

CHAPTER XI

THE BROKEN FAN

THE year that followed was a strenuous one for Hugh Martin. He had left Nice and returned to London, where the business consequent upon the signing of the contract and the rehearsals of a new play awaited him.

In London, however, he found an unexpected state of affairs that seemed likely to detain him there for some considerable time. An irregularity in the contract led to a rupture of relations with the actor-manager at whose theatre 'The Yellow Slipper' was to have been produced, and Martin traced this irregularity to an unscrupulous theatrical agent, behind whom, guessing at a personal enmity, he eventually unmasked Norman Swaine. Swaine promptly threatened Swaine with a legal action, and a good deal of legal correspondence ensued, and it was only with the departure of Swaine on his American tour that, his active malice having been removed, things began to right themselves.

Martin had resolved to remain in London until all details connected with the affair were finally settled, and consequently more than a year elapsed before his return to France. Seated on the train that was taking him towards Menton