

conflicted only to certain ends. In business his penurious methods and characteristic meanness in all money matters brought him financial security, but militated against his obtaining any great success. He made no big coups because he dared no risks, his financial genius was obscured by the caution and stolidity inherited from his father's family. When he left, or, to be more precise, was ejected, from his father's firm, he obtained a position as traveller for a wholesale house, in Wood Street, which dealt in machine-made lace, chiefly in the form of trimmings and insertions.

The work suited him, in that it gave him a certain amount of leisure and the interest of perpetual travel, as his work lay principally among the drapers in the smaller provincial towns of England and Wales. He never neglected his business, chiefly because he worked largely on commission, and among the pleasures he found in life, he found none so attractive as the acquisition of money.

His married life, if not a triumphant success, was not entirely a failure. The zest inspired by the natural purity and remoteness of his Irish girl, was never quite lost ; largely maintained, no doubt, in later years by the long periods of separation between husband and wife, for Hermann was hardly ever at home except at the week-end, and not then, if he could make an additional sixpence by charging his firm for travelling expenses he had not incurred.

One other unpleasant trait of Hermann's character must be touched upon, however briefly—he was not a faithful husband, a fact never suspected by his wife. A simple, sweet-minded woman, this wife of Hermann Stahl's, devoid of evil thoughts, who attributed nothing but good to all with whom she associated ; a devoted wife and mother, but quite inefficient as a housekeeper, her vagaries in this latter direction the one source of friction between her and her husband. With him domestic economy was a science, whilst she was innocent even of arithmetic.

Nevertheless it was not an unhappy household, this little Camberwell ménage of the Stahls'. Nancy Freeman's successor proved a jewel, and devoted herself heart and soul to