the machine. In the front seat sat an elderly gentleman, and beside him the chauffeur at the wheel. In the rear reclined a middle-aged lady, and a girl perhaps about twenty years of age.

The manner in which the car had approached so near to me without being seen or heard appealed to me as a marvel in scientific and mechanical engineering.

The elderly man stepped hastily from the car and came up the steps to greet me with an eagerness that was puzzling:

"Welcome," he said, grasping my hand, and at the same time piercing my countenance with his eyes in a manner that almost compelled me to recoil from him. He made no comment whatever with regard to my personal appearance. His manner was that of one who was receiving a messenger whom he had long expected.

I saw no reason why I should be welcome to him at such an early stage of the game, but I accepted the cordiality and said:

"Thank you. I am looking for Professor Agnew."

"I am flattered," he replied, shaking me vigorously by the hand again. "What can I do for you?" And he smiled in what I fancied was a business-like sort of way.

"I crave knowledge of your new human race," I told him, coming immediately to that subject that was nearest to my heart.

"I am flattered again. Be seated." And he pointed to a beautifully upholstered rocking chair in a corner of the porch.

As I sat down the Professor motioned to the ladies and they came forward, the elderly lady in the lead.

"Mr. ——— What is your name, sir?" inquired the gentleman.

"Bruce," I informed him. "David Bruce." And I rose anticipating an introduction.

"Mr. Bruce, meet my wife and daughter," said the Professor with the same business-like smile.

There was a great deal of encouragement attached to the manner in which the ladies gripped my hand, and what embarrassment existed on my part seemed to vanish in an instant. There was nothing in the hand-shake which did not bespeak unreserved friendship.

"Mr. Bruce is seeking information about our new people," said the husband and father, addressing the ladies.

"Yes," I broke in, at a loss to know just what might be expected of me at the moment. "I am told that the Professor can supply me with all the details I desire."

"Which is quite correct," he replied. "For they are my children."

Of course I knew he meant this more as a guardian and protector than as a parent, and I smiled.

As though they understood the trend of my thoughts, the mother and daughter laughed also. In them, however, I could detect nothing of the commercial variety of mirth which seemed to poison that of the Professor.

"I trust I am not intruding," I apologized. "I can call again when it will be more convenient."

"Not at all. You are just as welcome now as at any other time. Be seated." And he motioned to the chauffeur who immediately drove the car away and into the garage a little distance from the mansion.

I sat down again only too eager to accept the invitation, for I was tired from walking and weak for want of food. As I sat down the ladies retired into the house.

"You come from a far country?" inquired the Professor, bringing over another chair and sitting down close to me.

"I do," was my reply; which, indeed, was perhaps true. I did not know just at that moment where I came from, nor where I was.

"I thought so, because, far and wide, my people are known as one of the wonders of the age. Where do you come from, may I ask?"

The abruptness of the question startled me. I had no more idea where I came from than I had as to my present whereabouts. I looked up at the electric lights burning so

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