

直接法口耳訓練英語叢書
DIRECT METHOD COURSE
THE "ENGLISH AS SPEECH" SERIES

第四種
VOLUME FOUR

事 隨 景 遷
CIRCUMSTANCES
ALTER CASES

CHUNG HWA BOOK CO., LTD.
SHANGHAI

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VOLUME FOUR

CIRCUMSTANCES
ALTER CASES

BY

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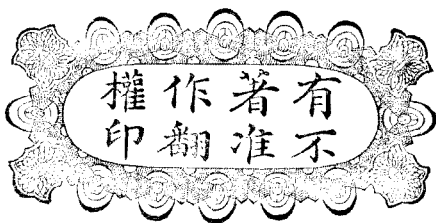
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事隨景遷 (全一冊)

Circumstances Alter Cases



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GENERAL PREFACE

TO THE

“LIVING-ENGLISH” SERIES

The most effective approach to a foreign language is the Oral Approach. The teacher talks to his pupils in the foreign language, and by dint of pointing to objects or pictures, of performing actions, or causing his pupils to perform actions, he makes his talk intelligible. His pupils come to understand what they hear; they follow the thoughts expressed in the language without mental translation; they come to “think in the language.” Before long they find themselves able to talk the foreign language in imitation of the teacher. The teacher asks them simple questions each of which suggests an obvious answer:

Is this a table or a chair? It's a table.

Is it a large table or a small one? It's a small one.

Can you see anything on it? Yes, I can.

What can you see on it? I can see a book on it.

Please come and take the book. [The pupil does so.]

Open it, please. [The pupil does so.]

What have you opened? I've opened the book.

Have you opened the door? No, I haven't.

and so on. The teacher teaches by example rather than by rule, by the living word rather than by the dead text. The pupil learns, in short, by a process comparable to that by which he learnt his mother tongue.

Later comes the time when the pupil learns to read. In the first instance he reads texts the contents of which are the words and forms that are already familiar to him; he re-learns in written form what he has already learnt in spoken form. Here again, the process is similar to the process of learning the mother-tongue.

Sooner or later, however, study will become centred about the *book*. Through reading, the student will not only more and more completely digest the vocabulary with which he is already more or less familiar, but he will continually make additions to this vocabulary and so gradually increase his stock of linguistic material. As time goes on, too, he will become more and more independent of his teacher, and will look more and more to books as the medium of communion with those whose thoughts are formed by and expressed with the same language.

Now there are two extreme types of reading-discipline, both of them useful and necessary—and between the two are others of an intermediate character.

One of them is what is called "Extensive Reading," or "Reading for Literary Content." According to this discipline, the student is more interested in the things he reads about than in the form in which those things are expressed. He says to himself not so much, "What does this word or phrase really mean? Let me now master it before going further" as, "I understand imperfectly or vaguely this word or phrase, so let's get on with the story." For students whose requirements, or partial requirements, are in the nature of such "Extensive Reading" there exists a multitude of material. The new movement in favour of "simplified texts," composed within the limits of specially chosen vocabularies, is steadily growing and contributing further to the material needed for this purpose.

The other extreme of reading discipline is "Intensive Reading," or "Reading for Mastery." According to this discipline, the student is more interested in the form of expression than in the literary content. He says to himself not so much,

“Let’s get on with the story” as “Now let us examine this word, phrase or form very thoroughly, learn it, and add it to our stock of linguistic material.” *

It is for the benefit of those engaged in the Intensive Reading of English and of their teachers that the present “Living-English” series has been designed.

Each volume contains the following features:

1. The Text (or texts) either in specially simplified English or the original unsimplified versions.

Vols. I, III, V, VII, contain texts of the easiest or A grade; Vols. II, IV, VI, VIII, IX, XI, of the intermediate or B grade, and Vols. X, XII, of the advanced or C grade.

2. The explanatory Oral Introduction to the texts, together with a selection of suitable questions to be answered orally by the pupils.

3. Direct Method Composition Exercises to be written by the student and corrected by the teacher.

Hints to Teachers Using this Series

The first, and most important, thing for the teacher to observe is that from the classroom point

of view, the book does not begin at Section A (the text) but at Section B (the explanatory introduction). In other terms, we do not in the first instance treat the story as something to be read but as something to be told and talked about.

We tell our pupils not to open their books but simply to listen. We turn to the page at which the explanatory introduction starts and tell our pupils all that is communicated in paragraph 1. We may content ourselves with reading it out exactly as it stands or we may care to amplify it even very considerably. Each word or expression that is unfamiliar to our pupils may be explained by appropriate examples.

All that we read or say in the explanatory introduction is intended to introduce and to explain; we explain the unfamiliar by the familiar, and so proceed from the known to the unknown. By dint of this procedure the pupils not only come to understand the meaning of the new words and expressions but, what is more important, also to have abundant opportunities for hearing in appropriate contexts those with which they are already acquainted. Let us suppose that the words *crime* and *criminal* are at a given moment new and unfamiliar words. The teacher says for instance:

"Stealing is a crime; to take money that does not belong to you is a crime. It is a crime to kill somebody; killing is a crime. It is a crime to set fire to somebody's house. Is it a crime to kill somebody by accident? No, that isn't a crime, but it is a crime if you kill somebody as a result of not being careful. One who commits a crime is a criminal. Criminals are punished by the law; they are generally put into prison" etc. etc.

Now, the pupils have not only come to make the acquaintance of *crime—criminal* in a manner that is likely to imprint these words on their memory, hearing them repeatedly in a proper context, but they have also been given the occasion to hear again and to deepen their recognition-knowledge of, e.g. *steal, belong, set fire to, accident, result, careful, punish, law, prison*, etc., not to mention that they have been given practice in listening understandingly and continuously to the language which is the object of their study.

It should hardly be necessary to point out that in no case must we be tempted to explain the unfamiliar by the still more unfamiliar, or to make opportunities for introducing gratuitously rare or difficult words or expressions. Sufficient to the

text are the difficulties thereof. If the compiler of the text has, with some pains and effort, succeeded in turning the more original more difficult wording into easier wording, it is not for the teacher to undo the work of the compiler by re-introducing the original unsimplified wording. Suppose that one of the explanatory sentences runs: "It's the sort of place in which business men might live." The teacher may legitimately reduce this further to "Business men might live in a place like this," but if he should paraphrase it as "This is a locality in which might dwell those who gain their livelihood in commercial operations," he will be doing nothing to help and probably a great deal to hinder the acquirement by his pupils of the relatively simple sentence in question.

* The first paragraph of the story having been thus introduced and explained, the teacher will reinforce the associations by dint of the question-and-answer procedure. He will do this in order to drill his pupils in the fluent and easy use of the newly-acquired material. Among this newly acquired material may be the construction "*supposed to*—followed by the infinitive." A few questions are given in order to provide the pupils with opportunities for using this form, and for

thinking the thought that this form symbolizes e.g. "Who is supposed to write this story?" "Does he really write this story or is he only supposed to write it?" These may be enough, but if the teacher deems that they are not enough, he may add other questions embodying this form, e.g. "Am I really your teacher or am I only supposed to be your teacher?" "Have I really a book in my hand or am I only supposed to have a book in my hand?" "Are you really taking a lesson or are you only supposed to be taking a lesson?"

The question-and-answer procedure may be applied in various ways, depending on circumstances. If the pupils have been already trained in that particular (and most valuable) skill of giving prompt and accurate oral answers to questions received auditorily, they will answer such questions orally (either in chorus or individually). If they have been trained in another particular (and also valuable) skill that consists of converting written questions into written answers, they will write the answers accurately and easily; if they have not been trained to acquire these easy "knacks" they will fail (and perhaps fail lamentably on both counts). In the latter case the teacher would do well to concentrate on both, or either, of these two

points; to stop temporarily the story-telling procedure in favour of the question-and-answer procedure either orally or by writing. For if the pupils for whom these "Living-English" series are designed are so backward in the technique of the question-and-answer procedure that they fail to react either orally or by writing, it is not only reasonable but a measure of necessity—a measure directed by all the grounds of common-sense plus all the findings alike of speech-psychologists and linguisticians—to prescribe for them a short, special, and intensive course of question-answering, as a skill or as a technique, or both.

A rapid course in the question-answering skill is provided in a text-book composed specifically to meet this need. It is entitled "Aids to the Living-English Series: The Technique of Question-Answering."

Then the pupils may open their books at the page containing the text itself. The teacher will read them paragraph 1, once or several times. The pupils will read it out aloud (in chorus or individually, after the teacher or straight from the book). The teacher takes this opportunity, if necessary, of correcting or improving the pronunciation of the pupils.

The teacher may, at his discretion, use the paragraph (or portions of it) as material for dictation. Such dictation should be given not as word by word dictation merely to test the spelling skill, but as a series of "slices of sonority" to give practice in observing and picking up the flow of words as they occur when the language is used in normal intercourse.

Then the second and subsequent paragraphs are treated in the same way: the teacher, telling and talking about the story, drilling in the new material and recapitulating the old, reinforcing new and old associations between the words and the things they symbolize, demonstrating the relation between sounds and spellings, the pupils absorbing the language progressively and cumulatively.

This is intensive reading at its best and in its most effective form.

That form of work known as "Exercises in Grammar and Composition" is needed by all who wish to obtain an easy command of the skill of composing with accuracy. To this end, pupils are usually given a succession of detached sentences to be translated from or into the foreign language. A better procedure is to provide them with familiar material in the foreign language and to give them

opportunities for handling it in various ways, and by so handling it to cause them to explore the technique of sentence-building. Translation is by no means the only way of causing students to handle the material of a foreign language. The devices known as "conversion," "completion," "substitution," "selection," and "exemplification" are in their results generally superior to the translation procedure. When such devices are used in connection with *a text which has been made thoroughly familiar to the students through intensive reading* the results are found to be satisfactory in the highest degree.

And so, to each of the volumes of the "Living-English" series, a number of *Direct Method Exercises in Grammar and Composition* are appended in order to ensure in the fullest measure "depth of knowledge" in addition to effective "surface knowledge."

The technique of the "Living-English" series has been worked out in such a way as to bring about not only a progressive knowledge of the foreign language (English in this particular case) but also a "unified knowledge," in which the respective claims of vocabulary-learning, direct associations, reinforced associations, pronunciation,

spelling, grammar and sentence-building are combined and centred about a text designed for the purpose of intensive reading.

PART I

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS VERA OF BORAVIA

§ 1. Hollingden

Hollingden is a pleasant place to live in; conveniently near London but not too near; quite in the country and yet not spoilt either by cheap modern residences nor by the mean cottages of agricultural labourers. It is not exactly a village and certainly not what is described as a "fashionable residential district." Its houses have a pleasant appearance of age without being positively ancient. It is the sort of place that you might expect to be inhabited by retired Colonels, by not too wealthy ladies living on modest incomes, or by business men preferring a country residence designated by a name of its own to a London suburban* house designated by a street name and number.

§ 2. Hollingden Society

Distinguished visitors rarely come to Hollingden. Few of us are acquainted with people with titles to their name. Hollingden is a pleasant place to live in, but it lacks the aristocratic element; and this is a disadvantage when all the members of the community (especially the ladies) have social ambitions. Our lives are passed among the undistinguished, and the only social problem is to determine the dividing line between "Esquire" and "Mr." The wife of our local Member of Parliament, being the daughter of an Earl, is an "Honourable," it is true, but she comes very seldom.

§ 3. The Thistletons

So I must confess that when I read Mrs. Thistleton's invitation to dinner I experienced a sensation of pleasant excitement.

Thistleton lives at the old Manor* House, and so considers himself the Lord of the Manor—by purchase, not by inheritance. He proceeds every day to town where he has a good practice as solicitor* (Bowes, Thistleton, and Kent) in Lincoln's Inn Fields. And as Mrs. Thistleton is the mother of eight children (the eldest being Tom, aged nineteen, and the youngest, Molly, aged seven) it is a good thing that Mr. Thistleton's practice is a good one.

§ 4. Mrs. Thistleton

Mrs. Thistleton gives us to understand that her people are of high social standing—a country family, and as the county is situated at the other end of England, she can say all she cares to say about her people. Not that she ever boasts; she is too discreet for boasting. In such matters a hint or a suggestion discreetly made is more effective than a statement.* Mrs. Thistleton is

always discreet; indeed she is, in my opinion, a woman of considerable talent, and the way she dealt with the Princess—I mean, with the problem of the Princess—confirmed the idea I had of her.

§ 5. The Card of Invitation

The mention of the Princess brings me back to the card of invitation, though I must add here that the Thistletons are the only people in Hollingden who use printed cards of invitation—the rest of us would not have the occasion to use a hundred in a lifetime, and therefore write notes. The invitation-card, then, sent to me by Mrs. Thistleton was headed as follows:

“To have the honour of meeting

Her Royal Highness the Princess Vera
of Boravia.”

I learnt afterwards that the word “Royal” had been added by Mrs. Thistleton. In view of the fact that the Princess was of

the Boravian Royal Family, the ornament was probably justifiable. On the other hand, the throne of Boravia was occupied by a member of another branch of the family; and the title "Royal" was not used by the Princess herself.

§ 6. The Guests

However, I think Mrs. Thistleton was quite right to make the most of the opportunity, and I should have accepted the invitation even without the "Royal," so there was no real deception about it. All of us who were invited went: the Rector* and his wife, the Doctor and his wife, old Mrs. Marsfold (the Major-General had, unfortunately, died the year before), Miss Dunlop (of the Elms), and Charley Miles (of the Stock Exchange).

§ 7. The Dinner

I am no authority on such matters, and yet I feel safe in declaring that at

the dinner party the most ceremonious etiquette* was observed. One of Thistleton's clients was old Lord Ogleferry, and at Lord Ogleferry's he had once met a real princess (I apologize to Princess Vera for making this distinction, but after all, Boravia is not a first-class Power, and a Boravian Princess does not, somehow, seem quite so real as a Princess, let us say, of England). Everything that Lord and Lady Ogleferry had done and caused to be done for the real—the British—princess, Thistleton and Mrs. Thistleton did for Princess Vera. Some of these things seemed to me to be very dignified but at the same time very uncomfortable. But Thistleton, over the wine after dinner, told us that they were perfectly correct.

§ 8. After-dinner Talk

Thistleton also explained to us what we had been so curious to know: viz how

Her Royal Highness had come to accept an invitation to dinner at the Thistleton's. She had come to him as a client* to consult him professionally in a matter of finance. Her private fortune was a large one, but the present occupant of the Throne of Boravia had in some way taken possession of it—legally or illegally we could not very well gather; nor could we quite grasp why she should consult a British solicitor in London rather than a Boravian solicitor in Boravia. Thistleton preserved a discreet professional attitude in the matter, and out of delicacy we refrained from asking indiscreet questions. He did tell us, however, that on behalf of the Princess he was taking the first steps towards the recovery of her fortune.

Charley Miles could not refrain from asking the amount of the fortune.

“Upwards of two million francs,” answered Thistleton.

I think we all wished we had pencil and paper in order to obtain the amount in pounds. The Rector wrote something on the menu*—I saw him do it—and got the translation approximately accurate so far as the two million francs was concerned, and not counting the "upwards."

§ 9. The Audience

Then we went upstairs, where Her Highness sat in state, and we all had a word with her. She spoke just a little English, with a pretty, foreign pronunciation, but was not at all at home in the language. When my turn came—and it came last—I ventured to reply to her first question in French, which I dare say was not in accordance with etiquette. Nevertheless she seemed much relieved; indeed she smiled for the first time and chatted away for a few minutes quite merrily. Then Thistleton terminated* my audience. He

used precisely this expression: "I'm afraid I must terminate your audience," he said. There was nothing for it but to obey. I was sorry, because I liked the Princess.

§ 10. Her Royal Highness and Her Affairs

And what was she like? Very small, very slight; about half the size of Bessie Thistleton, though Bessie was not yet seventeen, and the Princess, as I suppose, nineteen or twenty. Her face was pale, rather thin; her nose was a trifle turned up, she had plentiful black hair and large dark eyes. In fact she was a pretty, shy little lady, sadly frightened of us all, and most of all of Mrs. Thistleton. I don't wonder at that; I'm rather frightened of Mrs. Thistleton myself.

Before I went, I tried to get some more information out of my hostess, but Mrs. Thistleton would not tell me how the Princess had come to put her affairs into

Thistleton's hands, who had sent her to him, or how he was supposed to be going to get two million francs out of the King of Boravia. All she said was that Her Royal Highness had graciously consented to pay them a visit of a very few days.

"Very few days indeed," she repeated impressively.

"Of course," I said. Probably Her Royal Highness was due to visit the Queen of England at Windsor the day after tomorrow; at any rate, that was the impression Mrs. Thistleton gave.

§ 11. The Throne and the Fortune

On the way home Charley Miles and I discussed the Princess and her fortune.

"I wonder if the money's genuine!" said Charley Miles.

"Is she genuine herself?" I asked.

Charley answered that he had consulted a book of reference and had found that

there was indeed a Princess Vera of Boravia, who, according to the strict laws of succession, should herself be occupying the throne. There was no doubt about the girl herself, but as for the fortune, that was a different matter. Charley was wondering whether Mr. Thistleton would ever receive his fee, for it was doubtful whether the Princess had any resources other than the fortune which was not in her possession.

§ 12. Two Months Pass

So much for the introduction of the Princess. And now comes, of necessity, a break in my story; for the next day I went to Switzerland on my annual holiday, and was absent from Hollingden for two months. Not seeing the English papers during most of that period, I was unable to learn whether Her Highness Princess Vera of Boravia had proceeded from the Manor House, Hollingden, to the Castle, Windsor, or anywhere else.

PART II.

COUNTESS VERA VON FRIEDENBURG

§ 13. I Return From My Holiday

She had not left the Manor House, Hollingden, as a fact—and a fact that came to my knowledge even before I reached my own home. As I stepped into the train at Liverpool Street Station, I saw in one corner of the railway carriage Thistleton, in another, Charley Miles.

