

**A PLACE IN  
THE WORLD**

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A Place in the World by John Hastings Turner

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**JOHN HASTINGS TURNER**

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**A PLACE IN THE WORLD**

BY  
**JOHN HASTINGS TURNER**  
AUTHOR OF "SIMPLE SOULS"

NEW YORK  
**CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS**  
1920

**TO MY WIFE**





## CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
I.	A ROUND MAN . . . . .	1
II.	BUTTERFLIES . . . . .	11
III.	NO MANNERS; NO MORALS . . . . .	21
IV.	ADVOCATUS DIABOLI . . . . .	32
V.	SORCERY . . . . .	45
VI.	ON ODDNESS . . . . .	65
VII.	IRIS SITS ON A THRONE . . . . .	75
VIII.	SOME LETTERS AND A THUNDERBOLT . . . . .	92
IX.	KNITTING AND EMBROIDERY . . . . .	101
X.	BROWN AND SMITH . . . . .	111
XI.	"NIGHT OPERATIONS" . . . . .	127
XII.	CHARITY MATINEE IDOLS . . . . .	139
XIII.	THE TIME WHICH WAS OUT OF JOINT . . . . .	152
XIV.	"SHEER IMPERTINENCE" . . . . .	161
XV.	"THE LITTLE TIN GOD AND A TELEGRAM" . . . . .	172
XVI.	"THE GRAND TOUR" . . . . .	185
XVII.	"THE QUAIN COMPANIONS" . . . . .	197
XVIII.	"A TEXT FOR THE VICAR" . . . . .	216
XIX.	"THE BEGINNINGS" . . . . .	232
XX.	"THE BIRTH" . . . . .	241
XXI.	"THE THREE 'L's'" . . . . .	264
XXII.	"MORE BEGINNINGS" . . . . .	277



## A PLACE IN THE WORLD

### CHAPTER I

#### A ROUND MAN

THERE is a kind of man who appears to be fashioned in circles. His body is a collection of curves topped by a round and shining head. His soul is as round and polished as his body, with no mad and jagged corners to scarify society's epidermis. Even his life is a circle, for, as a rule, he will die, as his temperate habits deserve, at a ripe old age, on the very threshold of infancy once more.

So long as there happens nothing to disturb him, such a man will run his course, without much detriment to his fellows, and quit the earth finally, if unhonoured and unsung, at least unmoved. And it is possible that to live or to die in a state of indifference is not so great an evil as it sounds.

Just such a round and shiny man was Henry Cumbers, who rented "Applegarth" at ninety pounds per annum. It is quite superfluous to describe him. The trains that run to Greater London about six o'clock contain his double many times over. He was fifty, and the toecaps of his boots turned up a