

I nearly fell out of the window, we laughed so hard. He bet you would be arrested, and I took him—and I won a pound of hard centres, fork-dipped.”

“ Did Costin see it ? ” asked Charles with a flicker of concern in his voice.

“ He missed the very first of it,” she replied. “ I called to him to come and look. He loves excitement.”

At that moment the inner door opened, and Costin entered. He advanced upon Charles, beaming.

“ A great run ! ” he exclaimed. “ Fine action and fine execution. You get wh^{at} you go after, evidently. You Britishers ! Hard of head and hard of shin, you see what you think you want and go after it, bang through the thick of things. Perhaps it is something worth having, and more likely it isn’t. Is that right, Miss Featherstonhaugh ? ”

“ It sounds right,” replied the young woman.

“ That’s near enough,” returned the editor. He gripped Charles by an elbow. “ Come along now and we’ll eat,” he said.

They ate rather extensively, and took their time about it, in a quiet corner of the oak-panelled and wainscoted dining-room of Costin’s club.

Costin was an accomplished and whimsical talker. Beauchamp listened with both ears and the surface of his mind, but all the while