After a few words of greeting on both sides, I asked:

"And your distinguished visitor? The charming Princess? Have you any news of her?"

At the same moment I happened to look at Charley, who gave me a comical look. For an instant I feared that the Princess had run off with the spoons, or Mrs. Thistleton's pearls, or in some such manner behaved as no respectable princesses

behave. After a brief pause, Thistleton announced:

“She is still with us, and very well indeed, thank you.”

§ 14. Thistleton Explains

After a long pause, during which Thistleton seemed undecided whether to make any further communication on the subject, he added:

“By the way, Tregaskis, you remember I told you I was engaged on certain—er—delicate negotiations* on behalf of our guest?”

I nodded.* “You mean about Her Royal Highness’s private fortune?”

He nodded. “The nature of these negotiations makes it necessary to approach the present King in—er—a friendly spirit—er—more or less friendly. We have thought it well that for the present—er—

just for the present—er—for diplomatic reasons, you understand, Her Highness should call herself by a name to which her claim is absolutely beyond dispute. By not using—for the present, just as a temporary measure—I think you understand—by not using her proper title, it may be possible to—er—to smooth certain—er—susceptibilities,* and so make my task easier, and give us a better prospect of success. You see, the present King of Boravia does not recognize Her Highness's title; we have to keep these two things perfectly distinct: the claim to the title of Princess, and the claim to the fortune, so—er—in fact, our guest now prefers to be known as the Countess* Vera von Friedenburg."

I nodded again—it was the only safe thing to do. Thistleton said no more except to express a hope that they would see me soon at the Manor.

§ 15. Charley Explains

Here we arrived at Beechington, where Thistleton left us. Charley and I started to walk the mile from Beechington Station to Hollingden. The cart was to bring my luggage.

Charley gave me further information:

“For a fortnight she was Her Royal Highness. Then she was Her Highness for three weeks. And for the last three weeks she’s been Countess Vera von Friedenburg!”

“Thistleton gave me what seems to me to be good reasons for the change of name. Her prospects of obtaining the fortune”—

“Her prospects of obtaining the fortune are just—why, my dear man, think of it! Why should they part with two million francs?”

By 'they,' I understood him to mean the Court of Boravia.

"And if he thinks that changing the title of 'Princess' into 'Countess' is going to make any difference, he's very much mistaken. She can call herself Countess, she may call herself Fräulein Friedenburg, she may call herself plain Sarah Smith, but she isn't going to get that fortune."

§ 16. Mouths to Fill

"I'm sorry for her, then."

"So am I, and for old Thistleton, too. He's out of pocket, I expect, besides losing his commission, or his fee, or whatever he was looking forward to. And there she is!"

"The Princess?"

"The Countess, you mean." Charley smiled, and his smile was full of meaning. "Yes, I'm sorry for old Thistleton. He's got a good practice, but he's got a

big family, too; and that means many mouths to fill!"

With that, Charley left me to my thoughts.

§ 17. **The Descent of the Princess**

Was it really as bad as that? The thought made me uncomfortable. Poor girl! The title that had filled our mouths would not fill hers. And her descent in rank had been remarkable and rapid. Her fall in public esteem had been equally rapid, I soon found. She was "Countess Vera" now. Mrs. Marsfold said: "Poor Countess Vera." Miss Dunlop called her by another name: "Susan Thistleton's Countess" is what she called her.

The Kingdom of Boravia, too, had fallen in rank, and was spoken of with little respect. "Really a barbarous place, I'm told," said the Rector. "They call their kings kings; but of course——!"

In fact they—and I'm afraid I, too,—felt a little hot when they remembered the ceremonious dinner-party with its ceremonious etiquette, and the "audiences" granted to us by "Her Royal Highness," and the card of invitation.

§ 18. I Make a Call

I took advantage of Thistleton's kind invitation, and called on his wife. It was a fine autumn afternoon and, while we sat in the drawing-room and talked, I looked through the open windows on to the lawn. Countess Vera sat there, surrounded by the four youngest Thistleton children. The Countess and the children all held books in their hands, and scraps of French fell on my ear from time to time.

§ 19. Mrs. Thistleton is Perplexed

"It's really very perplexing," said Mrs. Thistleton, "and it's difficult to do the right

thing. I'm sure you understand that we want to do the right thing, Mr. Tregaskis?"

"I'm sure you'd do the right and the kind thing."

"The money she brought with her is all gone. Mr. Thistleton has spent a considerable sum in presenting her case to the Boravian Court. No attention whatever has been paid to his efforts. Indeed they treat them with absolute contempt."

"The Boravian people are not afraid of her?"

"Not in the least. And here she is—literally without a farthing. And hardly anything to wear—at least hardly any dress suitable for—but you know what I mean."

"Rather a remarkable situation for a princess!"

"And she has a pride, too," went on Mrs. Thistleton. "The Government might do something, but she won't hear of it."

Then she says she'll go. Where to? What can she do? If she won't beg, she'll starve. We can't let her starve, can we? But times are not good, and—Oh well, I must give you some tea. Would you mind ringing?"

I obeyed. Merry laughs came from the children on the lawn.

§ 20. The Countess Helps the Children With Their French

"The children seem to like her," said I, for want of something better to say.

"She's very nice to them. She's helping them with their French." She caught me looking at her, and blushed a little. I had not seen Mrs. Thistleton blush before. Then I grasped the situation and understood the plan. Countess Vera as the children's governess! There was no need to blush for it; it seemed to me a most excellent plan

“It gives her a sense of—of doing something in return, I suppose,” Mrs. Thistleton went on.

The maid brought in tea.

“Send the children upstairs and tell the Countess that tea is here.”

§ 21. The Countess Makes Tea

Soon the Countess came—as small, as slight, as dark as ever, even more shy. I rose as she entered; she bowed nervously, and, going to the table, began to make the tea. Mrs. Thistleton lay back in her armchair.

“Sit down, Mr. Tregaskis,” she said. “You like making tea for us, don’t you, Countess?”

“Yes, Mrs. Thistleton, thank you,” said Countess Vera von Friedenburg.

But I didn’t sit down—I couldn’t do it. I leant against the table and looked foolish all the time she made tea.

PART III.

FRAÜLEIN FRIEDENBURG

§ 22. The Final Stage of the Descent

The next chapter, or division, or what you like to call it, of this small history may be very short. I write it with two objects, which seem to me to justify its existence in spite of its shortness.

In the first place, it serves to show the final stage of the descent of the Princess—the logical conclusion of the process which was begun when Thistleton dropped "Royal" from between "Her" and "Highness." In the second place, it exhibits Mrs. Thistleton's good sense and fine feeling for the suitability of things. It was impossible to have princesses—or countesses—about the house in that position. It would have been absurd.

§ 23. An Invitation

So here it is. I seldom give even small dinner-parties, but about a month after my return I invited the Rector and his wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Thistleton. I said in my note to Mrs. Thistleton that I should be exceedingly pleased if Countess Vera von Friedenburg would do me the honour of accompanying them. Perhaps that was a mistake in taste. I meant no harm, and I don't think that Mrs. Thistleton intended to rebuke* me; though she did, I imagine, mean to let me know how matters stood.

§ 24. Fräulein Friedenburg will Stay with the Children

"Dear Mr. Tregaskis," she wrote, "Mr. Thistleton and I are delighted to

accept your very kind invitation, and we shall be charmed, as always, to meet our dear Rector and Mrs. Carr. I am told to thank you very sincerely for your kind invitation to our young friend, but Fräulein Friedenburg agrees with me that during my absence she had better stay with the children,—Yours very sincerely,

“Susan Thistleton.”

Fräulein Friedenburg! Her Royal Highness—! Let us forget—let us and all Hollingden forget!

It was not unkind of Mrs. Thistleton. It was right and suitable. Who should stay at home and mind the children instead of coming out to dinner? Fräulein Friedenburg, of course. It would have been an absurd position for Her Royal Highness Princess Vera of Boravia. Leave it to Fräulein Friedenburg.

§ 25. Mrs. Thistleton has Saved the Situation

So as Fräulein Friedenburg, she passed into our ordinary lives, and out of our ordinary thoughts, as things do when they become familiar. Mrs. Thistleton's courage and talent had saved the situation—and her own face. The Princess was forgotten, and little attention was given to the Thistleton's nursery governess.

But one night, as I turned over the atlas* looking for something else, I came on the map of Boravia and saw the city of Friedenburg on each side of the great river, a sentinel* at the outposts* of Western Europe. But for a political accident the key of that citadel* should have been in the hand that corrected the exercise-books for the Thistleton children.

PART IV.**FRAÜLEIN****§ 26. A Talk with Fräulein**

So Fräulein—she soon came to be called just "Fräulein"—was not at my dinner party; but two or three weeks later I had a little talk with her. I went to the Manor one afternoon in October but found no one at home except Fräulein, who was sitting under a tree turning over the pages of a big book. She smiled brightly and beckoned* to me to come and sit by her. I sat down in the other chair and said that it was very fine for so late in the year.

She made no reply and, raising my eyes to her face, I found her looking at me with some amusement.

"Do you think this very funny?" she asked.

"I think it's terrible," I answered.

"It's very simple. I owe Mr. Thistleton two hundred pounds. I do this until I have paid my debt."

"How many years?"

"Several."

"And after that?"

"The children will grow up."

"Yes, and then?"

"Mr. Thistleton will say goodbye to Fräulein Friedenburg and help her to find a new post."

"In the meantime you work for nothing?"

"No. For clothes, for food, to pay my debt."

"And how do you like it?"

§ 27. **Friedenburg Castle and Hollingden Manor House**

She turned over a dozen pages of the big book and found a picture. She held out the book to me, saying:

"That's my home."

I looked at the picture of her home, the great castle high up on the rock by the river. A few centuries ago the Turks had fallen back beaten from before those giant walls. Then I looked round at Mrs. Thistleton's gentle old garden.

"I think you've answered my question," I said.

She closed the book and sat silent for a moment. Her face was certainly beautiful, and the thick masses of her hair were as dark as night.

"And is it for ever?" I asked.

She leant over towards me and said in a low voice: "They know where I am." An intense* excitement seemed to be fighting against the calm she forced on herself. The next instant she leant back in her chair, and her face became very sad. The

Princess was no longer there; only Fräulein sat beside me.

§ 28. "Are there no Men in Boravia?"

Then I said something foolish.

"Are there no *men* in Boravia?" I asked in a low voice.

This at Hollingden in the twentieth century, and to the governess! And from me, an advanced Liberal in politics, holding that the Boravians are at entire liberty to have whatever ruler they may choose, or to set up a republic if they are so disposed. Nevertheless in the Thistleton's garden that afternoon I did ask Fräulein whether there were men in Boravia.

She answered the question in the words she had used before.

"They know where I am," she said, but this time with no excitement, and with half-closed eyes.

I might at that moment have offered my right arm and all my fortune (I was at the moment without any money in the bank, as a matter of fact) as a contribution towards a revolution that should set her on the throne of her ancestors. I might at that moment have declared openly my feelings of admiration, of devotion and—even more.

§ 29. The Family Return

But fortunately the family returned, and most of them came out into the garden. Charley Miles was with them. As they all came up, Fräulein put the big book—with its picture of her home—behind her back. I rose and walked forward to greet Mrs. Thistleton. Charley seated himself by Fräulein and began to talk to her with great enthusiasm and every appearance of pleasure—indeed of admiration.

§ 30. Charley, Bessie, and Fräulein

I joined Mrs. Thistleton—and Bessie, who stood beside her mother. Bessie did not look happy. There was a frown on her face; yes, she was distinctly frowning. And when I saw Bessie frowning I began to understand that a new situation had arisen. Bessie Thistleton was grown up now, or considered herself grown up, and she and Charley were great friends. Charley was doing very well on the Stock Exchange, and made three or four thousand pounds a year.

I remembered then that Thistleton had mentioned to me that Charley Miles was doing very well and that he and Bessie were great friends. And Charley was a good-looking fellow. Thistleton was the father of a family of eight, and when one is the father of a family of eight, one thinks of happy possibilities.

Why was Bessie frowning, and why, on seeing Charley so happily engaged in conversation with Fräulein, did she turn suddenly and walk into the house? Mrs. Thistleton must have had the same thoughts in her mind, and invited me to come with her and see the chrysanthemums.* And so we went to see the chrysanthemums, but we were thinking of other things than chrysanthemums, and consequently did not pay very much attention to them.

§ 31. Mrs. Thistleton Wants to do the Right Thing

"It's very difficult position in some ways," said Mrs. Thistleton suddenly.

It was so difficult as to be almost impossible. I was quite sincere when I said—"The difficulties are very great, but you're overcoming them wonderfully. I never admired your wisdom more. Nobody thinks of her at all now, except as Fräulein."

"I have been so anxious to do the right thing, and she has improved the children's French. But it is difficult. And the worst of it is that she and Bessie do not get on well together. Bessie doesn't like her. If she were just an ordinary governess, it wouldn't matter. Well, the only thing to do is to treat her as a governess, isn't it?"

"Does she object?"

"Oh no, never. But I can't quite make her out. After all, she's not English, you know, and one can't be sure of her moral influence. I sometimes think I must make a change. Oh, I shouldn't do anything unkind. I should ask her to stay until she got another post, and, of course, do all I could to recommend her. But Bessie doesn't like her, I'm sorry to say."

§ 32. **Difficult, or Absurd?**

By this time we had walked past all the chrysanthemums twice, and I said that it was time for me to go. Mrs. Thistleton gave me her hand.

"You don't think I'm unkind?"

"Honestly I think you've been kind all through, and I don't think you'll be unkind now. The situation is so very—"

"Difficult? Yes."

I had been going to say: "The situation is so very absurd," but I accepted the word "difficult." Here was an absurd situation; Charley Miles on the point of proposing marriage to Bessie, but not quite certain whether he would not prefer the children's governess as his wife; the children's governess being Fräulein, the Countess Vera von Friedenburg, or Her Royal Highness the Princess Vera of Boravia. Yes, the right word was "absurd."

§ 33. The Anti-Fräulein Movement

During the next few weeks it became harder than ever to say whether we were dealing with something very sad and serious or with something very comical. The women of the village were distinctly anti-Fräulein. Mrs. Marsfold (the Major-General had, unfortunately, died the year before), Miss Dunlop (of the Elms), even the Rector's gentle wife, were favouring Bessie Thistleton and her claim on Charley, and were anxious to see the banishment* of Fräulein. Only Mrs. Thistleton herself still resisted the popular movement; she still tried to do the kind thing, she still tried to be kind to the stranger lady and yet not act against the interests of the Thistleton family. But even she grew weaker in her defence of the poor German governess. Everybody was against her. Bessie and

her father were on the anti-Fräulein side. In short, there was every prospect that as the Princess Vera was banished^d from Boravia, so Fräulein Friedenburg would be banished from Hollingden.

§ 34. A Dangerous Rival

And why? For very similar reasons She had aspired^d to the crown of Boravia and so she must leave Boravia. She had aspired to the hand of Charley Miles—and the three or four thousand pounds a year that he was said to be making on the Stock Exchange, and so she must leave Hollingden. The Princess was now forgotten—she might never have existed. There was only the governess, the children's governess, actually trying to secure as a husband Charley Miles of the Stock Exchange; Charley Miles, who was to marry the daughter of her employer.

§ 35. Charley's Point of View

Charley was furious at the ladies. He called them "old cats." Yet Charley could not see the facts as they were. He was certainly in love with Fräulein, but he was nevertheless looked upon as the future husband of Bessy Thistleton. He had social ambitions (and all the residents of Hollingden had social ambitions). Mr. Thistleton's daughter was one thing; Mr. Thistleton's governess another. That was Charley's point of view. So he did not offer marriage to Fräulein Friedenburg. On the other hand he opposed the attempt to banish her, and well he might, for after all, it was only his behaviour towards Fräulein that had started the banishment movement.

§ 36. The Advertisement

One evening—it was a Monday, as I remember—Charley came to see me after

dinner, and brought with him a copy of the *Morning Post*, an excellent paper, but one which, owing to the political convictions to which I have already referred, I do not take in. He pointed to a spot in the advertisement columns:—

“A lady strongly recommends her German nursery governess. Good English. Fluent* French. Music. Fond of children. Salary very moderate. A good home principal object. Well connected.—Mrs. T., The Manor House, Hollingden.”

“Isn't it a shame?” he exclaimed. He was sorry for Fräulein, and not only because she must go out into the world; also because she had not been invited to become Mrs. Charley Miles!

§ 37. Suspense*

I saw her the next day but one. Bessie Thistleton had told me, with obvious

annoyance, that there had been no replies yet. "It's very difficult for governesses to get positions in these days unless they have a degree," she had said.

"Where is she?"

"Somewhere in the garden, I think, Mr. Tregaskis."

So I went into the garden and found her again under the tree. But her big book was not with her now; she was sitting idle, looking straight ahead of her, with something like fear in her great dark eyes.

"You're glad you're going?"

"No, I'm frightened. They're right to send me away, though. I'm such an absurdity."

"Yes," I answered. "I'm afraid you are."

Then, as I remember, we sat silent for a while. Suddenly Mrs. Thistleton came

running out of the house, holding a letter in her hand.

§ 38. The Answer

"Fräulein, an answer!" she cried.

We both rose, and she came up to us.

"And it sounds most suitable. I do hope you won't mind London. A Mrs. Perkyns, on Maida Hill—nice and high! Only two little children, and she offers—Oh, well, we can talk about the salary presently."

This last remark constituted an evident hint to me. I took my hat and gave my hand to Mrs. Thistleton.

"Good news, isn't it?" said she. "And Mrs. Perkyns has such confidence in me—it appears she knew my sister Mary at Cheltenham—that she does not require any other references. Isn't that convenient?"

"Very," I agreed, and I turned to Fräulein.

§ 39. The End of an Impossible Situation

“You’re to go the day after to-morrow if you can be ready. Can you?” asked Mrs. Thistleton.

“I can be ready,” Fräulein said.

