

**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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COMEDY IN  
THREE ACTS**



THE TITLE-MART

•The  Co. •

# THE TITLE-MART

*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

- THE MARQUIS OF TREDBURY . . . . . A young nobleman in financial straits.
- REGINALD BARKING, M.P. . . . . Son of "Barking's china."
- MR. JOHN BLACKWELL . . . . . Railroad President and Captain of Industry.
- MR. LAWRENCE PEPYS . . . . . 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.
- TILDEN . . . . . Valet to Lord Tredbury.  
Butler, footmen, etc.
- EDITH BLACKWELL . . . . . A modern, strenuous, American girl. Incidentally an heiress.
- MRS. BLACKWELL . . . . . Second wife to Mr. Blackwell, stepmother of Edith.
- LADY MARJORIE TICKNOR.





# 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 SWAZEY, 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 SWAZEY, 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 shrewd 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.)*