ORD ARTHUR SIMMINS HUNTLE
of Micheldean Place, Herefordshire, Eng-
land, was direct heir to one of the finest titles
and estates in the kingdom of Great Britain.
His ancestors had done everything wonderful
and brave, and their existence could be traced
back to times exceedingly long ago. His
father, who was the present head of the house,
had served his Queen and the Government in
official capacities of various sorts, through all
of which he had conducted himself as a lord
of England should, and properly upheld the
majesty of the Crown. The carrying on of so
much business of the State, however, while
it had added to the glory of the House of
Micheldean, was not instrumental in building
up its finances proportionally. In fact, they
had diminished in ratio to the amount of glory
added, ever since the old lord had begun his
life as a diplomat, some fifteen years before.
He had entertained too largely, and never
supposing that the resources of the family had
any end, had gone into numerous other costly
ventures which were not, perhaps, directly
connected with the business of his official
positions.

It happened, therefore, that at the time
Lord Arthur was a thoroughbred and properly
educated young Englishman of twenty-four,
his father came to the decision that the moneys
which had been squandered by himself should
be won back by his son; and he thereupon
adopted the time-honored custom of looking
about for a suitable wife for the young lord,
whose virtues should be emphasized by the
amount of her fortune.

He communicated this idea to the gentleman
in question, and he, acting as a dutiful son
and an English nobleman, looked upon his
father's views as right and proper; and there-
upon the two, with the help of the rest of the
immediate family, began keeping their eyes
open for the desired heiress.

Lord Arthur was not of a particularly sen-
timental turn of mind, though he knew a
pretty woman and a good horse when he saw
them, and admired both in true British style.
He was a good sort of a fellow, not bad look-
ing, fairly well mannered, and, while somewhat
conceited, he prided himself on being strictly
sensible and matter-of-fact, and therefore
never made himself objectionable. There
was nothing particularly to be condemned in
his makeup, as there was nothing that could
be called brilliant. He looked upon his mar-
riage as entirely a business affair, and ran over
the maidens of the United Kingdom in his
mind for one of his acquaintance who would
prove a worthy bride to the noble House of
Micheldean,—that is, bring in enough money
to put it on its feet again.

But as time passed nothing definite could be
decided. In every case there were objec-
tions from one side or the other; and after