“In the morning, Mrs. Perkyns suggested.”

“I can be ready,” Fräulein said. Then she turned to me. “This is good-bye, then, I’m afraid, Mr. Tregaskis.”

“I shall come and see you off,” said I, taking her hand. I made up my mind to say my farewell at the station—and I took my leave. As I walked out of the front gate, I met Thistleton coming from the station. I told him the news.

“Good,” said Thistleton. “It ends what was always a false, and has become an impossible situation.”

PART V.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF BORAVIA

§ 40. The News

On the morning of Fräulein's departure I rose with a bad temper.

Then I opened the morning paper, and there it was!

"REVOLUTION IN BORAVIA!
RUMOURED ABDICATION OF THE KING!
Princess Vera of Friedenburg offered
the Throne."

In a moment it seemed neither strange nor unexpected. It was bound to be there some morning. It chanced to be there that morning by happy fortune. But it was glorious! I am afraid it sent me half mad; yet I was very practical. In a minute I had made up my mind what she would want to do and what I could do.

§ 41. I Take Measures

In another five minutes I was on my bicycle, riding as fast as I could to Beechington with that paper in one pocket and a cheque on the local bank in another.

I hoped she would get away before the Thistletons knew. Very likely she would, for by now Thistleton was in the train for town, and he picked up his *Times* at the station; the family waited for it till the evening.

§ 42. At the Station

From the bank I raced to the station, and reached it ten minutes before the train was due to leave Beechington. There she was, sitting on a bench all alone. She was dressed in plain black and looked very small and lonely. She seemed deep in thought, and she did not see me till I was close to her. Then she looked up and smiled.

"You have heard?" I asked.

"Yes, I had a telegram late last night."

"You're going, of course?"

"To Mrs. Perkyns'," she answered, smiling still. "What else can I do?"

"Wire them that you're starting for Vienna, and that they must communicate with you there. Ah, there are men in Boravia! You'll go surely? It might make all the difference. Let them see you, let them see you!"

§ 43. A Matter of Finance

She shook her head, giving at the same time a short nervous laugh. I sat down by her. Her purse lay on her knees. I took it up; the Princess made no movement; her eyes were fixed on mine. I opened the purse and slipped in the notes that I had obtained from the bank. I closed the purse and laid it down again.

“I had a third-class ticket to London, and eight shillings and threepence,” she said.

“You’ll go now?”

“Yes,” she whispered, rising to her feet.

§ 44. A Foolish Hope

We stood side by side now, waiting for the train. It was very hard to speak. Presently she passed her hand through my arm and let it rest there. She said no more about the money, which I was glad of. Not that I was thinking much of that. I was still rather mad, and my thoughts were full of one foolish idea; it was—though I am ashamed to write it—that just as the train was starting, at the last moment, at the moment of her going, she might say: “Come with me.”

“Did it surprise you?” I said at last, breaking the silence at the cost of asking a very stupid question.

"I had given up all hope. Yet somehow I wasn't very surprised. You were?"

"No, I had always believed it would come."

"If it all comes to nothing, I shall have one friend still," she said. "We have an Order at home called The Knights of Faith. Shall I send you the Cross some day?"

"No. Send me your big book, with the picture of the castle and the broad river flowing by its base."

§ 45. The Departure

When I put her into the carriage, my foolishness came back to me. I actually watched her eyes as though to look for the invitation I waited for. Of course I saw no such thing. But I seemed to see a great friendliness for me. At the last, when I had pressed her hand and then shut the door, I whispered—

“Are you afraid?”

She smiled. “No. Boravia isn’t Hollingden. I am not afraid!”

Then—well, she went away.

§ 46. Mrs. Thistleton’s Idea

Mrs. Thistleton is great. I said so before, and I remain firmly of that opinion. The last time I called at the Manor, I found her in the drawing-room* with Molly the youngest daughter, a pretty and intelligent child. After some conversation, Mrs. Thistleton said to me—


“A little while ago I had an idea, which my husband thought so graceful that he insisted on carrying it out. I wonder if you’ll like it! I should really like to show it to you.”

I expressed a polite interest and a proper desire to see it, whatever it was.

“Then I’ll take you upstairs,” said she, rising with a gracious smile.

§ 47. The Queen's Room

Upstairs we went, accompanied by Molly. Reaching the first floor, we turned to the left, and Mrs. Thistleton showed me into an exceedingly pleasant and handsome bedroom, with a delightful view of the garden. I concluded that this must be the best or principal guest-room of the house.

"There!" said Mrs. Thistleton, pointing towards the mantelpiece.* Advancing in that direction, I perceived, on the wall over the mantelpiece a small frame decorated with a Royal Crown. Enclosed in the frame, and protected by glass, was a square of parchment,* on which was written in blue-and-gold letters: 

This Room was Occupied by Her Majesty the Queen of Boravia on the Occasion of Her Visit to the Manor House, Hollingden,

27th of June, 1902.

“It’s a very pretty idea indeed! I congratulate you on it, Mrs. Thistleton,” said I.

“And ‘The Queen’s Room’ sounds such a nice name for this room,” added Mrs. Thistleton.

“Charming,” I declared.

§ 48. Molly Asks a Foolish Question

“Why didn’t you put one in the little room upstairs too—the room she slept in all the last part of the time, mother?” asked Molly.

“Well, well, children will make these mistakes.” Mrs. Thistleton merely told Molly to think before she spoke, in which case (Mrs. Thistleton said) she would not ask such a large number of foolish questions.

§ 49. Souvenirs*

So Mrs. Thistleton has a very pleasant souvenir of her Princess. I have one of her

too—a big book, with a picture of the great castle and the broad river flowing below. And in the beginning of the book is written: "To him who did not forget—Vera."

PART I

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS
VERA OF BORAVIA§ 1. *HOLLINGDEN*

This is a story by Sir Anthony Hope.

Sir Anthony Hope was a well-known English novelist.

The story is supposed to be told (related) by Mr. Tregaskis.

Mr. Tregaskis is a young man who lives in Hollingden.

Hollingden is a small place not very far from London.

It's a pleasant place to live in.

It's conveniently near London.

This means that it's easy to get from Hollingden to London.

It's quite in the country.

It isn't an ugly place.

There are no cheap modern residences there.

There are no labourers' cottages there.

It isn't exactly a village.

The houses are rather old, but not really ancient houses.

Old houses generally are nice to look at.

They are picturesque.

But they are often inconvenient to live in.

Hollingden seems to be the sort of place where people live who are not very rich and not very poor.

It's the sort of place in which business men might live.

Many business men who have their offices in London prefer to have their houses in the country.

They go to London every day by train.

They go to-and-fro by train.

In the country, houses often have names.

They have such names as "The Elms," "The Oaks," or "The Hillside."

Houses in towns generally have no name, they are known by a number and the name of the street.

By whom was this story written?

Is the story supposed to be told by Mr. Tregaskis or by somebody else?

Does Mr. Tregaskis really tell the story, or is he only supposed to tell the story?

Is Mr. Tregaskis a young man or an old man?

Does he live in Hollingden or in London?

Is Hollingden a large place or a small place?

Is it a pleasant or an unpleasant place to live in?

Is it far from London or near London?

Is it easy or difficult to get from Hollingden to London?

Is it an ugly place or a pretty place?

Are there any cheap modern houses there?

Are cheap modern houses nice to look at?

Do labourers live in cottages or in big houses?

Are there any labourers' cottages in Hollingden?

Are the houses in Hollingden rather old or very old?

Are old houses generally nice to look at?

Are they always convenient to live in or are they often inconvenient to live in?

Is Hollingden the sort of place in which business men might live?

Do all London business men have their houses in London or do they sometimes live in the country?

[Add other suitable questions and then read or cause

to be read § 1.]

§ 2. HOLLINGDEN SOCIETY

You must now imagine that I am Mr. Tregaskis and that I am telling you this story as a real story.

My name is Tregaskis.

I live in Hollingden.

The people who live in Hollingden are not distinguished people.

They are not aristocratic.

Some people have titles to their name, such as Lord, or Sir, or Lady.

At Hollingden there are no people with such titles I don't know anybody who has a title to his name. Distinguished visitors rarely come to Hollingden. The people in Hollingden would like to meet distinguished visitors.

They would like to invite them to their houses. They would like to give dinner parties, inviting distinguished or aristocratic people.

The people in Hollingden have social ambitions. The ladies, especially, have social ambitions. But our lives are passed among the undistinguished. We have no Lords and Ladies, but just people that you call Mr or Mrs.

If a man named John Smith works in a shop, or is a working man, we call him Mr. John Smith. If he is a lawyer, or a schoolmaster, or a higher official, or something like that, we generally write his name as John Smith, Esq.

Our only social problem in Hollingden is to decide exactly when to write Mr. before a man's name or to write Esq. after it.

The wife of our Member of Parliament is the daughter of an Earl, and so she has a title. Instead of calling her just "Mrs. Barrington," we call her "The Honourable Mrs. Barrington." But she does not often come to Hollingden.

Is my name really Tregaskis or are we pretending that my name's Tregaskis?

What is my name supposed to be?

Where do I live?

Who is telling you this story?

Are the people living in Hollingden distinguished people or not distinguished people?

Are they aristocratic or just ordinary people?

At Hollingden are there any people with titles to their name?

Do distinguished visitors often come to Hollingden or do they rarely come?

What sort of visitors would the Hollingden people like to meet?

Have the people in Hollingden social ambitions or are they without social ambitions?

[Add other suitable questions and then read or cause to be read § 2.]

§ 3. THE THISTLETONS

Mrs. Thistleton sent me an invitation to dinner one day.

When I read it I was very much surprised.

I felt excited, too.

The invitation gave me a sensation of pleasant excitement.

I will tell you about this invitation later, and tell you why I was so surprised.

But first I must tell you about the Thistleton family.

Mr. Thistleton is a solicitor—a sort of lawyer.

He lives in Hollingden.

He has his offices in London.

He goes to London every day.

The offices are at a place called Lincoln's Inn Fields.

That is where we find many firms of solicitors.

He has a good practice as a solicitor.

That means that he has plenty of clients.

The name of his firm is "Bowes, Thistleton, and Kent."

He lives at a house in Hollingden called "The Manor House."

"The Manor House" is the name of the house in which the man who owns all the land in the village lives.

Such a man is called "The Lord of the Manor."

Mr. Thistleton is not really the lord of the manor.

He has not inherited the house.

He has bought (purchased) it.

Probably the former lord of the manor had become poor and had had to sell his house.

But Mr. Thistleton likes to think that he lives in a house with such a fine name.

You must remember that Mr. Thistleton has social ambitions.

He has a wife and eight children.

As he has so many children, it is a good thing that Mr. Thistleton has a good practice and plenty of clients.

If he had a poor practice and few clients, it would be difficult for him to live easily and in comfort.

The eldest of the Thistleton children is Tom, aged nineteen, and the youngest is Molly, aged seven.

Did Mrs. Thistleton send me an invitation to dinner or an invitation to lunch?

Who sent the invitation?

Who received it?

When I read the invitation was I surprised or was I amused?

Do you know why I was surprised when I received the card of invitation?

Is Mr. Thistleton a solicitor or is he a retired colonel?

What is a solicitor?

Where does Mr. Thistleton live?

Are his offices in Hollingden or in London?

Does he go to London every week or every day?

Has he a good practice or a poor one?

Has he many clients or few?

What is the name of the house in which he lives?

Is Mr. Thistleton really the Lord of the Manor or does he merely imagine he is?

Has he bought the house or has he inherited it?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 4. MRS. THISTLETON

Mrs. Thistleton has social ambitions.

She would like people to think that her people are of high social standing.

She does not tell us that her people are of high social standing, but she gives us to understand that they are.

She gives us to understand that her family is a county family.

This may be true, but we don't know.

The county is situated a long way off.

It's situated at the other end of England.

So Mrs. Thistleton can say all she cares to say (likes to say) about her people.

Mrs. Thistleton never boasts.

She's very discreet.

She's too discreet to boast.

Discreet people never boast.

If you want people to believe that your family is an important or distinguished one, it's better not to boast.

It's better to make indirect hints or suggestions.

Hints or suggestions are generally more effective than statements.

Mrs. Thistleton is always discreet.

She is, in my opinion, a woman of considerable talent.

I mean that she is very clever.

In the story I'm going to tell you, you will see how clever Mrs. Thistleton was in dealing with the Princess.

I mean how clever she was in dealing with the problem of the Princess.

The way she dealt with the Princess shows that I was right in considering Mrs. Thistleton to be discreet and clever.

Has Mrs. Thistleton high social ambitions or is she without social ambitions?

Does she wish (want) people to believe that her family (her father and mother) are people of high social standing?

What does she want people to believe?

Does she give us to understand that her people are of high social standing or that they are people without importance?

Do her people live near Hollingden or do they live in a distant part of England?

Is it true that her people are of high social standing or don't we know?

Does Mrs. Thistleton boast?

Is she a boastful person?

Is she discreet or indiscreet?

Do discreet people boast?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 5. THE CARD OF INVITATION

I told you just now about the card of invitation that Mrs. Thistleton sent me.

I told you that I was surprised when I received it. It was a printed card of invitation.

The Thistletons use printed cards of invitation.

The Thistletons are the only people in Hollingden who use printed cards of invitation.

The rest of us do not use printed cards of invitation.

When we want to invite people to dinner, we write notes to them.

On the card of invitation sent to me by Mrs. Thistleton I read these words: "To have the honour of meeting Her Royal Highness the Princess Vera of Boravia."

You can imagine how surprised I was.

We were all surprised (astonished) to read these words.

How was it possible that Mrs. Thistleton had a Royal Princess as a guest?

What was a Princess of Boravia doing in Hollingden?

How had Mrs. Thistleton come to know the Princess?

Who was she?

These were some of the questions that we asked ourselves.

I learnt afterwards that the word "Royal" had been added by Mrs. Thistleton.

Mrs. Thistleton thought that the word "Royal" made the invitation more important.

Since Princess Vera was of the Boravian Royal Family, it was possible that her title might be "Her Royal Highness."

But she did not use the title herself.

The King of Boravia was not her father, nor her brother.

The King of Boravia was probably a distant cousin.

I mean that the throne of Boravia was occupied by a member of another branch of the family.

I had received a card of invitation. Was it a printed card or had it been written by hand?

Do the Thistletons use printed cards or do they send notes?

Do the rest of us use printed cards or do we send notes?

Who are the only people in Hollingden who use printed cards of invitation?

On the card of invitation that I received, did I see the words "Her Highness" or "Her Royal Highness"?

Did I see the words "to have the pleasure of meeting" or "to have the honour of meeting"?

What did I read on the card of invitation sent to me by Mrs. Thistleton?

Was I surprised or was I amused when I read these words?

Was I the only one who was surprised to read these words, or were we all surprised?

Did we ask ourselves questions?

What were some of the questions that we asked ourselves?

Which was the correct title of Princess Vera: "Her Royal Highness" or simply "Her Highness"?

Who had added the word "Royal"?

Why did Mrs. Thistleton add the word "Royal"?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ C. THE GUESTS

I think, however, that Mrs. Thistleton was quite right in adding the word "Royal."

I think she was quite right to make the most of the opportunity.

In any case I should have accepted the invitation.
I should have accepted the invitation even if the
word "Royal" had not been added.

All of us who were invited accepted the invitation.
The Rector and his wife were invited.

A rector is a clergyman.

A rector is in charge of a church, generally in the
country.

The doctor and his wife were invited to the dinner.
Old Mrs. Marsfold was invited, too.

Her husband had died the year before.

It was unfortunate that he had died, because he
was a Major-General.

A Major-General is an important person, and his
title is very much respected.

Miss Dunlop was invited, too.

She lived in a house called "The Elms."

It was probably a very fine house.

Charley Miles was invited, too.

Charley Miles is a friend of mine.

He works in the city.

He is a member of the Stock Exchange.

The Stock Exchange is a place where people buy
or sell shares and things like that.

Charley Miles is quite young, and is not married.

He is very clever in matters of finance.

Did I think that Mrs. Thistleton was right or wrong in adding the word "Royal" to the title of the Princess?

Would (Should) I have accepted the invitation in any case?

If the word "Royal" had not been added, should I have accepted the invitation or should I have declined it?

Did all of us who had been invited accept the invitation?

Who accepted the invitation?

Was the Rector invited without his wife or with his wife?

Is a Rector a clergyman or a lawyer?

Is a Rector in charge of a church or of a school?

Was Mrs. Marsfold old or young?

Was her husband alive or not?

When did he die?

Was Mrs. Marsfold's husband a Colonel or a Major-General?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 7. THE DINNER

I am not an authority on matters of etiquette.

Etiquette is social behaviour.

I don't know much about etiquette.

I certainly don't know anything about the etiquette that is observed when a Princess is invited to a dinner.

But I'm quite certain that at this dinner-party the most ceremonious etiquette was observed.

I'm sure that Mr. and Mrs. Thistleton did everything in the most correct way, and with great ceremony.

One of Thistleton's clients was old Lord Ogleferry. Once when Thistleton went to dine at Lord Ogleferry's, he had met a princess.

It was a real princess.

Of course, Princess Vera was a real princess too, but as I'm English it seemed to me that a British princess is a more real princess than a Boravian princess.

Boravia is not a first-class Power, like England, so it seemed to me that Princess Vera was not a first-class princess.

It was a British princess that Thistleton had met at Lord Ogleferry's.

Thistleton had noted (noticed, remembered) all that was done (and caused to be done) in the case of the British princess.

He had noted what sort of etiquette had been observed.

He had noted how she was received, how people talked to her, what title they had used, and things like that.

Remembering all these things, Thistleton had done (and caused to be done) for Princess Vera all that had been done (and caused to be done) in the case of the British princess.

These things were very ceremonious, very dignified, very impressive.

But they seemed to me very uncomfortable.

For instance, we could not speak to the Princess except in answer to something that she said.

We could not talk freely at table.

Instead of addressing her as "you," we had to address her as "Your Royal Highness."

