

treated an old friend rather harshly. You thought you could keep my mouth closed by burying me beneath these other insignificant fellows. For weeks past I've been groaning at your mistakes and chuckling at your ignorance, and you have not even deigned to consult my feelings once. But, my friend, I can stand it no longer. You have the du-mps. Yes, you are apt to take a harsh view of life, and are now trying to raise yourself by pulling down all the rest of mankind. You *are* a fool. I am somewhat talkative (and no wonder); so, without your permission, I'll proceed and tell you a thing or two. My name is Wooster (note it well), and I am the most important and least respected of your friends. You think I am a dry old stick, that my knowledge consists of antiquated rubbish. Listen! You were talking about a man of caprice. Did you ever think what that means? A man of caprice is a man who capers, frisks about, runs hither and thither, leaps ditches and fences, runs butt against all obstacles, and takes keen delight in climbing at the risk of life, that he may satisfy idle and unaccountable curiosity. The man of caprice is the man who exhibits the traits of the goat (Latin, *caper*, a goat). There is an uncertainty about such a man's actions that appears to defy explanation. Let us, if possible, follow the goat, and we may perhaps account for some of the uncertain actions of the capricious man. The frolicking, frisking, daring goat climbs roofs, stumps, and fences, leaps ditches and gates, because it is natural. He unconsciously remembers the time when he roamed free upon the hills and crags as a wild mountain-goat, when he *had* to climb and *had* to leap. Turn out the domestic goat upon the bleak, rocky hills, and he will soon revert to his former condition. The peculiarities of goats are easily explained by a reference to their origin. They are imitative and sequacious by heredity. A whole flock of sheep, the most domesticated of this race of mountain climbers, will follow their leader through the same opening, jump a ditch in the same place and exactly in the same manner, leap over imaginary obstacles in exact imitation, and in every way prove their faithfulness to ances-