

# THE SMART SET

A MAGAZINE OF  
CLEVERNESS

Manuscripts, to receive prompt attention, should be addressed, "Editor of THE SMART SET."

## CONTENTS

THE ASSAULT OF WINGS . . . . .	Charles G. D. Roberts . . . . .	1
VIRGIN ISLE . . . . .	Florence Brooks . . . . .	7
YOU NEVER CAN TELL . . . . .	George Sterling . . . . .	8
THE HOUSE IN DEMETRIUS ROAD. Part II . . . . .	J. D. Beresford . . . . .	9
UNDER THE SNOW . . . . .	Richard Le Gallienne . . . . .	42
PAS DE TROIS . . . . .	Bias Casman and Mary Perry King . . . . .	43
PRISON-MADE . . . . .	Freeman Tilden . . . . .	47
FORTY POUNDS OF GOLD . . . . .	George Cutten . . . . .	55
HOUSES . . . . .	Ludwig Lewisohn . . . . .	61
PERTINENT AND IMPERTINENT . . . . .	Owen Hatteras . . . . .	62
THE WIDOW OF WASDALE HEAD. Play in One Act . . . . .	Arthur Wing Pinero . . . . .	63
A SPRING SONG . . . . .	Robert Loveman . . . . .	82
ONE MAN TO EVERY FAMILY . . . . .	Evelyn Gill Klahr . . . . .	83
THE SEA . . . . .	Louise Driscoll . . . . .	88
THE JOKE TOWNS OF AMERICA. Essay . . . . .	George Jayenne . . . . .	89
DEAD DREAMS . . . . .	Blanche Shoemaker Wagstaff . . . . .	95
THE WOMAN-AT-ARMS . . . . .	Victor Starbuck . . . . .	96
A MENIAL . . . . .	Louis Livingston . . . . .	97
SUNDAY NIGHT . . . . .	Louis Untermeyer . . . . .	104
THE TRIBE ON VACATION . . . . .	Basil Macdonald Hastings . . . . .	105
DELICATESSEN . . . . .	Joyce Kilmer . . . . .	111
IN A CELLAR . . . . .	Donn Byrne . . . . .	113
THE CALL . . . . .	Faith Baldwin . . . . .	120
HAMLEY AND THE AMERICAN STAGE . . . . .	George Jean Nathan . . . . .	121
V—FOR VERA . . . . .	Cid Carr . . . . .	124
IN THE CASE OF BRADNER . . . . .	Hugh Irish . . . . .	125
WHY HE DIVORCED HER . . . . .	Paul Hervey Fox . . . . .	133
THE SIGNOR SEEKS ADVENTURE . . . . .	H. D. Couzens . . . . .	135
WILD SWANS . . . . .	Skipwith Cannell . . . . .	141
THE MULE DRIVER . . . . .	Henry Herbert Knibbs . . . . .	142
LE JUSTICIER. In the Original French . . . . .	Jean de Kerleocq . . . . .	143
THE MIRACLE IN THIRTY-NINTH STREET WEST . . . . .	George Jean Nathan . . . . .	145
THE HARP, THE SACKBUT AND THE PSALTERY . . . . .	H. L. Mencken . . . . .	153

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452 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

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# YOU NEVER CAN TELL

By George Sterling

**S**PINDRIFT and bilge and the world turns over!  
What is the dross and what the gold?  
The snake and the lark ha' nests in the clover,  
And which is best when the tale is told?

Thrice I sinned—oh, the heavens' joyance!  
Breasts angelic shook wi' the joke;  
Once did good—oh, earth's annoyance!  
Hell to pay and the bank gone broke!

James drank poison at love's derision;  
John swigged ale, and swank in the sun,  
Throve, and came to a dark decision,  
And, "Christ—that I were the other one!"

Seth in the swamp and Dan on the mountain—  
Either dreamt that he chose his times:  
Dan bent young to a fevered fountain;  
Seth grew old by the older slimes.

The stolen dollar in Larry's pocket  
Turned a bullet to Harry's side—  
It missed by a hair his mother's locket:  
The thief lives yet and the good man died.

Justice! Justice! Where is thy palace,  
Hope o' the planet's dark romance?  
Whose is the blood in thy broken chalice,  
Slave o' chance? But there is no chance!