But Thistleton told us that all these things were perfectly correct.

He told us this when the ladies had retired from the dining-room.

At the end of a dinner, the ladies retire to the drawing-room, and the men stay in the dining-room, smoke, talk, and finish their wine.

Am I an authority on matters of etiquette?

Do I know much about etiquette?

Do I know much or little about social behaviour?

What is etiquette?

At this dinner party was the most ceremonious etiquette observed or not observed?

Am I fairly certain or quite certain that the most ceremonious etiquette was observed?

Did Mr. and Mrs. Thistleton do everything in a most correct way or in an incorrect way?

Did they do everything with great ceremony or with little ceremony?

Was old Lord Ogleferry a client of Thistleton's or was he one of Charley Miles' friends?

Was Lord Ogleferry present at this dinner party?

Once when Thistleton went to dine at Lord Ogleferry's, had he met a British princess or a Spanish princess?

Who was it that had met a British princess?

Where had he met her?

Which sort of princess seemed more real to me: a British princess or a Boravian princess?

Is Boravia a first-class Power?

Tell me now: is Boravia a real country or an imaginary country?

Is there really a country in Europe called Boravia?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 8. AFTER-DINNER TALK

We were all curious to know something.

We wanted to know how it was that Her Royal Highness had come to accept the invitation to dinner.

We wanted to know how Thistleton had come to meet her.

Thistleton explained the matter to us.

He told us that the Princess had come to him as a client.

He told us that she had gone to his office in London to consult him about something.

She had gone to him professionally to consult him in a matter of finance.

She had a large private fortune.

Her private fortune was a large one.

But the King of Boravia would not let her have it.

He held her fortune.

He had taken possession of it.

We could not very well understand (gather) whether he was holding it legally or illegally.

There was another thing that we could not understand, and that was why the Princess should have come to London to consult a British solicitor.

It seemed to us that she should rather have consulted a solicitor in her own country.

Thistleton did not explain these things to us.

He was very discreet.

His attitude in the matter was professional and discreet.

We refrained from asking (we did not ask) indiscreet questions.

We refrained from doing so out of delicacy.

But he told us that he was taking the first steps in the matter.

He was taking the first steps towards recovering the fortune.

He was doing this on behalf of the Princess.

Charley Miles wanted to know something.

He wanted to know the amount of the fortune.

He could not refrain from asking the amount of the fortune.

"What's the figure?" he asked.

"Upwards of two million francs," answered Thistleton.

Thistleton said that the amount of Princess Vera's fortune was over two million francs (in French money).

At the time of this story, a franc was worth about ninepence in English money, or about forty-five cents in American money.

We all wanted to calculate how much two million francs was in English money.

But we could not do this without pencil and paper. We wished we had pencil and paper so as to be able to calculate the amount.

But the Rector wrote something on the menu, and found out how much the amount was in English money.

He translated the francs into pounds, and got the translation fairly (approximately) accurate.

At least he found out about how many pounds there were in two million francs.

That would be about eighty thousand pounds.

But Thistleton had said "upwards of two million francs," and we didn't know how many francs the word "upwards" stood for.

Am I right or wrong in saying that we were all curious to know something?

Was I the only one who was curious or were we all curious?

Did we want to know how it was that Princess Vera had come to accept the invitation or that Mrs. Marsfold had come to accept it?

Did we want to know how Thistleton had come to meet the Princess or how he had come to meet Mrs. Thistleton?

Did Thistleton tell us something or did he refuse to tell us anything?

Had the Princess gone to Thistleton as a friend or as a client?

Had she gone to Thistleton's office in London to consult him, or had she gone to his private house?

Who had been consulted?

Who had consulted him?

Had the Princess gone to him professionally or as a friend?

Had she gone to consult him on a matter of finance or on a matter of etiquette?

Was her private fortune large or small?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 9. *THE AUDIENCE*

Then we went upstairs.

We went to the drawing room.

In the drawing-room Her Royal Highness sat in state.

That means that she sat as if at Court.

We all had a word with her.

Each of us went up to her and spoke for a few minutes.

She spoke just a little English.

She spoke English with a foreign pronunciation.

Her pronunciation sounded pretty.

But she could not speak English easily.

She was not at all at home in the language.

My turn came to speak to her.

I was the last one to go up and speak to her.

She asked me a question.

I answered her question in French.

I ventured to answer it in French.

I dare say that this was not in accordance with etiquette.

I dare say that this was not very polite.

But all the same she seemed much relieved.

She was relieved because she spoke and understood French easily.

Indeed she was so relieved that she smiled.

It was the first time she had smiled.

She chatted (away) with me quite merrily
(happily).

She chatted away for a few minutes.

Then Thistleton came to stop our talk.

He thought it was not dignified for me to speak so
long with the Princess.

He said: "I'm afraid I must terminate your
audience."

This was very dignified.

When somebody is in conversation with a king, a
queen, or a royal prince or princess on a cere-
monious occasion, we call this conversation
"an audience."

I had to obey.

There was nothing for it but to obey.

I was sorry that our talk had to stop.

I was sorry because I liked the Princess.

When we had finished our talk did we go upstairs
or downstairs?

Did we go from the dining-room into the drawing-
room or from the drawing-room into the dining-
room?

Where was the Princess sitting in state?

Was she really sitting at court or was she sitting
as if at court?

Did we all have a word with her or only some
of us?

Did she come to us or did we go up to her?

Did we each speak to her for a long while or only for a few minutes?

Did she speak English well or did she speak very little English?

Did she speak with an English or with a foreign pronunciation?

Do you speak with an English or with a foreign pronunciation?

Did her pronunciation sound pretty or ugly?

Could she speak English easily or with difficulty?

Was she at home in the language?

Are you at home in English?

When my turn came, did the Princess ask me a question in English or in French?

Did I answer her in English or in French?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 10. HER ROYAL HIGHNESS AND HER AFFAIRS

And what was she like?

She was very small and very slight.

She was about half the size of Bessie Thistleton.

But Bessie Thistleton was younger than she was.

Bessie was not yet seventeen.

The Princess, I suppose, was nineteen or twenty.

Her face was pale and rather thin.

Her nose was slightly turned up.

She had plentiful black hair.

She had plenty of black hair.

Her eyes were dark and large.

In fact she was a pretty little lady.

She was shy, very (sadly) frightened of us all.

It was of Mrs. Thistleton that she was the most frightened.

I don't wonder at her being frightened of Mrs. Thistleton.

I was rather frightened of Mrs. Thistleton myself.

Before I left, I tried to get some more information out of our hostess (Mrs. Thistleton).

Mrs. Thistleton, however, wouldn't tell me how the Princess had come to put her affairs into Thistleton's hands.

She wouldn't tell me who had sent her to him.

She wouldn't tell me how Mr. Thistleton was supposed to (be going to) get two million francs out of the King of Boravia.

She said that Her Royal Highness had graciously consented to pay them a visit of a very few days.

That's all that Mrs. Thistleton said.

"Very few days indeed," she repeated impressively. I said, "of course."

Mrs. Thistleton spoke as if the Princess were going straight to Windsor Castle to visit the Queen of England.

That was the impression that Mrs. Thistleton gave. Mrs. Thistleton was very discreet. She never boasted or said more than the truth, but what she said was always very impressive.

Was the Princess tall or short?

Was she rather slight or very slight?

Was she larger than Bessie Thistleton or smaller?

Who was younger: Bessie Thistleton or the Princess?

How old was Bessie?

How old did I suppose the Princess was?

Was her face pale or dark?

Was her face fat or thin?

What was her nose like?

What was the colour of her hair?

Had she plenty of hair or little?

Were her eyes large or small?

Were her eyes dark or blue?

Was she pretty or the contrary?

Was Mrs. Thistleton frightened of her or was she frightened of Mrs. Thistleton?

§ 11. THE THRONE AND THE FORTUNE

Charley and I left together.

On the way home we discussed (talked about) the Princess and her fortune.

"I wonder if the money's genuine," Charley said. He meant that he wondered whether there really was a fortune or whether the story about the fortune was perhaps not true.

"Is she genuine herself?" I asked.

I meant was she a real princess or was she somebody who was not a princess at all?

Charley said that she was genuine.

He had consulted a book of reference.

A book of reference is a book you refer to when you want to find out something.

The book was one that gives the names of the members of all the Royal Families in Europe.

He had read that part of the book that gave the names of the members of the Boravian Royal Family.

He had found that there was indeed a Princess Vera of Boravia

According to the strict laws of succession, she ought to be the Queen of Boravia instead of her cousin being the King.

Charley had read all this in the book of reference.

There was no doubt about the girl herself.

But the fortune was a different matter.

There was some doubt about the fortune.

Charley Miles was certain that the Princess would not obtain the fortune that belonged to her.

Charley thought that Thistleton would not even receive his fee.

He thought that the Princess would not be able to pay Thistleton for his services.

He thought that the Princess had no money apart from the fortune.

So if she did not get the fortune, she would be without money.

When I left the Thistleton's house that evening, who went with me?

Did Charley and I leave separately or both together?

On our way home did we discuss the Princess and her fortune or did we discuss Mrs. Thistleton?

Did Charley think the money was genuine?

Was I certain that the Princess was genuine or did I doubt whether she were really the Princess?

Did Charley say that she was genuine or that she was not genuine?

Had Charley consulted a book of reference or had he consulted some other sort of book?

Who had consulted a book of reference?

What sort of book do we consult when we want to find out something?

Is a dictionary a book of reference?

What is a book of reference?

Had Charley consulted a book that gives the names of all the members of the Royal

Families in Europe or one that gives the names of all the cities of Europe?

Which part of the book had he read?

Why did he read that part of the book?

[*Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.*]

§ 12. TWO MONTHS PASS

I have now told you how the Princess came to know the Thistletons.

I have now told you how I came to meet her.

Now you know who the Princess was, and what she was doing in England.

I have introduced the Princess to you.

What happened during the next two months I did not know for some time.

There is here a break in my story: a two months' break.

The day after the dinner party I went to Switzerland.

I went to Switzerland on my annual holiday.

I was away (absent) from Hollingden for two months.

During most of that period I did not see the English (news) papers.

As I did not see the English papers, I did not know what had become of the Princess.

I was unable, for instance, to hear whether she had gone to see the Queen of England at Windsor.

In fact I was unable to learn anything further about the charming Princess that I had met at the Thistleton's.

Have I told you or haven't I told you how the Princess came to know the Thistletons?

Have I told you how I came to meet the Princess or how I came to meet Mrs. Thistleton?

Now do you know who the Princess was?

Do you know or don't you know what the Princess was doing in England?

Whom have I introduced to you?

Who has introduced you to her?

Is there here a month's break or a two months' break in my story?

Did I go to Switzerland or to Sweden the day after the dinner party?

Who went to Switzerland?

Did I go there on a holiday or on business?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

PART II

COUNTESS VERA von FRIEDENBURG

§ 13. *I RETURN FROM MY HOLIDAY*

My name, you remember, is Tregaskis, Mr. Tregaskis.

I had been, you remember, for two months in Switzerland.

So I didn't know what had become of the Princess. When I returned to England I soon found out that she had not left Hollingden.

Before I reached home I learnt that she was still at Hollingden.

On my way home I stepped into a train at Liverpool St. Station.

Liverpool St. Station is in London; not in Liverpool.

As I stepped into the train, I saw Thistleton and Charley Miles in the carriage.

One was in one corner, and the other was in another corner.

We exchanged a few words of greeting.

Then I asked Thistleton what had become of the Princess.

I said: "And your distinguished visitor, the charming Princess? Have you any news of her?"

At that moment I happened to see Charley's face.

Charley gave me a comical look.

He looked at me in a curious manner.

For an instant I was afraid (I feared) that something serious had happened.

I thought (feared, was afraid) that perhaps the Princess had proved to be a thief and had run away with (stolen) the spoons.

Or that she had stolen (run away with, annexed) Mrs. Thistleton's pearls.

Or that she had behaved in some extraordinary manner.

I didn't really think these things seriously, but they came to me as comical thoughts.

There was a slight (brief) pause.

This pause showed that Thistleton was embarrassed; that he did not quite know what to say.

Thistleton then said: "She is still with us, and very well indeed, thank you."

That's what he said.

Of course I wondered how it was that Her Royal Highness should make such a long stay with the Thistletons.

Is my name supposed to be Tregaskis or Thistleton?

Had I been for two months in Switzerland or in Sweden?

How long had I been there?

When I returned to England did I soon find out what had become of the Princess or did I have to wait a long time?

Had the Princess continued to stay at Hollingden or had she left?

Where was the Princess still staying?

Did I find out where she was before I got home or after I'd got home?

At what station in London did I step into a train?

Who stepped into the train?

Where's Liverpool Street station?

What two persons did I see as I stepped into the train?

Where were they?

Did we say nothing to each other or did we exchange a few words of greeting?

What do you suppose I said to my friends when I saw them? Did I say "I'm pleased to meet you" or "Hello! How are you? Fancy meeting you here!"?

Did I then ask Thistleton what had become of the Princess or what had become of his wife?

Did Charley then give me a serious look or a comical look?

Did he look at me in a curious manner (way) or in an ordinary manner (way)?

Who looked at me in a curious manner?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 14. THISTLETON EXPLAINS

Then there was a long pause.

Thistleton seemed undecided whether to say any more or not.

Then he said: "By the way, Tregaskis, you remember I told you I was engaged on certain delicate negotiations on behalf of our guest.

He reminded me that he was trying to obtain the Princess's fortune from the King of Boravia.

I nodded. Like this (**nodding**).

I said: "You mean about Her Royal Highness's private fortune?"

Thistleton nodded.

He said that the negotiations were delicate ones.

It was necessary to be friendly with the King.

It was necessary to approach the King in a friendly way (spirit).

The King would not like to hear the Princess spoken of as "Her Royal Highness."

To call her "Her Royal Highness" would mean that she ought to be on the throne instead of the King.

Therefore just for the present they stopped calling her by the name of Princess.

By not using her proper title, it would make it easier to carry on negotiations with the King.

It would make Thistleton's task easier.

It would give them a better chance of success.

The King of Boravia, you see, did not recognize the title of the Princess.

The Princess claimed two different things: the title and the fortune.

It was necessary to keep these two things distinct from each other.

Therefore, instead of calling her "the Princess" or "Her Royal Highness," they called her "the Countess Vera von Friedenburg."

For that was indeed one of her titles.

("Von" is a German word.

It is used in the names of aristocratic families.)

When Thistleton explained all this to me I nodded again.

It was difficult to know exactly what to say.

I might have said something unsuitable.

Thistleton did not say any more about his guest.

But he hoped that I would soon pay them a visit at his house.

Did Thistleton know exactly what to say to me or did he hesitate?

Who hesitated?

Was Thistleton engaged in delicate negotiations with the King or with the Queen of Boravia?

Who was engaged in these negotiations?

On behalf of whom was he engaged in these negotiations?

- What was he trying to obtain from the King?
- Was it necessary or unnecessary to be friendly with the King?
- Was it necessary to approach the King in a friendly or in an unfriendly spirit?
- Would the King like to hear the Princess spoken of as "Her Royal Highness"?
- Did the Thistletons continue to call her "Princess" or did they stop calling her "Princess"?
- By not using her proper title would it make it easier to carry on negotiations or would it make it more difficult?
- Would it give them a better or a worse chance of success?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 15. CHARLEY EXPLAINS

When we got to Beechington Station, Thistleton left us.

There is no station at Hollingden so we have to get out of the train at Beechington.

Charley Miles and I started to walk from Beechington to Hollingden.

It was a mile between the two places.

I did not take my luggage with me.

The cart was to (would) bring it later.

Charley told me more about the Princess.

During the first fortnight (two weeks) of her stay with the Thistletons, they called her "Her Royal Highness."

Then during the next three weeks they called her "Her Highness," omitting the word "Royal."

But for the last three weeks they called her "Countess Vera von Friedenburg."

That's what Charley told me.

I said that Thistleton had good reasons for changing the name.

Her prospects of obtaining the fortune would be greater if she stopped calling herself by the title of Princess.

But Charley said that she had no chance at all of getting the fortune.

"Why," he asked, "should the King part with two million francs?"

"Changing the name won't make any difference," Charley said.

"Thistleton's very much mistaken if he thinks that changing the name's going to make any difference," he said.

"She may call herself by any name, but she isn't going to get that fortune," he said.

Who left us when we got to Beechington station?
Is there a station at Hollingden?

Why do we have to get out of the train at Beechington?

Did Charley and I start to walk to Hollingden, or did we start to ride there?

How far is it between Beechington and Hollingden?

Did I take my luggage with me or did I leave it at the station?

What would bring my luggage later?

Did Charley stop talking about the Princess or did he tell me more about her?

For how long had the Thistletons called her "Her Royal Highness"?

For how long had they called her "Her Highness"?

What did they then call her instead of "Princess"?

For how many weeks had they been calling her "Countess Vera von Friedenburg"?

Who told me all this: Thistleton or Charley?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 16. MOUTHS TO FILL

So then I said I was sorry for her.

Charley said that he was sorry, too.

He was sorry for the Princess and for Thistleton.

Charley said that Thistleton was out of pocket.

That means that Thistleton had lost money over the Princess.

Thistleton had to provide her with food and money to spend.

And then Thistleton would not receive any fee or commission.

Of course, Thistleton had been looking forward to a fee or a commission, or something like that. But as the Princess would not obtain the fortune, he would not get anything.

That's why Charley was sorry for Thistleton.

Thistleton had a good practice, but he had a big family, too.

Although he earnt a lot of money, he had to spend a lot of money, too, because his family was so large.

As Charley expressed it, Thistleton had many mouths to fill!

Did I say that I was pleased about the Princess or that I was very sorry about her?

Was Charley sorry, too, or was he pleased?

Was Charley sorry for the Princess alone or was he sorry for Thistleton, too?

Was Thistleton out of pocket or in pocket over the business?

Had he lost money or gained money over the business?

