

amiable quality he carried into his private as well as his public life.

A vein of genial humour lay under the grave and thoughtful exterior. With pleasant people around him he formed a most agreeable and entertaining, as well as instructive companion. He had managed to accumulate a handsome fortune by his perseverance and success in business, and although his energetic habits would not allow him wholly to give up his active pursuits, yet he had begun to give more of his time to leisure, and the society of his friends, the Mordaunts in especial, than he had heretofore done.

He was externally neat and fastidious in person and attire, dressed habitually in black broadcloth, wore a glossy beaver hat, good jewellery and faultless linen.

"Well! Uncle Edward, are we to remain here all evening star gazing?" said Ethel, "or shall we take advantage of the cooler air for a row upon the lake. I know you are longing for your evening cigar, only abstaining from it that you fear its odour might penetrate through two feet of brick wall into my mother's drawing-room."

"I do not see, my dear Ethel," he replied, with comfortable laziness, "why you should throw the responsibility of our movements upon my shoulders, any more than I can see why you should call me Uncle 'Edward,' thereby implying that you have numerous Uncle 'Josephs' and 'Henrys,' et cetera, at your imperative call, when you are perfectly well aware that I am your sole uncle, on this side of the herring pond at all events. Neither am I longing particularly for a cigar, and were I to indulge in one and its odours should invade your mother's drawing-room, which as the windows are open, is probable, it is not from her that I would expect reproof. It would remain for your saucy tongue to remind me of my misdoings. And, again, why not follow your own sweet will as to a row upon the lake. I am ready to obey your behests, and doubtless Edwin Vance