

**THE DAWN OF THE TWENTIETH  
CENTURY. A NOBEL,  
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL.  
IN THREE VOLUMES. VOL. II**

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The Dawn of the Twentieth Century. A Nobel, Social and Political. In Three Volumes. Vol. II by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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# THE DAWN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

A Novel,

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL.

"Be just and fear not;  
Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's,  
Thy God's and truth."

IN THREE VOLS.

VOL. II.



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“They might not seem thy prophecies  
But spiritual presentiments,  
And such refraction of events,  
As often rises ere they rise.



## THE DAWN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### LADY ALTHEA O'CALLAGHAN AND GERTRUDE HER DAUGHTER.

THE relict of Mr. John Patrick O'Callaghan, of Castlemarten, County Cork, who had lost his life in the hunting field, resolved soon after her bereavement, having an only daughter approaching womanhood, to quit Castlemarten, and with it, Ireland, as she hoped, for good. She would thus leave her only son Maurice, in possession of the estate.

Ireland had never had any great attraction for her. She had spent with her husband



never more than three or four months of the year at this truly princely abode, and she had consented to endure this sojourn only to gratify her husband, whom she had married young and to whom she was fondly attached, and whose premature and sudden death had plunged her in deepest grief.

Lady Althæa was an Englishwoman by birth and education. She had been fascinated when little more than a girl by the young, handsome, and sprightly Irishman, who gained her affections and made her a happy bride. Accustomed as the daughter of an earl to mix all her married life in the highest social circles, both in London and in Paris, a life congenial to her husband when there was no hunting to be had, she found at Mr. O'Callaghan's death, she could never settle herself in Ireland; and when he died the only inducement to reside there was for ever gone.

With little romance in her nature, and an irrepressible love of high society, which long habit had confirmed, Castlemarten, with the grandeur of its ancient battlements and gates,

its extensive parks and old associations, which to her husband had been so dear from his early childhood and long Irish descent, possessed for her no attraction. Such enjoyment as there might be in the princely state in which they lived during the time they were at Castle-marten, fatigued her after a very short interval.

Hospitable, generous and social, enjoying an illimitable number of friends and acquaintances, the condition of Ireland had been for some years such that no one could be induced to visit them, except men, and these some few old army friends of Mr. O'Callaghan, who loved the hunting field and the gun. These for the most part were bachelors, or acquaintances whose wives regarded Ireland as the certain way to a sudden and violent death, so that ladies' society she had none. The social surroundings, consequently, confined almost exclusively to tenants and dependents, left her practically in a condition of isolation which fretted her and destroyed her comfort. Except for the proximity of Sir Roderick and Lady Winifred Norman, during the two months they resided

annually at the manor, they had no neighbours of their own rank, and when Mr. O'Callaghan met his death, through the accident which befell him in the hunting field, nothing remained to induce her to continue longer in Ireland.

Lady Althæa, however, was glad for three years to shut herself up in this seclusion. She felt she was as well at Castlemarten during such a season, perhaps better, than anywhere else. She could there indulge her sorrows undisturbed, she could there retrace her past happy dream of existence to the emptiness of which she had been so abruptly awakened. But when the three years would be completed, her duty towards her daughter, growing fast to womanhood and of exquisite beauty, would constrain her to return to her former social state. Her son, too, would have attained his majority, and as he had retired from the Life Guards at the decease of his father, having served less than three years, she could very well make the desire to leave him in possession of his estate and inheritance, the excuse to go.

This plan much occupied her thoughts.