Who had lost money over the business?

With what had Thistleton to provide the Princess?

Who had to provide her with food?

Would Thistleton receive his fee or commission or would he lose it?

Who had been looking forward to a fee or commission?

Why would Thistleton get no fee or commission?

Why was Charley sorry for Thistleton?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 17. THE DESCENT OF THE PRINCESS

Had Charley spoken the truth? That's what I wondered.

Were things really as bad as that? I wondered.

The thought made me feel uncomfortable.

Poor girl! What an unfortunate position for her!

Her descent in rank had been remarkable and rapid.

She had come down in rank very quickly.

And I found out that people did not think so much of her now.

People no longer respected her.

People now called her "Countess Vera."

Mrs. Marsfold called her "Poor Countess Vera."

Miss Dunlop called her by another name; she called her: "Susan Thistleton's Countess."

And people did not think so highly of the Kingdom of Boravia.

They no longer spoke of it with any respect.

"I'm told that it's really a barbarous place," said the Rector.

We all felt rather ashamed when we thought of the ceremonious dinner-party.

We felt ashamed when we thought of the ceremonious etiquette.

We remembered the cards of invitation, and we all felt ashamed.

Who wondered whether Charley had spoken the truth?

Did the thought make me feel comfortable or uncomfortable?

Was it a fortunate or an unfortunate position for the Princess?

For whom was it an unfortunate position?

Had her descent in rank been slow or rapid?

Had she come down in rank slowly or quickly?

Had people still the same high opinion of her or didn't they think so much of her?

Did people continue to respect her or did they no longer respect her?

Did people now call her "Princess Vera" or "Countess Vera"?

Who called her: "Susan Thistleton's Countess"?

Did people then speak more highly or less highly of the Kingdom of Boravia?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 18. *I MAKE A CALL*

Thistleton had invited me to call on them at his house.

So one day I called on his wife.

It was a fine autumn afternoon.

Mrs. Thistleton and I sat in the drawing-room and talked.

As we were talking, I looked through the open windows on the lawn.

Countess Vera was sitting on the lawn.

She was surrounded by the four youngest Thistleton children.

The four youngest Thistleton children were sitting round her.

The Countess held a book in her hand.

The children held books in their hands, too.

I heard that they were speaking French.

From time to time a French word came to my ears.

It was evident that Countess Vera was giving the children a French lesson.

Had Thistleton invited me to call on him at his house or at his office?

Did I call on his wife or on the Countess?

Did I call in summer or in autumn?

Did I call in the morning or in the afternoon?

Was it a fine afternoon or was it raining?

In what room did Mrs. Thistleton sit and talk?

Were the windows open or shut?

Who was sitting on the lawn?

Is a lawn covered with grass or with trees?

Was the Countess alone?

§ 19. *MRS. THISTLETON IS PERPLEXED*

"It's very perplexing," Mrs. Thistleton said.

"It's so difficult to do the right thing."

"I'm sure you understand that we want to do the right thing," she said.

I told her that I was sure that she would do the right thing and the kind thing.

Mrs. Thistleton was perplexed because the money that the Countess had brought with her had all gone.

She had no money left.

Mr. Thistleton had spent quite a lot of money himself in preparing the case and presenting it to the Boravian Court.

All law work is very expensive.

It costs a lot of money to go to law.

The Boravian Court paid no attention to Mr. Thistleton's efforts.

They didn't take any notice of him.

They treated his efforts with contempt.

That means that they did not answer his letters.

I asked whether the Boravian people were not afraid of the Countess.

Mrs. Thistleton said that they were not in the least afraid.

“And here she is,” said Mrs. Thistleton, “literally without a farthing.”

A farthing is the smallest English coin.

Mrs. Thistleton meant that the Countess had no money at all—not even a farthing.

And the Countess had hardly anything to wear. She had hardly any clothes.

Mrs. Thistleton meant that the Countess had not enough clothes to be dressed as a Princess should be dressed.

I thought that this was a remarkable situation for a princess to be in.

I told Mrs. Thistleton so.

Mrs. Thistleton then said that the Countess was very proud.

“And she has a pride, too,” she said.

The Thistletons had thought of going to the British government and of asking them to do something.

I think that that was the right thing to do.

I think that in a case like that the Thistletons ought to have gone straight to the British government and asked for help.

But Mrs. Thistleton said that the Countess wouldn't hear of it.

She meant that the Countess would not allow them to do such a thing.

The Countess refused to accept help from the British government.

Then she said she would go.

She would leave the Thistleton's.

But where could she go?

What could she do?

If the Countess would not beg, she would starve.

That's what Mrs. Thistleton said.

Then she said: "But we can't let her starve, can we?"

Mrs. Thistleton said that the times were not good.

That meant that it was a bad period for making money.

It was difficult to make a living in those days.

What Mrs. Thistleton meant was that they could not afford the money that the Countess cost.

Then Mrs. Thistleton changed the subject.

She spoke about something else.

She said that she must give me some tea.

She asked me if I would ring the bell for the maid.

She said: "Would you mind ringing?"

I did what she asked me to.

I rang the bell.

I heard the children laughing on the lawn.

Merry laughs came from the children on the lawn.

Did Mrs. Thistleton know exactly what to do or was she perplexed?

Did she find it difficult or easy to do the right thing?

Do you think that Mrs. Thistleton's situation was difficult or easy?

Had the Countess any money left or had the money all gone?

Had Mr. Thistleton spent much money in preparing the case?

Is law work expensive or does it cost very little money?

Does it cost a lot of money or little money to go to law?

Did the Boravian Court pay some attention or did it pay no attention to Mr. Thistleton's efforts?

Did they take some notice of him or no notice of him?

Did they take some notice of him or did they treat his efforts with contempt?

Who asked whether the Boravian people were not afraid of the Countess?

Did Mrs. Thistleton reply that they were afraid or that they were not in the least afraid?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 20. *THE COUNTESS HELPS THE CHILDREN
WITH THEIR FRENCH*

I said, "The children seem to like her."

I said that because I did not know what else to say.

I said it for want of something better to say.

"She's very nice (good) (kind) to them," said Mrs. Thistleton.

"She's helping them with their French," she went on.

As she said that, I was looking at her.

Mrs. Thistleton saw that I was looking at her.

She caught me looking at her.

She was rather confused, and blushed a little.

This was the first time that I had ever seen Mrs. Thistleton blush.

Why did she blush?

Why was she confused?

Then I understood. Countess Vera had become the children's governess!

That was Mrs. Thistleton's plan.

It was a very good plan, too.

There was no need to be ashamed or to blush about it.

"It gives her a sense of—of doing something in return," said Mrs. Thistleton.

Then the maid brought in the tea.

Mrs. Thistleton told the maid to send the children upstairs and to tell the Countess to come to tea.

Did I say that the children seemed to like the Countess or that they seemed to dislike her?

Did I say that because it was an important thing to say, or simply because I had nothing else to say?

Did Mrs. Thistleton answer that the Countess was kind to the children or unkind to them?

Who was helping the children with their French?

With what was the Countess helping the children?

Was I looking at Mrs. Thistleton when she said that the Countess was helping the children with their French or was I looking away from her?

Did she catch me looking at her or didn't she notice me looking at her?

Who blushed?

Why did she blush?

Did I then understand the situation or was the situation not yet clear to me?

Who had become the children's governess?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 21. *THE COUNTESS MAKES TEA*

Soon the Countess came.

She did not come immediately, but we did not wait long for her.

She looked as small and as slight as ever.

She looked even more shy and frightened.

When she came in, I rose (stood up).

She bowed nervously.

She went to the table and began to make the tea.

We make tea by pouring boiling water on the tea in the teapot.

While the Countess was making the tea, Mrs. Thistleton lay back in her armchair.

This behaviour was very different from the behaviour of six weeks before, when the Countess was "Her Royal Highness."

Mrs. Thistleton asked me to sit down.

"Sit down, Mr. Tregaskis," she said.

What she really meant was that there was no need for me to stand up while the governess was making the tea.

Then she said, "You like making tea for us, don't you, Countess?"

[Here the teacher may point out the difference between "don't you" with a falling or a rising intonation.]

“Yes, Mrs. Thistleton, thank you,” answered the Countess.

But I didn't sit down.

I couldn't sit down.

I leant against the table and looked foolish all the time she made tea.

Who soon came into the room?

Did she come immediately (at once) or did she come in about three minutes?

Did we wait long for her or did she soon come?

Did she look different or did she look the same as when I had met her before?

Did she look more shy and frightened or less so?

What did I do when she came in?

What do men do when a lady comes into the room?

Who bowed?

Where did the Countess go to make the tea?

What did she begin to make?

How do people make tea?

While the Countess was making tea, did Mrs. Thistleton stand up, sit up, or lie back in her armchair?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

PART III

FRÄULEIN FRIEDENBURG

§ 22. *THE FINAL STAGE OF THE DESCENT*

The next division of this story may be very short. It isn't necessary for me to say much about what happened next.

But I must say something about what happened next, even if I don't say much.

In the first place I must show how the Princess completed her descent.

She had begun to descend when the Thistletons stopped using the title "Royal."

In the second place I must show you Mrs. Thistleton's good sense.

Mrs. Thistleton was very sensible; she had a fine feeling for the suitability of things.

It was impossible to have a Princess or a Countess about the house as a governess.

One cannot have Princesses or Countesses about the house as governess.

It would have been absurd to have Countess Vera von Friedenburg as the children's governess.

The time had come for a fresh change of name.

Is the next division of this story going to be very long or very short?

Is it necessary or unnecessary for me to say much about what happened next?

Do I want to tell you about how the Princess began her descent or how she completed it?

At that moment had she begun to descend?

Does "descend" mean "to go down" or "to go up"?

Was Mrs. Thistleton a woman of good sense?

Was she very sensible or very sensitive?

Are sensible people wise or foolish?

[*Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.*]

§ 23. AN INVITATION

So now I am going to tell you about the final stage of the descent of the Princess.

I do not often give dinner-parties; not even small ones.

But about a month after my return from Switzerland I did give a small dinner-party.

I invited the Rector and his wife.

I invited Mr. and Mrs. Thistleton.

When writing to Mrs. Thistleton I said I should be very pleased if the Countess would come, too.

What I wrote was: "I shall be exceedingly pleased if Countess Vera von Friedenburg will do me the honour of accompanying you."

Perhaps I ought not to have invited her.

Perhaps it was a mistake for me to have invited her.

To invite a Countess is one thing; to invite the governess is another.

In any case I meant (intended) no harm.

I did not mean (intend) to do wrong.

In her answer to me I don't think Mrs. Thistleton intended (meant) to rebuke me.

What she said sounded like a rebuke.

To say to somebody, "You have done wrong; you ought to be sorry that you have done wrong," is to rebuke that person.

What Mrs. Thistleton meant was simply to let me know how matters stood.

She wanted to make me realize (understand) the situation (the state of things; how matters stood).

Do I often give dinner-parties?

Do I often give dinner-parties or do I seldom (rarely) give them?

Did I give a dinner party about a month or about a week after my return from Switzerland?

Was it a large one or a small one?

Did I invite the Rector alone or did I invite him and his wife?

Who invited the Rector and his wife?

Did I invite anybody else?

Whom else did I invite?

When I wrote to Mrs. Thistleton, did I mention the Countess?

Did I ask the Thistletons to bring the Countess with them?

Did I say, "I shall be rather pleased" or "I shall be exceedingly pleased"?

Ought I to have invited the Countess? (*Ans.* Perhaps not *or* Perhaps you ought not to have invited her *or* Perhaps you ought not to have done so.)

[*Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.*]

§ 24. *FRÄULEIN FRIEDENBURG WILL STAY WITH THE CHILDREN*

In her reply, Mrs. Thistleton said that she would be pleased to accept my invitation.

What she actually wrote was: "Mr. Thistleton and I are delighted to accept your very kind invitation."

She said that they would be charmed to meet the Rector and his wife.

What she actually wrote was: "We shall be charmed, as always, to meet our dear Rector and Mrs. Carr."

Mrs. Carr was, of course, the Rector's wife.

Mrs. Thistleton thanked me for inviting the Countess.

She said: "I am told to thank you very sincerely for your kind invitation to our young friend."

But she thought it better that the Countess should not come.

She did not, however, speak of her as "the Countess."

What she wrote was: "Fräulein Friedenburg agrees with me that during my absence she had better look after the children."

"Fräulein" is a German word.

It means "Miss."

It is pronounced in such a way that it almost rhymes with "joy-line."

Fräulein Friedenburg! Miss Friedenburg!

Not even Fräulein von Friedenburg!

Fräulein Friedenburg! Who had been the Countess von Friedenburg.

Who, before that, had been "Princess Vera," or "Her Highness Princess Vera," or "Her Royal Highness the Princess Vera of Boravia."

It's better for us to forget all that.

It wasn't unkind of Mrs. Thistleton.

She didn't mean to be unkind.

After all, it was only right and suitable.

As I told you before, we cannot have Princesses or Countesses as a nursery governess.

Mrs. Thistleton understood that perfectly.

She could not say to me: "Her Royal Highness the Princess Vera of Boravia had better stay at home and mind (take care of) the children."

That would have been absurd.

She could not even say: "The Countess Vera had better stay at home and take care of the children."

That would have been absurd, too.

But if she called her "Fräulein Friedenburg," it didn't sound at all absurd.

It sounded most natural.

Fräulein Friedenburg, the nursery governess stays at home to mind the children.

Mrs. Thistleton, as I have always said, is very discreet, very sensible, and very wise.

In her answer did Mrs. Thistleton say she would be pleased or sorry to accept my invitation?

Whose invitation would she be pleased to accept?

Who accepted the invitation?

Did she say that she would be charmed to meet the Rector and his wife or the Doctor and his wife?

Did she actually write, "the Rector and his wife" or "our dear Rector and Mrs. Carr"?

Who was Mrs. Carr?

Who would be charmed to meet the Rector and his wife?

Who thanked me for inviting the Countess: Mr. or Mrs. Thistleton?

[*Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A*]

§ 25. *MRS. THISTLETON HAS SAVED
THE SITUATION*

When we get used to things, we do not think about them.

We do not think about things that have become familiar to us.

So it was that we did not think any more about Fräulein Friedenburg.

The Princess was forgotten, and little attention was given to the Thistleton's nursery governess.

Mrs. Thistleton's courage and talent had saved the situation.

She had saved her own face, too.

One night I happened to turn over the pages of an atlas.

An atlas is a book of maps.

As I turned over the pages of this atlas I came on (came across, happened to see) the map of Boravia.

On this map I saw marked the city of Friedenburg. The city was situated on each side of a great river.

It made me think of a sentinel—a soldier keeping guard.

It made me think of a sentinel at the outposts of Western Europe.

Who held the key to that fortress (that citadel)?

The present King of Boravia, of course.

But who might have held it?

In whose hands ought that key to be?

It ought to be in the hand that corrected the exercise-books for the Thistleton children.

Do we think much about things when we get used to them?

Was much or little attention given to Fräulein Friedenburg?

Was the Princess remembered or forgotten?

Who was the lady who had gradually changed a Princess into a nursery governess?

What do we call a book of maps?

At what sort of book was I looking one night?

As I turned over the pages of the atlas, what map did I happen to see?

Is there really a country called Boravia?

Does Boravia really exist, or is it an imaginary country?

What city did I see marked on the map?

Was the city situated on one side of the river or on both sides of the river?

What is a sentinel?

[*Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.*]

PART IV

FRÄULEIN

§ 26. A TALK WITH FRAULEIN

Fräulein Friedenburg soon came to be called just "Fräulein."

So Fräulein did not come to my dinner-party. But two or three weeks later I had a little talk with her.

I went to the Manor House one afternoon in October.

There was no one at home except Fräulein.

She was sitting under a tree.

She was turning over the pages of a big book.

When she saw me she smiled.

She beckoned to me to come and sit beside her.

I sat down in the other chair.

I hardly (scarcely) knew what to say.

So I spoke about the weather.

I said it was very fine for so late in the year.

She did not answer.

I looked at her and found her looking at me with some amusement.

She asked: "Do you think this very funny?"

She meant didn't I think it very funny for a Princess to be a governess?

"I think it's terrible," I answered.

"It's very simple," she said.

"I owe Mr. Thistleton two hundred pounds.

"I stay here as governess until I have paid my debt."

I asked her how many years she would have to stay.

"Several years," she answered.

"And after that?" I asked.

"The children will grow up," she said.

"Then Mrs. Thistleton will say good-bye to Fräulein Friedenburg and help her to find a new post."

Then I said: "In the meantime you work for nothing."

She answered: "No. I work for clothes, for food, and to pay my debt."

Then I asked another question.

I said: "How do you like it?"

What did Fräulein Friedenburg soon come to be called?

Did she come to my dinner-party?

Did I have a little talk with her a few days later
or a few weeks later?

Did I go to the Manor House one afternoon in
October or November?

Did I go one morning or one afternoon?

Did I find everybody at home or only Fräulein?

Where was she sitting?

What was she doing?

What did she do when she saw me?

Did she ask me to come and sit down beside her or
did she beckon to me to come and sit down
beside her?

Did I remain standing or did I sit down?

Did I speak about the weather or about the Rector?

[*Continue such questions to the end of the section and
then read the original section under A.*]

§ 27. *FRIEDENBURG CASTLE AND THE
MANOR HOUSE*

I had asked her how she liked being a governess.
Instead of answering, she turned over the pages of
the big book.

She found a picture.

She held out the book to me, showing me the pic-
ture.

She said: "That's my home."

I looked at the picture of her home.

It was a great castle, high up on the rock by the river.

A few centuries ago the Turks had fallen back beaten from before those great walls.

A few centuries ago the Turks had been invading (attacking) Europe, but could not get beyond Friedenburg.

I thought of these things as I looked at the picture. Then I looked round at the garden.

"I think you've answered my question," I said.

She closed (shut) the book and sat silent (without saying anything) for a moment.

Her face was certainly beautiful.

Her hair was as dark as night.

