

CONTENTS

AND LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
THE OLD EARL	11
" There is not a crease nor a wrinkle in his dress from top to toe. All his appointments are marked by cost and grandeur "	16
" So he merely pencilled on the back, ' Can't you give it to some one else ? ' and asked Placebo to put it into another envelope and direct it "	21
THE DOWAGER	25
" The eminent conveyancers, Grip, Holdfast, Clench, Binder, and Grip, drew the settlements "	24
" She was not young enough to be a flirt, nor old enough to be a bore "	29
THE RECTOR	31
" After dinner, over a glass of fine old Madeira, when the ladies had retired, he loved to recount the story of his floggings "	34
" We were at a dinner party in Paris; he sitting on the right of a fair Republican. Before the soup had been dispatched, he hastened to assure his neighbour that the Empire was the best Government for France "	39
THE CURATE	42
" Do you object to smoking, Sir ? "	43
" Even Mrs. Goodhart says with a sigh to her thirty-year old daughter, Amy, ' I've no patience with Mr. Wildair; he is such a muff.' And Amy sighs too "	45
THE FAMILY SOLICITOR	50
" There is a notable dignity in his tall spare figure, bent not ungracefully—in the steadfast look of his dim blue eye and white beard "	51
" Mr. Vellumson chanced to meet the Duke travelling up to town, and they had some conversation which nobody heard, after which his Grace went on his way with a face quite livid "	56
THE CHAPERON	60
" She would sail into a ball, or a fancy fair, or a horticultural show, looking like a line-of-battle ship at a regatta "	64
" She sits stock still, with those pale, lanky girls beside her all of a row "	67
THE ORNAMENTAL DIRECTOR	70
" The Marquis of Mistylands made no answer, but sipped his wine slowly, and once held it up to the light "	72
" Even his lisp, and the jargon of fashionable life in which he spoke, seemed to have a charm for them "	79
THE PROMISING SON	82
" He kept his eyes fixed upon the ground, not as one who mourns or thinks deeply, but as though all things in the world were simply indifferent to him "	83
" His mother would kiss his forehead, giving thanks to God, as he bent over his books "	87
THE FAVOURITE DAUGHTER	93
" Mrs. Morton stole in upon the pair one afternoon, and surprised the Colonel on one knee behind a screen in the library, teaching his pupil the noble art of self-defence "	96
" The rose and the lilac were ablossom and ablow; the scent of the lush woodbine came, with an intoxicating odour, through the windows "	101

	PAGE
THE COLLEGE DON	104
“He has dodged the Greek language into all its aorists ; he has doubts about some of the meanings given by Liddell and Scott”	105
“I expressed a hope that he liked Oxford better than London. ‘Yes,’ he replied meditatively, ‘he thought he did ; because there were more theological books at Oxford’”	109
THE RETIRED COLONEL	114
“He used to hobble down every afternoon to the club which the curious old Flemish town boasted”	115
“I do vat I please,” screamed the Belgian Major, “I read ze <i>Tims</i> , I play with him, I sit upon him, I dance upon him”	119
THE BACHELOR	123
“After Ned had stormed the Travellers’ he quietly walked off to Bootle’s”	125
“When he died, some men at his club put down the paper which announced his decease with a yawn, and said, ‘No news to-day. Wyse is dead at last, I see’”	130
THE OLD MAID	132
“A single lady with three dogs, an unmanageable umbrella, and a large parcel of scandal”	137
“She had captivated a widower with five daughters, and had put all the heart she had left into that venture”	141
THE SPENDTHRIFT	143
“One thing seemed dear to him ; it was a black box which he kept at the yeomanry dépôt carefully locked”	148
“Whenever handsome Charley was seen on the shady side of Piccadilly or Pall Mall, he had a Lord arm-in-arm with him ; and there was a bailiff round the corner”	151
THE USURER	154
“‘See here, and here, and here,’ continued Lobster, in excellent tone and temper, turning over the leaves of a packet of oblong papers lying before him. ‘There is your signature’”	160
“The Usurer, however, chucked him scornfully an old pocket-book with a ten-pound note inside, saying, ‘There’s your own money back again, with interest, Magpie!’”	164
THE RICH WIDOW	166
“The lady of the Manor”	167
“My lady’s pheasants and port wine mostly went in that way, as they had done in the late Lord’s time. It was he who had first taught her how sublime a thing is charity”	174
THE NEWSPAPER EDITOR	176
“Mr. Brimmer held in one hand a bundle of telegrams and in the other a pair of scissors. Without much parley, the proprietors made their offer to him—the Editorship of the ‘Mercury,’ with £2,000 a year”	179
“He is all absorbed in his paper”	185
THE DOCTOR	187
“My Lord was jabbering over a pistol when the Doctor arrived, and the great glass above the mantelpiece in the state drawing-room in Belgrave-square was freshly shattered” <i>Frontispiece.</i>	
“No calling has duties so solemn, or such cares as that of ‘the beloved physician’”	194
MY MAIDEN AUNT	196
“‘Pon my soul, Pulcheria, never more earnest in my life, my dear,’ stuttered the Colonel. And he gallantly took her hand”	198
“Her drawing-room and dining-room were always adorned with fresh-cut flowers”	202
THE SQUIRE	206
“He was much prouder and happier in succeeding to the post of M. F. H., which he had filled as deputy during his father’s last year on earth”	207
“During a couple of years after he had left Oxford he was often bored by the painful necessity of having to cut old acquaintances, who, if encouraged, might have become too familiar”	211
THE BUTLER	215
“Lady Dormer’s butler took more port than was good for him, and slid helplessly off his chair on to the floor of the pantry”	219

	PAGE
THE BUTLER (<i>continued</i>).	
" So now Bill Botterell rules at Blewberry Hall, but discreetly and wisely, like a man who has the instinct of statercraft in him "	224
THE YOUNGER SON	226
" He was as well known behind the scenes of the opera house as either his father or his elder brother "	229
" The Honourable Felix called to him from the opposite side of Bury Street, where they met by chance, to say, ' So it's all U P now, old man ! ' and there was an ugly glitter in his eye-glass as he noted his brother's haggard looks "	233
A GRANDMOTHER	237
" Her complexion was fresh and pink, in spite of years; her eyes were keen as darts; her hair, which was abundant, wavy, and snowy white, derived remarkable lustre from being powdered "	239
" ' I borrow upon <i>post-obits</i> , ' said he, as he offered me a fine cigar "	243
THE TUTOR	246
" ' What right have you to drink whisky? You've never been in Scotland.' ' No; but I've been in Ireland ' "	248
" A desperate tussle ensued, ending in the victory of Johnson, who dragged young Ajax into his rooms, where the features of the latter stood revealed "	252
THE GOVERNESS	254
" She had made her sisters' pinafores when they were younger; now she cut out their bonnets and dresses, turning her nimble fingers to anything "	255
" Then she packed up such few things as she wanted, and kissed her father, with her prim little black silk bonnet on, ready to start "	260
LE NOUVEAU RICHE	268
" The agent of a South American Government, who wanted him to float a new loan, found him eating bread and bacon on his thumb, in company with one of his own workmen "	270
" He was found, after diligent looking for, in a lumber-room, patiently trying a solution of caoutchouc for the perpetual repair of old shoes "	275
THE DEVOTEE	278
" She fitted up a room that was never used with all the appliances of picturesque asceticism "	280
" She was on the way to hear some preacher who happened just then to be before the law courts, with the serious butler behind her carrying a conspicuous prayer-book "	283