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C: I have received a cable from your father. He is extremely pleased with your progress.

Progress of what?

Come now, O. You should feel very encouraged. After all you haven't been on the best of terms with him and I think this trip has been constructive in many ways.

Constructive. Well, if being greeted by the Chamber of Commerce and attending rotary club dinners is constructive, I suppose it has.

[xxx] Do you dislike business?

Why do you dislike "pains in the neck"? I happened to be born differently.

But you should be proud of your father's name. He has built up one of the biggest institutions in the world. That should mean something to you.

Yes. It means I have to be a slave to it for the rest of my life.

You'll pardon me, but that's hardly considerate of your father. He has all the confidence that you will turn over a new leaf.

And become a solid businessman.

3 2

To buy up more railroads, to keep accumulating and accumulating. What for? So that I can beget children and enslave them to do the same thing? What good is it all, accumulating millions, if you can't even marry the woman of your own choice?

You forget, O, that you are a target for any designing woman.

Then what is the good of it all?

to build one's life around business. I can't see it.

We have a duty to perform. O, your father puts all his hope in you to carry on his work. ~~[xxx]~~ You're mistaken in this part. Your marriage, your indifference to because he has forgiven. The [xxx] has reinstated you, has given the old chap hope. After all, he is getting very old. Don't let him loose faith in you.

What does he say in his cablegram?

Glad that O can see the light. I have always had every confidence in my son. God works his wonders in many ways. Our tribulations are but blessings in disguise. I have written to Mr. Schmelett of the First National who has arranged to give you a reception in Shanghai. He will be there to greet you.

(There is a knock at the door.)

C: Who is it?

H: Hudson, sir.

O: Let him in.

H: The press are outside.

6 4

[xxx]: Would you prefer I talk to them?

[xxx]: I better see them myself. Otherwise it might antagonize them. Tell them to come in.

Good afternoon, Mr. O.

Good afternoon.

We understand this is your first trip around the world.

Yes.

How long have you been away from the States?

Five months.

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For business reasons?

Yes.

In connection with your father's enterprises?

More or less.

Who's in your party, Mr. O?

Mr. Clark, Mr. Harvey and myself.

Who's Hudson?

My valet.

Since you left the States, the suit for breach of promise has been dropped, has it not?

8 5

I suppose you have heard, Mr. O, that the suit for breach of promise against you has been dropped.

I have.

Was that a settlement out of court?

Is that news to the Chinese?

Sorry, we have to ask these questions.

Sorry, I have to decline to answer them.

Who is Mr. Clark?

A senior partner of the O. Reed Co.

And Mr. H.?

H: Nobody, thank you. Just a friend of the family. Little Lord Fauntleroy grown up.

Rep: Do you intend to become engaged again?

O: I think that's about all, gentlemen.

W Rep: What is your ideal type of woman?

H: Sorry, that will be all.

(H moving them all towards the door.)

W. Rep: Do gentleman really prefer blondes, Mr. O?

No, they prefer someone fat and beautiful like yourself.

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Rep: This is your first trip, isn't it?

O: Please, gentlemen.

Rep: What do you think of our city?

H: Sorry, I forgot to look.

(Harvey closes the door.)

I need a drink after that. Hudson give me a whiskey and soda.

You better go easy. It's pretty early yet. ~~xxx~~

11 7

I have to see this committee yet.

Can't you put them off?

How can I? It's all been arranged by Clark. A Rotary dinner for this evening. I have to sit among all those boring boys and talk of the wonderful enterprise of their fair city.

Can't you get away from it? Shanghai is a wonderful city. Don't waste it.

12

~~{xxx}~~

We can go out tonight and celebrate. That's what you need for a change.

If I don't do something, I shall go insane.

You've done nothing the whole trip but attend Rotary dinners and Chamber of Commerce affairs.

~~{xxx}~~

I was never cut out for a business man.

Neither is everyone else, but they won't admit it.

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Why do you do it? Surely you got enough railroads now to go wherever you want. Funny part of it is that your old man never travels.

I think you are a bad influence, H. Clark says so.

Clark. He's an old stuffed shirt. All the influence in the world wouldn't make you different.

I know it, but I have no choice. I either become a railroad president

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I must either be a railroad [xxx] or dig ditches.

That's the only alternative of any business man.

If it wasn't for the old chap, I think I'd prefer to dig ditches.

But you can do other things. You are right. You're a politician.

There's no place in the world for politicians.

There's a place for politicians, but there's no money for them.

1

The scene is the interior of Ogden's suite on the A deck. Ogden is standing at a table reading a cable as Harvey enters.

Harvey: Are you ready to go ashore? We are going places and doing things tonight.

I'm sorry, but I have to appear at a dinner this evening.

What dinner?

A Rotary Club affair. It's being given in my honor.

A Rotary club dinner. But this is Shanghai. You can go to those affairs when you get home.

Mr. Ogden Reed. My name is Mr. Schmelmutz [?] I am a great friend of your father's.

I am very pleased to meet you.

It is too bad you're not to be with us longer, we could have shown you the sights. You might like to have seen your father's medical? library which he donated to the city and the beautiful wedding church which he built here.

and the wedding chapel he built here in the Chinese section is a most worthy monument to your father's name.

I should have been delighted to see them.

Possibly if we hurry we might see them now before it's dark.

I'm very sorry, I'm expecting a special wireless message from my father, which will necessitate an immediate reply.

Oh, let nothing interfere with business.

Oh, Mr. Clark come in.

Well, John, I have good news for you. I have just heard from your father. You're elected senior partner to the firm.

Indeed.

(Clark reading): "My dear Clark, You my dear friend and partner shall be the first to tell my son that he was elected by our board a senior partner in our firm. This news of John's important experience should encourage him. No doubt you have heard by now that his case has been settled efficiently without any

scandal. It has all been a blessing in disguise.

I find

You are

Then Mr. C and myself will run along.

O: Very well, and we shall see you at the dance halls at seven thirty?

At seven thirty.

Are you coming along, sir?

I regret very deeply that I won't be able to come. I am to attend a special meeting of the international.

Isn't there some possible way I can get out of this dinner tonight?

I'm afraid not. It would incur the displeasure of your father.

Who are these people?

Mr. Schmelmütz is head of the Banker's Trust here. He is giving this Rotary dinner in your honor.

Business, business, business. I hate it.

Suggestion for  
Meeting with father

C: Your father wants you to carry on, to perpetuate the traditions of Mears.

O: There's nothing to carry on. Tradition is dead. That's what you don't realize.

C: But your family stands for everything that's dignity and honor in the business world.

O: There's a new world now. The dignity and pomp of the prosperous is ridiculous and something to be ashamed of today. The common populous know the tricks of the trends.