"And is it for ever?" I asked.

I meant would she never return to her home?

She leant over towards me, and said something in a low voice.

She said: "They know where I am."

She meant that her friends in Boravia knew where she was.

She meant that perhaps, some day, they would ask her to go back to Boravia.

She seemed for the moment to be very excited.

She was trying to be calm.

She forced herself to be calm.

The next instant she leant back in her chair again.

Her face became very sad.

For a moment she had been the Princess.

Now the Princess had disappeared; it was only
Fräulein who sat beside me.

I had asked Fräulein how she liked being a
governess; did she answer, or did she turn over
the pages of the big book?

What did she find in the book?

To whom did she hold out the book?

What did she show me?

Was it a picture of her home or was it another
picture?

Was it an ordinary house or was it a castle?

Was it on a rock by the river or by the sea?

A few centuries before, had the Turks been beaten
back from the castle or had they taken it?

Were the Turkish armies able to go beyond
Friedenburg?

Is all this quite true or is it only a part of my story?

Did I then say "I think you've answered my
question" or did I say "I don't think you've
answered my question"?

Did Fräulein say something at once or did she
remain silent for a moment?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and
then read the original section under A.]

§ 28. "ARE THERE NO MEN IN BORAVIA?"

I felt very sorry for Fräulein.

I felt angry to think that the Boravian people did not help her.

Then I said something foolish.

I said: "Are there no **men** in Boravia?"

That was really a foolish (silly) thing for me to say.

I suppose what I meant was: "Why don't the Boravians fight against the present King, so that the Princess might become Queen?"

We are in the twentieth century.

This is not the age in which people fight to put somebody on a throne.

Besides, I am a Liberal.

I have very modern ideas about governments.

I think that the Boravians are free to choose their own ruler.

They are free to set up a republic if they care to do so.

We are living in modern times.

We are not living in the old romantic times when one Royal Family fought against another Royal Family in order to make somebody King or Queen.

All the same, in the Thistleton's garden that afternoon I did ask the Thistleton's governess whether there were men in Boravia.

She answered as before: "They know where I am."
But this time she said it without any excitement.
Her eyes were half closed, and she spoke as if she
had no hope.

I might then have offered her my right arm.
I mean by that that I might have offered to fight
for her.

I might then have offered her all my fortune.
Only, as a matter of fact, I had no money.
I might have offered to help to organize a revolution
in Boravia.

I might then have declared openly my feelings of
admiration for her.

I might have said more than that.
But I did not say any of these things.

For whom did I feel sorry?
Was I angry or pleased that the Boravian people
did not help her?
Did I then say something wise or something foolish?
Who said something foolish?
What was it that I said?
Is this the age in which people fight for a throne?
In what century are we living?
Am I a Liberal or a Republican?
Have I modern ideas or ancient ideas about
governments?

Do I really think that the Boravians ought to fight to put the Princess on the throne or do I think that they are free to choose their own ruler?

Do I think that they are free to set up a republic if they like or that they ought not to set up a republic?

Are we living in modern times or in the old romantic times?

[*Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.*]

§ 29. THE FAMILY RETURN

I might have said all sorts of foolish things to Fräulein, but fortunately, at that moment the Thistletons returned.

Most of them came out into the garden.

As they came up to us, Fräulein put the big book behind her back.

She did not want the others to see the picture of her home.

I rose (got up, stood up) and walked forward to greet Mrs. Thistleton.

Charley Miles took my seat.

He sat down beside Fräulein and began to talk to her.

He talked with great enthusiasm.

He looked very happy.

He talked with every appearance of pleasure.
Indeed he seemed to be admiring Fräulein.

Might I have said all sorts of foolish things to
Fräulein?

Did I say all sorts of foolish things to her?

To whom might I have said all sorts of foolish
things?

Was it fortunate or unfortunate that the Thistletons
returned at that moment?

Why was it fortunate that the Thistletons returned
at that moment?

Did they all come into the garden or most of them?

Who was with them?

Where did Fräulein put the big book?

When did she put it there?

Did she want the others to see the picture of her
home?

Why did she put the book behind her back?

Did I remain seated or did I rise?

*[Continue such questions to the end of the section and
then read the original section under A.]*

§ 30. CHARLEY, BESSIE, AND FRÄULEIN

I joined Mrs. Thistleton.

Bessie Thistleton was standing beside her mother.

Bessie did not look happy.

There was a frown on her face.

She was frowning.

When I saw Bessie frowning, I began to understand something.

I began to understand that a new situation had arisen.

Charley was talking to Fräulein, and looked very happy.

Bessie was looking at them and looked very unhappy.

Bessie Thistleton was grown up now.

At least she considered herself grown up.

She and Charley were great friends.

Charley was doing very well on the Stock Exchange.

That means that he was making a lot of money.

As a matter of fact he was making three or four thousand pounds a year.

I remembered then that Thistleton had told me that Charley Miles was doing very well.

He had told me, too, that Charley and Bessie were great friends.

Charley was a good-looking fellow.

Thistleton was the father of eight children.

There is no doubt that Thistleton would be very pleased to see Bessie married to Charley.

But it seemed that Charley was not sure whether he admired Bessie or Fräulein most.

Bessie suddenly turned and walked into the house. Mrs. Thistleton asked me to come with her and see the chrysanthemums.

She didn't really want me to come and see the chrysanthemums.

It was an excuse to talk to me about Bessie.

We went to see the chrysanthemums.

But as we were thinking of other things, we didn't pay much attention to them.

Did I go to Mrs. Thistleton or did I go to Charley Miles?

Where was Bessie Thistleton standing?

Did she look happy or unhappy?

Was there a smile or a frown on her face?

Was she smiling or frowning?

Who was frowning?

Did I then begin to understand something?

Who began to understand that a new situation had arisen?

What did I begin to understand?

Who was talking to Fräulein?

Did Charley look very happy or very unhappy?

Did Bessie look very happy or very unhappy?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 31. *MRS. THISTLETON WANTS TO DO THE
RIGHT THING*

I knew (perfectly well) what Mrs. Thistleton was thinking.

Mrs. Thistleton knew (perfectly well) what I was thinking.

"It's a very difficult problem in some ways," she said. That was quite true; it was so difficult as to be almost impossible.

I said: "The difficulties are very great, but you're overcoming them wonderfully."

I said: "I never admired your wisdom more."

I added: "Nobody thinks of her at all now, except as Fräulein."

I was quite sincere when I said all this.

Then Mrs. Thistleton went on to say: "I have been so anxious to do the right thing.

"But it is difficult.

"Bessie and she don't get on well together.

"Bessie doesn't like her.

"If she were an ordinary governess, it wouldn't matter.

"Well, the only thing to do is to treat her as a governess, isn't it?"

That's what Mrs. Thistleton said.

I asked: "Does Fräulein object to being treated as an ordinary governess?"

"Oh no," said Mrs. Thistleton. "Never.

"But I can't make her out."

She meant that she couldn't understand Fräulein and her character.

Then Mrs. Thistleton said: "After all, she's not English, and one can't be sure of her moral influence."

I don't quite know what Mrs. Thistleton meant by that.

I think she was trying to find some excuse for getting rid of Fräulein (for sending her away).

Because then she said: "I sometimes think I must make a change."

She added quickly: "Oh, I shouldn't do anything unkind.

"I should ask her to stay until she got another post.

"And, of course, I should do all I could to recommend her."

Then she said again: "But Bessie doesn't like her, I'm sorry to say."

The expression "I'm sorry to say" means just about the same thing as "unfortunately."

The contrary of "I'm sorry to say" is "I'm glad to say."

Did I know what Mrs. Thistleton was thinking or had I no idea as to what she was thinking?

Did Mrs. Thistleton know what I was thinking or had she no idea as to what I was thinking?

Did she say that it was a difficult problem or an easy problem?

Was it true or not true that it was a difficult problem?

Am I right or wrong in saying that it was almost an impossible problem?

Did I answer that the difficulties were very great or that they were not very great?

Did I say that Mrs. Thistleton was overcoming the difficulties wonderfully or that she was not overcoming the difficulties at all?

Did I say: "I don't think you are very wise" or did I say "I have never admired your wisdom more"?

Did I say: "Everybody still thinks of her as the Princess" or did I say: "Nobody thinks of her except as Fräulein"?

Was I sincere when I said that?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 33. THE ANTI-FRÄULEIN MOVEMENT

During the next few weeks the situation became more perplexing.

Were we dealing with something serious or with something comical?

That's what we couldn't understand.

The women were not friendly towards Fräulein.

They were, so to speak, "anti-Fräulein."

"Anti" is a Latin word that means "against."

The question was this: Was Charley Miles going to marry Bessie or Fräulein?

Mrs. Marsfold, Miss Dunlop, and Mrs. Carr were favouring Bessie.

They wanted to see Fräulein sent away.

They wanted to see her banished.

If Fräulein were sent away, then Charley would probably propose marriage to Bessie.

That's why they wanted to see her sent away.

Only Mrs. Thistleton was inclined to be kind to Fräulein.

She still tried to be kind to the stranger.

And yet, of course, Mrs. Thistleton could not act against the interests of Bessie.

Mrs. Thistleton resisted the movement to banish Fräulein.

But after a time she began to give way (not to resist so much).

It was difficult for her to defend the German governess when everybody was against her.

Bessie and her father were on the anti-Fräulein side.

They both wanted her to go.

Princess Vera had been banished from Boravia.

In the same way it looked as if Fräulein would be banished from Hollingden.

During the next few weeks did the situation become more perplexing or less perplexing?

What became more perplexing?

Could we understand or couldn't we understand what the real situation was?

Were the women friendly or unfriendly towards Fräulein?

What does the word "anti" mean?

Did the women want to see Fräulein sent away (banished)?

What would Charley probably do if Fräulein were sent away?

Why did the ladies want to see Fräulein sent away?

Was Mrs. Thistleton inclined to be kind or unkind towards Fräulein?

Could Mrs. Thistleton act against the interests of Bessie or couldn't she?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 34. A DANGEROUS RIVAL

Why should Fräulein be banished from Hollingden? For reasons similar to those for which she had been banished from Boravia.

She had aspired to the crown of Boravia.

That means that she had thought of becoming Queen (she had wanted to become the Queen of Boravia).

Now she was aspiring to the hand of Charley Miles.

That means that she was thinking of becoming Charley Miles' wife (she was wanting to become Mrs. Charley Miles).

She was wanting Charley Miles and his three or four thousand pounds a year.

At least, it was said that Charley Miles was making three or four thousand pounds a year.

He was supposed to be making three or four thousand pounds a year.

As she had been a dangerous rival of the King of Boravia, she was now a dangerous rival of Miss Bessie Thistleton.

That was why she must leave Hollingden.

A person who is looked upon as a dangerous rival must be got rid of.

The Hollingden people had forgotten the Princess. They were not thinking that Charley Miles might become the husband of the possible Queen of Boravia.

All that they were thinking was that the Thistleton governess might steal Miss Thistleton's possible husband.

Charley Miles should marry the Thistleton daughter.

The Thistleton governess was trying to secure him as a husband.

Of course, this was not true.

I'm quite sure that Fräulein Friedenburg had no intention of becoming Mrs. Charley Miles.

Is it possible that Fräulein had aspired to the crown (throne) of Boravia?

Had she possibly thought of becoming Queen of Boravia?

Was she really now trying to become the wife of Charley Miles?

Did she really want to become Mrs. Charley Miles?

Was Charley Miles really making three or four thousand pounds a year or was he only supposed to be making three or four thousand pounds a year?

Which is more important: to be the rival of the King of Boravia or to be the rival of Miss Bessie Thistleton?

Why had Fräulein Friedenburg been banished from Boravia?

Why was she going to be banished from Hollingden?

Had the Hollingden people forgotten the Princess or did they think of her as Princess Vera of Boravia?

Do people generally want to get rid of a rival or would they prefer the rival to stay?

[*Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.*]

§ 35. CHARLEY'S POINT OF VIEW

Charley was furious at the ladies.

He was angry with them.

He called them "old cats."

Charley couldn't see the situation as it was.

He couldn't see facts as they were.

He was certainly in love with Fräulein.

But, all the same, he was looked upon as the future husband of Bessie Thistleton.

He had social ambitions.

All the residents of Hollingden people had social ambitions.

To marry Mr. Thistleton's daughter was different from marrying the Thistleton governess.

Mr. Thistleton's daughter was one thing; Mr. Thistleton's governess was another.

That was Charley's point of view.

So he didn't offer marriage to Fräulein Friedenburg.

He didn't ask her to marry him.

But he did not want her (to be) sent away.

He opposed the attempt to banish her.

That was quite right and natural.

For, after all, it was his behaviour towards her that had started the banishment movement.

If he had not been so interested in her (talking to her so often and with such pleasure), there would have been no movement to banish her.

It was his own fault, after all.

Was Charley angry with the ladies or pleased with them?

What did he call them?

Is it polite or impolite to call a lady, "an old cat"?

Could Charley see the situation as it was?

Was he in love with Fräulein or didn't he care for her?

Was he looked upon as the future husband of Bessie or as the future husband of Fräulein?

Who was looked upon as the future husband of Bessie?

Who looked upon him as the future husband of Bessie?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 36. THE ADVERTISEMENT

One evening Charley came to see me.

It was on a Monday evening that he came.

He came after dinner.

He brought with him a copy of the Morning Post.

The Morning Post is a newspaper.

I think it is an excellent paper.

But I do not take it in (I do not receive it every day).

The reason that I don't take it in is that I am a Liberal in politics.

I mentioned to you before that I am a Liberal in politics.

And the Morning Post is not a Liberal newspaper.

Charley showed me the Morning Post.

He pointed to a spot in the advertisement columns.

It was an advertisement from Mrs. Thistleton recommending her governess for another post.

Mrs. Thistleton, then, had decided to get rid of Fräulein.

The wording of the advertisement was like this:

"A lady strongly recommends her German nursery governess."

I suppose Mrs. Thistleton thought that the word "German" sounded better than the word "Boravian."

Then the advertisement went on:

"Good English. Fluent French. Music.

"Fond of children.

"Salary very moderate.

"A good home principal object.

“Well connected.

“Mrs. T., The Manor House Hollingden.”

That is how advertisements are written in English.

You see that there are no unnecessary words in it.

“Well connected” meant that her family was a good one.

That was hardly an exaggeration, was it?

Charley then said: “Isn't it a shame?”

He was sorry for Fräulein.

He was sorry for her because she must go out into the world among strangers.

He was also sorry for her because he had not invited her to become his wife!



Did Charley come to see me one morning or one evening?

On what day of the week did he come?

Did he come before dinner or after dinner?

What was the name of the newspaper he brought with him?

How many copies of the paper did he bring?

Do I think it an excellent paper or a bad paper?

Do I take it in?

Am I a Liberal in politics?

Why don't I take in the Morning Post?

Who showed me the Morning Post?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 37. *SUSPENSE*

The next day but one I saw Fräulein again. Bessie Thistleton had told me that there had been no replies to the advertisement yet.

She told me so with obvious annoyance.

"If a governess has no degree, it's very difficult for her to get a position," she had said.

"Where is Fräulein?" I asked.

Bessie told me that she was somewhere in the garden.

"Somewhere in the garden, I think, Mr. Tregaskis," she said.

So I went into the garden.

I found Fräulein again, under the tree.

But she had not the big book with her this time.

She was sitting idle.

She was doing nothing.

She was looking straight ahead of her.

She looked frightened.

I asked her whether she was glad she was going.

I said: "You're glad you're going?"

She said: "No, I'm frightened."

She added: "They're right to send me away, though. I'm such an absurdity."

She meant that it was absurd to keep a princess as a governess, and at the same time to have the governess as a rival to the daughter.

"Yes," I said. "I'm afraid you are an absurdity."

Then for sometime we didn't say anything.

We sat silent for some while.

Suddenly Mrs. Thistleton came running out of the house.

She was holding a letter in her hand.

She was looking very happy.

Did I see Fräulein the next day or the next day but one?

Had there been any replies to the advertisement yet?

Who told me there had been no replies?

Was Bessie pleased or sorry that there were no replies?

Did she speak to me with annoyance or with pleasure?

Is it difficult or easy for a governess without a degree to get a position?

Who said that?

Then did I ask where Fräulein was or where Mrs. Thistleton was?

Was she somewhere in the garden or somewhere in the house?

Where did I go then?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 38. *THE ANSWER*

The letter that Mrs. Thistleton was holding was an answer to the advertisement.

"Fräulein," she cried out, "an answer!"

We both rose, and she came up to us.

A situation had been offered to Fräulein.

Mrs. Thistleton said that it sounded most suitable.

It was in London.

She hoped that Fräulein wouldn't mind living in London.

The offer came from a Mrs. Perkyns, living on Maida Hill.

"Nice and high," said Mrs. Thistleton.

She meant that Maida Hill was a nice place to live in.

There were two children in the Perkyns family.

Mrs. Thistleton was just going to speak about the salary, but said that she could speak about that later.

She meant that she didn't want to speak about the salary in front of me (while I was there).

So I thought I had better leave.

I took up my hat and gave my hand to Mrs. Thistleton.

"Good news, isn't it?" said Mrs. Thistleton.

She added that Mrs. Perkyns had known her sister Mary.

She had met her at a place called Cheltenham. For that reason she didn't require any other references.

"Isn't that convenient?" said Mrs. Thistleton.

"Very," I said.

Then I turned to Fräulein.

Mrs. Thistleton was holding a letter. To what was it an answer?

Did Fräulein and I remain seated or did we rise (get up)?

Who came up to us?

To whom had a situation been offered?

Did Mrs. Thistleton say that it sounded most suitable or most unsuitable?

Was the new situation in London or in Hollingden?

Who said that she hoped Fräulein wouldn't mind living in London?

What did she hope?

From whom did the offer come?

In what part of London did she live?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 39. THE END OF AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION

Mrs. Thistleton said that Fräulein was to go the next day but one.

She said: "You're to go the day after to-morrow if you can be ready."

