THE TITLE-MART; A COMEDY IN THREE ACTS

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The title-mart; a comedy in three acts by Winston Churchill

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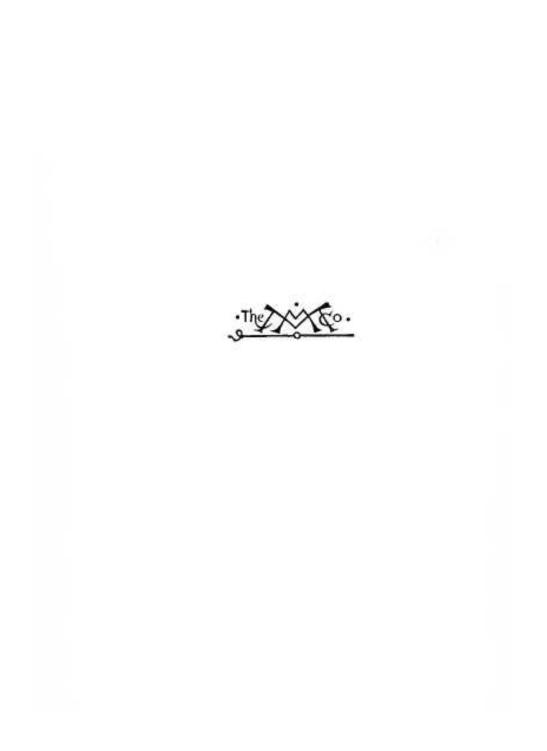
WINSTON CHURCHILL

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A COMEDY

IN THREE ACTS

BY

WINSTON CHURCHILL

New York

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY LONDON: MACMILLAN & CO., LTD.

1905

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

7-1

THE MARQUIS OF TREDBURY .	A young nobleman in finan- cial straits.
REGINALD BARKING, M.P	Son of "Barking's china."
Mr. John Blackweil	Railroad President and Cap- tain of Industry.
MR. LAWRENCE PEPTS	Lawyer, man of the world.
Roy Clarkson	Reporter on the New York Morning Republic.
HIRAM PETERS	Store-keeper and sheriff of Carroll County.
EZRA SWAZEY	His clerk.
THEDEN	Valet to Lord Tredbury.
Butler, foo	tmen, etc.
EDITH BLACKWELL	A modern, strenuous, Ameri- can girl. Incidentally an heiress.
Mrs. Blackwell	Second wife to Mr. Blackwell, stepmother of Edith.
LADY MARJORIE TICKNOR.	

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BALCHVILLE IN THE ADIRONDACKS

ACT I

SCENE. The Post-office and little general store occupies half of the rear of the stage, the left side. It is a low, white building, with a porch and checker-paned windows on either side of the door, where goods are displayed, and signs,

"MANNA BREAKFAST FOOD," etc.

There is a small sign,

"POST-OFFICE,"

and a larger sign over the porch,

"HIRAM PETERS, GENERAL STORE."

There is a sign against the wall of the Post-office, of more or less permanence and size:

" TIPTON'S HOTEL IN THE MOUNTAINS,

ON LAKE REGINA,

EIGHT MILES BY STAGE FROM BALCHVILLE.

LUXURIOUS SUITES.

GOLFING, FISHING, TENNIS, BOATING.

Z. TIPTON, PROPRIETOR."

There is also a large poster in a conspicuous place advertising,

"THE BALCHVILLE FAIR,"

with a list of prizes, trotting races, etc. During the act, the Fair is supposed to be in progress. At various intervals, when the action is not interfered with, the boy, EZRA SWAZWY, appears disconsolately in the doorway of the store.

In front of the store, in the foreground, is a green, and around a great pine tree a seat, carved with various designs and initials. In the Right, rear, is seen the landing dock extending into the lake, beyond it the waters, and in the distance the hills on the farther side. There is a fringe of trees likewise on the extreme Right rear, and street is supposed to come in at Right front.

TIME: About 4.30 on an August afternoon, the present day.

AT RISE: The boy, EZRA SWAZEV, is discovered standing dejectedly on the porch, one hand in his pocket, the other holding a scoop such as is used for coffee, sugar, etc. In front of him, on the green, stands HIRAM PETERS himself, sheriff of Carroll County, a tall, vigorous figure of a countryman, sunburned, with a shrewod but kindly face. He has a fringe of gray beard on his chin, but no mustache. He wears a blue flannel shirt, trousers tucked into his boots, a waistcoat, no coat, and a slouch hat. The waistcoat is unbuttoned, his suspenders in evidence. On the waistcoat is pinned a shield, the badge of his office.

EZRA

(Spitting dejectedly on the green.) Which hoss won the first heat, Hiram?

HIRAM

What's that feller's name that lives over to the Centre? Jimson. Don't be cast down, Ezry, we can't all git to the Fair. (Looking off, Left.)