"Can you be ready?" she asked.

"I can be ready," Fräulein said.

"In the morning, Mrs. Perkyns suggested," said Mrs. Thistleton.

"I can be ready in the morning," said Fräulein.

Then she turned to me.

She said, "This is good-bye, then, I'm afraid, Mr. Tregaskis."

I told her I should come and see her off.

I made up my mind (decided, determined) to say my farewell at the station.

Then I left (I took my leave).

As I walked out of the front gate, I met Thistleton coming from the station.

I told him the news.

I told him that Fräulein had accepted a situation in London.

"Good," said Thistleton.

He added: "It ends what was always a false situation and what has become an impossible situation."

You will notice here that the word "situation" has two entirely different meanings.

The word "position," too, has the same two meanings.

Was Fräulein to go to London the next day or the next day but one?

Did Mrs. Thistleton say: "You're to go to-morrow," or "you're to go the day after to-morrow"?

Could Fräulein be ready in time?

Would Fräulein be starting in the morning or in the afternoon?

For where would she be starting?

To whom did Fräulein begin to say good-bye?

Did I tell her that I should or that I should not see her off at the station?

Did I make up my mind to say my farewell at the house or at the station?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

PART V

Her Majesty the Queen of Boravia

§ 40. THE NEWS

On the day when Fräulein was to leave I got up with a bad temper.

I suppose I didn't like the idea of Fräulein going away.

Then I opened the morning paper.

What I saw there was glorious news.

What I read were the following lines:

"Revolution in Boravia!"

"Rumoured abdication of the King."

"Princess Vera of Friedenburg offered the throne."

So while Fräulein was being offered a situation in London, Princess Vera was being offered a throne in Boravia!

In a moment the news seemed neither strange nor unexpected.

Somehow or other I had always felt that one day I should see an announcement of that sort in the paper.

The news happened to come that morning.

It chanced to be there by happy fortune.

The news could not have come at a better moment.

I'm afraid it sent me half mad.

Yet I was very practical.

I knew just what to do.

I made up my mind at once what she would want to do.

I made up my mind what I could do.

On the day when Fräulein was to leave, did I get up with a good temper or with a bad temper?

On what day did I get up with a bad temper?

Who got up with a bad temper on that day?

Did I like the idea of Fräulein going away or did I dislike it?

What didn't I like the idea of?

Did I open the morning paper or the evening paper?

Did I see sad news in it or good news?

Did I read that there was a revolution in Boravia or a revolution in Serbia?

Had the King of Boravia abdicated or was it rumoured that he had abdicated?

To whom had the throne been offered?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 41. I TAKE MEASURES

Five minutes later I was riding on my bicycle.

I was riding as fast as I could to Beechington.

I had the newspaper in one pocket.

In another pocket I had a cheque on the local bank.

I was going to the bank to get some money.

You may guess for what purpose I required the money.

Princess Vera, I supposed, had no money.

And without money you cannot answer an invitation to become a Queen.

I hoped that she would leave the Thistleton's house before they received the news.

That was very probable.

By this time Thistleton would be in the train for town.

He bought his copy of the morning paper at Beechington station.

His family waited for it until the evening.

But perhaps Thistleton, on reading the news, would return to his house to give the news to Fräulein—I mean to Princess Vera.

Did I take my bicycle or did I take a horse to ride to Beechington station?

Did I ride fast or slowly?

Where had I the newspaper?

Had I a cheque in another pocket or had I a book?

Had I a cheque on a local bank or a cheque on a London bank?

Was I riding to Beechington or to London?

Why was I going to the bank?

Had Princess Vera any money, do you suppose?

For whom, do you suppose I was getting the money from the bank?

Who was going to get some money from the bank?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 42. AT THE STATION

From the bank I went to the station at full speed. I raced to the station.

I went from the bank to the station as quickly as possible.

I got to the station ten minutes before the train was due to leave Beechington.

The Princess was sitting on a bench all alone.

She was wearing a plain black dress.

She was dressed in plain black.

She looked very small and lonely.

She seemed to be thinking deeply.

She seemed deep in thought.

She did not see me until I was close to her.

Then she looked up and smiled.

"You have heard?" I asked.

I meant, of course, had she heard the great news?

"Yes," she said, "I had a telegram late last night."

She had received a telegram from Boravia.

It was probably an invitation for her to return.

I asked her whether she had told the Thistletons.

She answered that she had not told them.

"You're going, of course?" I said.

I mean: "You're going to Friedenburg, aren't you?"

She answered: "I'm going to Mrs. Perkyns. What else can I do?"

"You must send a telegram to Friedenburg," I said.

"You must tell them that you're starting for Vienna.

"You must tell them to communicate with you there.

"Then there **are** men in Boravia!

"You'll go, surely."

I meant: "I can't believe that you won't go."

I said that if she went, it might make all the difference.

That means that her actual presence in Friedenburg might decide things in her favour.

Whereas if she stayed in England the people in Boravia wouldn't be so interested in her.

"Let them see you!" I said.

Did I ride from the bank to the station slowly or at full speed?

Did I go as slowly as possible or as quickly as possible?

Did I get to the station ten minutes after the train had left or ten minutes before the train was due to leave?

Did I find the Princess at the station alone or with somebody else?

Where was she sitting?

What was she wearing?

How was she dressed?

How did she look?

What did she seem to be doing?

Did she seem to be deep in thought or did she seem to be thinking about nothing in particular?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 43. *A MATTER OF FINANCE*

When I told the Princess that she must start for
Boravia, she shook her head.
At the same time she gave a short nervous laugh.
I could see then that it was as I had thought.
She had no money.
I sat down beside her.
Her purse lay on her knees.
I took the purse.
The Princess did not move.
She said nothing.
She was looking at me.
Her eyes were fixed on mine.
I opened the purse.
I put (slipped) into the purse the notes (money)
that I had obtained (got) from the bank.
I closed the purse and laid it down again.
She then told me that she had a third-class ticket to
London, and eight shillings and threepence.
I said to her: "You'll go now?"
I meant: "You'll go to Boravia?"
"Yes," she whispered, as she rose to her feet.

When I told the Princess that she must start for
Boravia, did she nod or did she shake her head?
What does it mean when you shake your head?
What does it mean when you nod?

Did the Princess give a long loud laugh or a short nervous laugh?

Did I remain standing or did I sit down beside her?

Where did her purse lie?

Did I leave the purse there or did I take it?

Did the Princess try to prevent me from taking it or did she let me take it?

Were her eyes fixed on mine or on the purse?

What did I do with the purse?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 44. A FOOLISH HOPE

We stood side by side now, waiting for the train.

It was very hard to speak.

We had nothing to say.

Presently she passed her hand through my arm, and let it rest there.

That was the way she thanked me.

She said no more about the money.

I was glad of that.

But I wasn't thinking much about the money.

I was thinking of something else.

I still felt rather mad.

My thoughts were full of one foolish idea.

I'm ashamed to tell you what that idea was.

It was this: I thought that perhaps the Princess would ask me to go with her.

Perhaps, just as the train was starting, she might say: "Come with me."

At last I had to say something.

But as I had nothing particular to say, I asked a foolish question.

I said: "Did it surprise you?"

She answered: "I had given up all hope. Yet somehow I wasn't very surprised."

Then she asked me if I had been surprised.

"No," I said; "I had always believed it would come."

"If it all comes to nothing, I shall have one friend still," she said.

"We have an Order at home called The Knights of Faith," she said. "Shall I send you the Cross some day?"

She meant that as I had been faithful to her she would wish to send me a Boravian decoration: the Cross of the Order called The Knights of Faith.

But I said no.

"Send me your big book," I said; "the book with the picture of the castle and the broad river flowing by its base."

While we were waiting for the train was it easy to speak or very hard to speak?

Had we much to say or nothing to say?

Presently did she pass her hand through my arm
or did she put it on my shoulder?

Did she say anything more about the money?

Was I thinking much about the money or was I
thinking about something else?

Whose thoughts were full of one foolish idea?

Am I proud to tell you what that idea was, or am
I ashamed to tell you?

Was I hoping that the Princess would ask me to go
with her or was I afraid that she would ask me
to go with her?

*[Continue such questions to the end of the section and
then read the original section under A.]*

§ 45. THE DEPARTURE

The train arrived.

I opened the door and put her in the carriage.

When I put her in the carriage, my foolishness
came back to me.

I wanted her to invite me to go with her.

Would she ask me to go with her?

I actually watched her eyes as though to look for
the invitation.

I thought her eyes might tell me whether she was
going to invite me.

Of course, I saw no such invitation.

But I did seem to see a great friendliness for me.

I pressed her hand and shut the door of the railway carriage.

Then, at the last, I whispered, "Are you afraid?"

She smiled at my question.

"No," she said, "I'm not afraid.

"Boravia isn't Hollingden; I'm not afraid."

Then she went away.

When the train arrived, who opened the door of the carriage?

What door did I open?

Did I want the Princess to invite me to go with her or did I hope she would not invite me?

Did I know or didn't I know whether she would invite me?

Did I watch her eyes to see what colour they were or did I watch them as though to look for an invitation?

What did I think her eyes might tell me?

Did I see any such invitation in her eyes?

Did I seem to see in her eyes a great friendliness for me or a great dislike for me?

[*Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.*]

§ 46. MRS. THISTLETON'S IDEA

Mrs. Thistleton's great.

She's very clever.

She always knows how to make the best of things.

I said so before, and I shall continue to say so.

My opinion of Mrs. Thistleton is unchanged.

I called on her not long ago.

I found her in the drawing-room.

I found her with Molly, the youngest daughter.

Molly's a pretty and intelligent child.

We talked about different things.

Then Mrs. Thistleton said she had had an idea.

Mr. Thistleton had thought it a good idea.

"My husband thought the idea so graceful that he insisted on carrying it out," she said.

"I wonder if you'll like it," she went on.

"I should really like to show it to you."

I didn't know what she meant, of course.

I had no idea what she was talking about.

I wondered what it was that she wanted to show me.

So I expressed a polite interest, and a proper desire to see it, whatever it was.

I said: "Indeed, I should like to see it; I wonder what it is."

"Then I'll take you upstairs" said Mrs. Thistleton. As she said this, she rose with a gracious smile.

Do I think that Mrs. Thistleton's great or that she's not very clever?

Does she make the best of things or the worst of things?

Is my opinion of Mrs. Thistleton changed or unchanged?

Whose opinion of her is unchanged?

On whom did I call not long ago?

In which room did I find her?

Was she alone or was she with Molly?

Is Molly the youngest or the eldest daughter?

Is she a pretty or an ugly child?

Is she intelligent or unintelligent?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 47. "THE QUEEN'S ROOM"

We went upstairs.

Molly came with us.

We were accompanied by Molly.

We reached the first floor.

In England the first floor means the first upstairs floor.

Then we turned to the left.

Mrs. Thistleton showed me into a bedroom.

It was an exceedingly pleasant and handsome bedroom.

It had a delightful view of the garden.

I thought (concluded, came to the conclusion, supposed, etc.) that this must be the principal guest-room of the house.

Then Mrs. Thistleton pointed towards the mantelpiece.

"There!" she said.

She meant: "Look there!"

I advanced in the direction of the mantelpiece.

I perceived on the wall over the mantelpiece a small frame.

The frame was decorated with a Royal Crown.

There was a square of parchment enclosed in the frame.

It was protected by glass.

There was something written on the parchment.

It was written in blue-gold letters.

This is what was written:

"This room was occupied by Her Majesty the Queen of Boravia on the occasion of her visit to the Manor House, Hollingden, 27th of June, 1902."

"Her Majesty the Queen of Boravia," otherwise "Her Highness Princess Vera of Boravia," otherwise "Countess Vera von Friedenburg," otherwise "Fräulein von Friedenburg," otherwise "Fräulein Friedenburg," otherwise just simply "Fräulein."

But on the square of parchment the title used was "Her Majesty the Queen of Boravia."

I said: "It's a very pretty idea, indeed!"

Mrs. Thistleton added: "And 'The Queen's Room' sounds such a nice name for this room."

I answered simply: "Charming."

What else could I have answered?

Did Mrs. Thistleton take me upstairs or downstairs?

Did we go alone or did Molly go with us?

Were we accompanied by Molly?

Who accompanied us?

Did we reach the first floor or the second floor?

In England what does the expression 'the first floor' mean: does it mean the first upstairs floor or does it mean the ground floor?

Did Mrs. Thistleton show me into a bedroom or into the drawing-room?

Was it a handsome bedroom or a poor-looking bedroom?

Was it an exceedingly pleasant bedroom or a rather pleasant bedroom?

Had it a good view of the garden or a poor view of the garden?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 48. MOLLY ASKS A FOOLISH QUESTION

Molly and I were looking at the parchment in its frame.

Molly was very young.

She was about seven or eight years old.

She knew that Princess Vera had occupied that room for a few weeks.

She knew, too, that during all the last part of her stay she had occupied another room—a little room upstairs.

And this was true.

When the Princess had come to be "Fräulein Friedenburg," she had been given a poor little room upstairs—on the second or third floor.

So Molly said: "Why didn't you put a thing like this (a framed parchment) in the little room upstairs too?"

"Why didn't you put one in the little room in which she slept in all the last part of the time?"

That's what Molly asked.

Well, children will make these foolish mistakes.

Children will ask silly questions.

Mrs. Thistleton told Molly that she ought to think before she spoke.

Mrs. Thistleton said that if she thought before she spoke, she would not ask so many foolish questions.

"Think before you speak," said Mrs. Thistleton to Molly.

"Think," she said, "before you ask questions like that."

Were Molly and I looking at the parchment in its frame or were we looking out of the window into the garden?

Was Molly very young or was she grown up?

Who was Molly?

How old was she?

Had Princess Vera occupied that room for a few weeks or for a few months?

During all the last part of her stay had she occupied that room or another room?

Where was that other room?

Was that other room large or small?

When had she occupied the little room upstairs?

Who asked why Mrs. Thistleton did not put a framed parchment in the little room upstairs?

What did she ask?

[Continue such questions to the end of the section and then read the original section under A.]

§ 39. SOUVENIRS

In this way Mrs. Thistleton has a very pleasant souvenir of her Princess.

A souvenir is something that you keep to remind you of somebody.

Mrs. Thistleton's souvenir of the Princess is the framed parchment.

I have a souvenir of the Princess, too.

It isn't a framed parchment.

It's a book.

It's a big book with a picture in it.

It's a picture of the great castle.

At the foot of the castle you can see the broad river.

Something is written at the beginning of the book.

The Queen of Boravia wrote it when she sent me
the book.

These are the words: "To him who did not
forget."

Then follows the word "Vera."

The word "Vera" is the signature.

She meant that I was the one who had not forgotten
that she was a princess.

That's the end of the story.

Has Mrs. Thistleton a souvenir of her Princess?

Is it a pleasant one or an unpleasant one?

Is a souvenir something that makes you remember
somebody or something that makes you forget
somebody?

What is Mrs. Thistleton's souvenir of the Princess?

Have I a souvenir of her, too?

Is it a framed parchment or is it a book?

Is it a big book or a little one?

Has it a picture in it or is it without pictures?

Is it the picture of a castle or of a house?

What can we see at the foot of the castle?

Is something written at the beginning of the book
or at the end of it?

Who wrote it?

When did she write it?

What are the words?

Does a signature follow these words?

Does this signature consist of one word or more
than one word?

What is the word?

What did the writer mean by those words?

Is this the end of the story or the beginning of the
story?

C. DIRECT METHOD COMPOSITION EXERCISES

The following exercises on the Direct Method plan have been designed to train students in the use of the more elementary grammar and semantics mechanisms.

They may be written out either in the classroom under the supervision of the teacher, or as homework. If these types of exercises are unfamiliar to the students, the teacher would do well to have the first few questions of each exercise written out under his supervision, at which times he may supplement the explanations, examples and indications.

In addition to the following exercises, the questions appearing at the end of each section under B may be answered by the students in written form.

EXERCISE 1.

Write each of the following affirmative sentences in its corresponding interrogative and negative forms.

Example: (Aff.) Hollingden is a pleasant place to live in.

(Int.) Is Hollingden a pleasant place to live in?

(Neg.) Hollingden is not a pleasant place to live in.

1. Mrs. Thistleton is always discreet.
2. Distinguished visitors rarely come to Hollingden.
3. Thistleton lives at the old Manor House.
4. He proceeds every day to town.
5. I received an invitation to dinner.
6. I should have accepted the invitation in any case.
7. She had come to him as a client.
8. The solicitor was taking steps to recover the fortune.
9. Her Highness sat in state.
10. I went to Switzerland on my annual holiday.
11. The nature of these negotiations makes it necessary to approach the King in a friendly spirit.
12. The countess and the children held books in their hands.
13. The Government might do something.
14. I must give you some tea.
15. The next chapter must be very short.
16. Mr. Thistleton will say goodbye to the governess.
17. Mrs. Thistleton resisted the popular movement.
18. The Princess had aspired to the crown of Boravia.

19. The Princess aspired to the crown of Boravia.
20. I shall come and see you off.

EXERCISE 2.

Add to each of the statements of Exercise 1 those words that will convert each one into a "disjunctive question," thus:

1. Mrs. Thistleton is always discreet, isn't she?
2. Distinguished visitors rarely come to Hollingden, do they?
3. Thistleton lives at the old Manor House, doesn't he?

EXERCISE 3.

1. We went upstairs and we all had a word with her.
2. She smiled for the first time and chatted away for a few minutes quite merrily.
3. He had consulted a book of reference and had found that there was indeed a Princess Vera of Boravia.

The above sentences can be expressed in the following way:

1. Going upstairs, we all had a word with her.
2. Smiling for the first time, she chatted away for a few minutes quite merrily.

3. Having consulted a book of reference, he had found that there was indeed a Princess Vera of Boravia.

Rewrite the following sentences in the second way:

1. I went to Switzerland and was absent for two months.
2. I did not see the English papers during most of that period and was unable to learn whether the Princess was still there.
3. I stepped into the train and saw Thistleton in one corner of the carriage.
4. I took advantage of Thistleton's kind invitation, and called on his wife.
5. The maid sent the children upstairs and told the Countess that tea was ready.
6. She smiled brightly and beckoned to me to come and sit down.
7. She turned over a dozen pages of the big book and found a picture.
8. We had walked past all the chrysanthemums twice, and had enough time to talk.
9. Mrs. Thistleton still resisted the popular movement and still tried to be kind to the stranger lady.
10. I had made up my mind in a minute what she would want to do, and went to the bank.

EXERCISE 4.

In the ten sentences of Exercise 3 are 17 examples of different preterite finites. Write these out and underline those that are irregular in pronunciation or spelling.

EXERCISE 5.

Verbs	Corresponding nouns
act	action
imagine	imagination
amuse	amusement.

Give the nouns corresponding to the following verbs:

1. reside. 2. designate. 3. existence. 4. suggest.
 5. pronounce. 6. recover. 7. invite. 8. consent.
 9. deceive. 10. greet. 11. behave. 12. walk.
 13. express. 14. change.

Give the verbs corresponding to the following nouns:

1. meaning. 2. descent. 3. confession. 4. thought.
 5. success. 6. contribution. 7. admiration. 8. at-
 tention. 9. banishment. 10. conviction. 11. re-
 quirement. 12. difference. 13. beginning.
 14. movement.

EXERCISE 6.

Write the following, changing each noun in bold type into its plural form, and making any other

necessary changes to the sentence. Consider particularly in which cases *a* is to be changed into *some*, *several* etc. or is to be simply omitted.

1. It is spoilt by a cheap modern **residence** and a mean **cottage**.
2. It might be inhabited by a retired **colonel**, by a not too wealthy **lady** living on a modest **income**, or by a business **man**.
3. In such a **case** a **hint** or a **suggestion** is more effective than a **statement**.
4. I opened the purse and slipped in a **note** that I had obtained from the bank.
5. He gave me a good **reason** for the change of name.
6. They call their **king** a **king**.
7. She was looking at a **book**.
8. Charley was furious at the **lady**; he called her "an old **cat**."
9. He brought with him a **copy** of the morning paper.
10. My thoughts were full of this foolish **idea**.

EXERCISE 7.

In the sentences of Exercise 6 there are 10 different adjectives (not counting the participle *retired*, the noun *business* or mere determinatives such as *this*). Which are they?

EXERCISE 8.

Replace each dash by a suitable adjective.

1. — visitors rarely come to Hollingden.
2. Mrs. Thistleton is too — for boasting.
3. Her — Highness the Princess.
4. The most — etiquette was observed.
5. She spoke with a — pronunciation.
6. I went to Switzerland on my — holiday.
7. After a — pause Thistleton answered.
8. The nature of these negotiations makes it — to approach the King in a — spirit.
9. We felt a little — when we remembered the — dinner party.
10. We are delighted to accept your — invitation.

EXERCISE 9.

The word "Thistleton" in "Thistleton lives at the old Manor House" may be made more emphatic or prominent by recasting the sentence as: "It is Thistleton who lives at the old Manor House."

Recast each of the following sentences in such a way as to put into prominence the word or expression printed in bold type.

1. **Molly** is the youngest child.
2. **Mrs. Thistleton** does not boast.
3. I was invited **to meet the Princess**.

4. Mr. Thistleton had met **a real princess**.
5. She had come to him **as a client**.
6. **She** had come to him as a client.
7. She had come **to him** as a client.
8. **Charley** wondered whether Thistleton would get his fee.
9. Charley was going to marry **Eessie**.
10. Charley was not going to marry **the governess**.
11. **On the morning of Fräulein's departure** I rose with a bad temper.
12. The Princess sent me **the picture book**.
13. The Princess sent **me** the picture book.
14. Finally she decided to go **to Boravia**.
15. Mrs. Thistleton did not hang the square of parchment **in the little room upstairs**.

EXERCISE 10.

The following are Direct Questions:

Who was the Princess?

How did she come to be invited?

What was the amount of the fortune?

Am I right?

The following are corresponding Indirect Questions:

We did not know who the Princess was.

We wondered how she came to be invited.

Charley asked what was the amount of the fortune.

Tell me whether I am right.

Indirect questions generally begin by "Tell me," "I wonder," "Do you know," "Can you tell me," "I want to know" etc.

Change each of the following Direct Questions into Indirect Questions.

1. What was the Princess like?
2. Is the money genuine?
3. Have you any news of the Princess?
4. Had the Princess gone to Windsor?
5. Are there no men in Boravia?
6. Where is the governess?
7. Can you be ready to go the day after to-morrow?
8. Have you heard the news?
9. Did it surprise you?
10. Why didn't you put one in the little room upstairs?

EXERCISE 11.

The following sentences express supposition:

1. If I were free, I should go out.
2. If I saw him, I might speak to him.
3. If I had a pen, I could write.

The following sentences express the same suppositions but with reference to past time:

1. If I had been free, I should have gone out.
2. If I had seen him, I might have spoken to him.
3. If I had had a pen, I could have written to him.

Rewrite the following suppositions in such a way as to express past time:

1. If you lived in Hollingden you would not meet distinguished people.
2. If I received the invitation without the "Royal," I should accept it.
3. If Thistleton recovered the fortune, he would receive a big fee.
4. If we had pencil and paper, we could obtain the amount in pounds.
5. If the King abdicated, the Princess would become Queen.
6. If the Princess had no money, she would have to work as a governess.
7. If the Princess left the Thistletons, the Thistleton family would be pleased.
8. If the Princess were offered the throne, she would accept it.
9. If the Princess had no money, she would not be able to go to Boravia.
10. If Molly thought before she spoke, she would not ask such a large number of foolish questions.

EXERCISE 12.

Re-write the following, changing each plural noun into its singular form, and making any other necessary changes to the sentence.

1. These houses have a pleasant appearance of age.
2. Some of these things seemed very dignified.
3. For diplomatic reasons it is necessary to approach the King in a friendly spirit.
4. He gave me good reasons for the change of name.
5. Merry laughs came from the children on the lawn.
6. The armies had fallen back beaten from before those giant walls.
7. The difficulties are very great but you are overcoming them wonderfully.
8. Children will make these mistakes.

EXERCISE 13.

- Direct Speech:** He said: "It is a fine day."
He said: "I was there yesterday."
"Is it far?" he asked.
"No, it isn't," I answered.
- Indirect Speech:** He said that it was a fine day.
He said that he had been there the day before.
He asked whether it was far.
I answered that it was not.

Rewrite the following sentences in the form of Indirect Speech:

1. She said: "The people of Boravia know where I am."
2. "What is the amount of the fortune?" Charley Miles asked.
3. "Have you any news of her?" I asked.
4. Thistleton answered: "She is still with us, and very well indeed."
5. "Really a barbarous place, I'm told," said the Rector.
6. "It's really very perplexing," said Mrs. Thistleton, and it's difficult to do the right thing.
7. "Do you think this very funny?" she asked.
8. "I think it's terrible," I answered.
9. "And how do you like it?" I asked.
10. I said: "I think you've been kind all through, and I don't think you'll be unkind now."

EXERCISE 14.

Where quite necessary replace the dashes by the word "the."

1. — only social problem is to determine — dividing line between "Esquire" and "Mr."
2. Thistleton goes every day by — train to — town.

3. — Thistletons are — only people in Hollingden who use — printed cards of — invitation.
4. On — other hand, — throne of Boravia was occupied by a member of another branch of — family.
5. As I stepped into — train at — station I saw Thistleton in one corner of — carriage.
6. — Countess and — children all held — books in their hands.
7. I grasped — situation and understood — plan.
8. — maid brought in — tea.
9. Send — children upstairs and tell — Countess that — tea is here.
10. In — first place — chapter shows — final stage of — descent of — Princess.

EXERCISE 15.

Complete the following sentences:

1. Hollingden is conveniently near London but
.....
2. The Princess had come to Mr. Thistleton to
.....
3. The King does not recognise her title, and so
.....
4. The Countess could not accept my invitation
because

5. The Princess had to leave Boravia because
.....
6. She would have to leave Hollingden because
.....
7. The Princess had no money and so
8. The Princess had received an invitation to go
to Boravia, but
9. I thought she might ask me to come with her.
but
10. Mrs. Thistleton told Molly to think before she
spoke, in which case

EXERCISE 16.

In each of the following sentences there are one or more errors of fact. Correct them.

1. Hollingden is an unpleasant place to live in; a long way from London and yet not quite in the country.
2. Distinguished visitors often come to Hollingden.
3. When I received the invitation I experienced a sensation of unpleasant disappointment.
4. Thistleton has a small practice as a doctor in Hollingden.
5. Mrs. Thistleton is the mother of six children, the eldest being Molly aged nineteen and the youngest Tom aged seven.

6. Mrs. Thistleton sent me a letter of invitation.
7. If Mrs. Thistleton had not added the word "Royal," I should not have accepted the invitation.
8. Thistleton explained to us all the circumstances connected with the Princess and her visit to him.
9. The Princess spoke English perfectly with no trace of a foreign pronunciation.
10. The Princess was afraid of everybody except Mrs. Thistleton.
11. Charley Miles told me that there was no Princess Vera of Boravia.
12. Charley said that Mr. Thistleton would certainly receive a large fee, for it was certain that the Princess had a large private fortune in her possession.
13. Three days after the dinner I went to Sweden on business and was absent from England for three months.
14. I had seen the English papers during this period and so knew that the Princess had gone to Windsor.
15. I met Thistleton and Charley Miles outside Charing Cross Station.
16. Thistleton immediately gave me all the news about the Princess.

17. Charley and I took a taxi to go from Beechington Station to Hollingden.
18. Charley agreed that by changing her title the Princess had a good chance of receiving the fortune.
19. The Princess now called herself Sarah Smith.
20. The Countess was teaching German to the four eldest children.
21. The Boravian people treated Mr. Thistleton's efforts with the utmost respect.
22. The people in Hollingden could never forget that the Thistleton governess was in reality a princess.
23. Mr. Thistleton owed Fräulein Friedenburg two hundred pounds.
24. I am a Conservative in politics, and hold that the Boravians must be loyal to the reigning house.
25. Charley Miles did not care to talk to Fräulein Friedenburg.
26. Bessie Thistleton looked happy and smiled when she saw Charley talking to Fräulein Friedenburg.
27. Mrs. Thistleton was really anxious to show me the chrysanthemums.
28. Mrs. Marsfold, Miss Dunlop, and the Rector's wife thought that Fräulein Friedenburg should stay, but Mrs. Thistleton did not think so.

29. Fräulein Friedenburg was very much attracted by Charley Miles.
30. There were immediately many answers to the advertisement.
31. Fräulein said that it was quite impossible for her to leave so suddenly.
32. Mr. Thistleton was very sorry to hear that Fräulein was leaving.
33. When I read the news about the situation in Boravia I felt very sad; I did not know what to do, but at last I went in a motor-car to the local post-office.
34. I saw the Princess at the post-office sitting on a chair, with somebody else.
35. She had plenty of money in her purse, and a first-class ticket to Vienna.
36. Mrs. Thistleton took me to a small bedroom at the top of the house and showed me a sheet of paper in a large frame that was hanging on the wall over the bed.

EXERCISE 17.

Replace each dash by a suitable preposition.

1. Distinguished visitors seldom come — Hollingden.
2. Our lives are passed — the undistinguished.
3. The county is situated — the other end of England.

4. She is, — my opinion, a woman — considerable talent, and the way she dealt — the Princess confirmed the idea I had — her.
5. I am no authority — such matters, and yet I feel safe — declaring that — the dinner party the most ceremonious etiquette was observed.
6. Thistleton, — the wine — dinner told us something.
7. — behalf — the Princess he was taking the first steps — the recovery — her fortune.
8. I replied — her question — French, which I dare say was not — accordance — etiquette.
9. I don't wonder — her being frightened — Mrs. Thistleton.
10. I went — Switzerland — my annual holiday and was absent — Hollingden — two months.
11. As I stepped — the train — Liverpool Street Station, I saw Thistleton — one corner — the carriage.
12. — the present, — diplomatic reasons Her Highness will call herself — a name — which her claim is — dispute.

13. I took advantage — Thistleton's invitation,
and called — his wife.
14. She agrees — me that — my absence she
had better stay — the children.
15. I saw the city — Friedenburg — each
side — the great river, a sentinel — the
outposts — Western Europe.
16. I went — the Manor one afternoon —
October but found no one — home —
Fräulein, who was sitting — a tree.
17. — this time we had walked — all the
chrysanthemums twice, and I said that it was
time — me to go.
18. She tried to be kind — the stranger lady
and yet not act — the interests — the
Thistleton family.
19. I was — my bicycle riding as fast as I could
— Beechington — that paper — one
pocket and a cheque — the local bank
— another.
20. Advancing — that direction, I perceived,
— the wall — the mantelpiece a small
frame decorated — a Royal Crown.

EXERCISE 18.

In the above sentences 4, 6, and 7 contain *ex-*
amples of the direct object, viz. (4) *the idea*, (6)
something, (7) *the first steps*. In five other of the

sentences that follow sentence 7 are found examples of the Direct object (excluding subordinate clauses). Which are they?

EXERCISE 19.

Replace each word or expression between brackets by some other word or expression having nearly the same meaning.

1. Hollingden is a [pleasant] place to live in.
2. It is not [exactly] a village.
3. Distinguished visitors [rarely] come to Hollingden.
4. I [experienced] a [sensation] of pleasant excitement.
5. He [proceeds] every day to [town].
6. Charley Miles could not [refrain from] asking the amount of the fortune.
7. "[Upwards of] two million francs," [answered] Thistleton.
8. The Rector got the translation [approximately] [accurate].
9. She was [sadly frightened] of us all, and [most of all] of Mrs. Thistleton.
10. For [an instant] I [feared] that the Princess had [run off with] the spoons.
11. After a [brief] [pause] Thistleton [announced]: "She is still with us."
12. "Really [a barbarous] place, I'm [told]," said the Rector.

13. They felt [a little] [hot] when they remembered the dinner-party.
14. I [rose] as she [entered].
15. I [seldom] give even small dinner parties.
16. I said in my [note] to Mrs. Thistleton that I should be [exceedingly pleased] if the Countess would do me the honour of [accompanying] them.
17. Fräulein Friedenburg agrees with me that [during my absence] she [had better] stay with the children.
18. I [hold] that the Boravians are [at entire liberty] to have whatever ruler they may [choose], or to [set up] a republic if they [are so disposed].
19. Charley [seated himself] [by] Fräulein and [began to talk] to her with great enthusiasm.
20. I [made up my mind] to say [my farewell] at the station—and I [took my leave].

MORE ADVANCED EXERCISES

EXERCISE 20.

Explain what is meant by the following:

1. "A fashionable residential district."
2. "The only social problem is to determine the dividing line between 'Esquire' and 'Mr.'"
3. "Thistleton considers himself the Lord of the Manor—by purchase, not by inheritance."

4. "As the county is situated at the other end of England she can say all she cares to say about her people."
5. "I think that Mrs. Thistleton was quite right to make the most of the opportunity."
6. "At Lord Ogleferry's he had once met a real princess."
7. "We all wished we had pencil and paper in order to obtain the amount in pounds."
8. "I nodded again—it was the only safe thing to do."
9. "She may call herself plain Sarah Smith, but she isn't going to get that fortune."
10. "The title that had filled our mouths would not fill hers."
11. "They call their kings kings; but of course ——!"
12. "They felt a little hot when they remembered the ceremonious dinner party."
13. "But I didn't sit down—I couldn't do it. I leant against the table and looked foolish all the time she made tea."
14. A sentinel at the outposts of Western Europe.
15. "But for a political accident the key of that citadel should have been in the hand that corrected the exercise-books for the Thistleton children."

16. "Are there no **men** in Boravia?"
17. "This at Hollingden in the twentieth century, and to the governess."
18. "After all, she's not English, you know, and one can't be sure of her moral influence."
19. "We have an Order at home called The Knights of Faith. Shall I send you the Cross some day?"
20. "'Are you afraid?' She smiled. 'No. Boravia isn't Hollingden. I am not afraid.'"
21. "Well, well, children will make these mistakes."

EXERCISE 21.

Mr. Thistleton found himself in this difficult situation: his client the Boravian Princess was his guest; she was without money or prospects of getting any. What would you have done in his place? (An indication of a possible solution to his problem is given in § 19.)

EXERCISE 22.

Sum up what in your opinion are the characters respectively of Mrs. Thistleton, Mr. Thistleton, The Princess and Tregaskis. (The following adjectives may be of use in your summing up: **clever, shrewd, observant, fatalistic, vain, conscientious, tactful, selfish, oblivious, faithful, proud,**

mercenary, timid, sentimental, successful, aristocratic, helpless, comical, diplomatic, discreet, ambitious, pleasant, formidable, weak-minded, optimistic, resigned.)

EXERCISE 23.

What are the two points in the story that indicate on the one hand that Tregaskis was not wealthy, and on the other, that he was not without means?

EXERCISE 24.

There is one sentence in the story that shows that the events related in it must have taken place before 1901. Which is it?

EXERCISE 25.

There are certain indications in the story that "Boravia" may be identified with a Balkan country. There are others that point to Austria. Which are they?

EXERCISE 26.

What probably happened when the Princess arrived at Vienna?

EXERCISE 27.

What did Mr. Thistleton probably say to his wife when they heard that their governess had become Queen of Boravia?

EXERCISE 28.

What did Mrs. Thistleton probably say to her husband on the same occasion?

EXERCISE 29.

What did Charley Miles think to himself on the same occasion?

EXERCISE 30.

What are the conclusions (social, economic, or political) that you draw from this story?

EXERCISE 31.

Do you know of any story in your own language that contains a similar situation or reveals similar characteristics in the people?

THE END

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壁上面影

(A) Easy. (B) Fairly simple (C) Advanced



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