

## CHAPTER X

## APPENDIX 1

A note on Ferrand, the Vagabond

Those who have read Galsworthy's novel, The Island Pharisees (published in 1904), and his play, The Pigeon (published in 1912), will certainly remember one of the chief characters who appears in both works:- Louis Ferrand, a young wanderer. The story of Ferrand is the result of Galsworthy's acquaintance with a Flemish wanderer named Clermont who died of consumption many years before these two works appeared.

Galsworthy first met Clermont in the Champs Elysees, Paris. Their first meeting was just like the one described by Ferrand and Wellwyn in The Pigeon:

"Wellwyn .... Ah ! yes. By the fountain. I was sitting there, and you came and ate a roll, and drank the water.

Ferrand: .... My breakfast. I was in poverty - verree bad off. You gave me ten francs. I thought I had a little the right....."<sup>1</sup>

And from this chance meeting, there developed between them, as recalled by Galsworthy several years after, "Something of that conflict between man's natural comfortable laziness, and his better, or shall I say, more ragged self. The world of failures, of the rolling stones, the underworld became disclosed to me."<sup>2</sup> Galsworthy's relationship with this 'underworld' wanderer lasted unbroken until the latter's death, and in fact continued after it with the introduction of Clermont into his written work. In this Galsworthy did not use Clermont's real name; he changed it into Louis Ferrand, and made him a Frenchman. However, though Ferrand's story was based on Clermont's real life, Galsworthy of course modified it to suit his invention; for, as Galsworthy said, "figures of fiction soon diverge from their prototypes."<sup>3</sup>

But I am quite certain that there is one thing about Ferrand that was not modified at all and that is his outside appearance. The vivid descriptions of Ferrand in The Island Pharisees, and again in The Pigeon where it sounds like the same man, seems so true to life that one can imagine Clermont actually sitting in front of Galsworthy while he describes

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1. Galsworthy: The Plays of John Galsworthy (1929), p. 336

2. Marrot : The Life and Letters of John Galsworthy, (1936)  
p. 154

3. Ibid, p. 152

him. Here is Ferrand in The Island Pharisees : "... these eyes, prominent and blue, stared with a sort of subtle roguery from above a thin, lopsided nose .... this sanguine face, with its two - day growth of reddish beard, long nose, full lips, and irony, puzzled him (Shelton) 'A cynical face ! ' he thought, ..... 'but sensitive' " <sup>1</sup>

In The Pigeon he is "..... a tall gaunt young pagan with fair hair and reddish golden stubble of beard, a long ironical nose a little to one side, and large, grey, rather prominent eyes. There is a certain grace in his figure and movements." <sup>2</sup>

Perhaps the Ferrand of The Island Pharisees, with his sanguine face and prominent blue eyes, is younger than the Ferrand of The Pigeon (written seven years later). The bitter experience of his wandering life has simply worn away nearly all of his optimism when we see him again in The Pigeon.

Ferrand in The Island Pharisees is an extraordinary vagabond. He is a man of philosophy and is very clever indeed. He first meets his benefactor Shelton on the train returning from Paris to London, and after telling Shelton something of his misfortunes -- and at the same time showing his strength of spirit -- he turns to him for help and causes Shelton to review his own life, his security, his relationships with his own class and in particular with his fiancée, Antonia Dennant. Shelton gets Ferrand a job with the Dennants, teaching French to their young relatives. Ferrand proves himself capable of adapting his conduct to that of his upper - class patrons. During his stay in their house, he is a very distinguished figure. The guests are often struck by his intelligence and his views of life. One thing about him which attracts Shelton most of all -- but which disturbs the others -- is that "in the midst of the strange surroundings he still preserved that air of knowing, and being master of, his fate." <sup>3</sup>

It might be asked why a man of many good qualities like Ferrand can become no other than a mere vagabond. Shelton's friends have in fact tried to analyze him and they come to agree that this man has too strong a faculty for criticism. He is unable to take pride in anything he does.

1. Galsworthy: The Island Pharisees (1932), p. 19

2. Galsworthy: The Plays of John Galsworthy (1929), p. 336

3. Galsworthy: The Island Pharisees (1932), p. 223

And that is why he has never been able to stick to any career. He has in fact been employed several times, but he has always found one reason or another to make him quit his job.

Then there comes a day when Ferrand decides to leave his patrons, Shelton and Mrs. Donnant, and to begin his wandering life again. The reason is that he cannot be content to spend his life teaching languages. Another reason, a more important one, is that he feels that Shelton's friends, though still very kind to him, are often embarrassed at his presence after hearing his story. And it is not his nature to remain where he is not welcome; his untamed spirit and his pride make it impossible for him to confine himself to a place where there is no sympathy nor understanding in spite of all the necessary things of life provided for him.

We find a similar case in The Pigeon. Ferrand and other vagabonds namely Timson, a drunkard and Mrs. Megan, a street - woman choose to fight their own way instead of submitting themselves to the social reformers who give them money on condition that they change their habits entirely. "Those sirs, with their theories, they can clean our skins and chain our habits .... But our spirits they cannot touch, for they never understand. Without that, Monsieur, all is dry as a parched skin of orange ....."<sup>1</sup> They will accept kindness and help from Wellwyn, a philanthropic artist. Perhaps they go too far in their demands on him, perhaps they are mere spongers. Certainly that is what it looks like to Wellwyn's daughter and his friends, the social workers and reformers. And yet it is their help, the organised charity of the latter, which Ferrand declares to be useless.

In fact Galsworthy does not say that all social work is a waste of time. The social reformers actually do good work while they attend with their theories to the sick, the children, and the tame old. But in the cases of Ferrand, and such vagabonds as Timson, a drunkard, and Mrs. Megan, a street - woman, it is different. These do not want to be saved. What they really want is somebody besides their own selves who really cares for them and does not treat them like outcasts, someone,

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1. Galsworthy : The Plays of John Galsworthy (1929), p. 366

in fact, like Wellwyn. They cannot find such persons among the social reformers who always make them feel even much lower than they really are. This is what Ferrand in The Island Pharisees feels about the workhouses: "You invite us, and when we come you treat us justly enough, but as if we were numbers, criminals, beneath contempt .... and when we get out again, we are naturally degraded." <sup>1</sup>

Men like Shelton and Wellwyn ought to be proud of themselves in being able to understand such complicated and sensitive characters. But they should not be too soft - hearted, or else there will be too many vagabonds flying from the social reformers to rest under their wings. This is also the problem that Galsworthy points to in The Pigeon where we see that Wellwyn has to give away nearly all his things to the needy. The most admirable character in this play in my opinion is Ann, Wellwyn's daughter. She is clever enough to know that once she gives help to these people and shows her concern for them, they will certainly come to her again whenever they need help. Realizing ~~ng~~ that she is not rich enough to help them effectively, she washes her hands of them. This does not hurt them a bit as we can see from Ferrand's remark: "Be kind to us if you will, or let us alone like Mees Ann, but do not try to change our skins. Leave us to live, or leave us to die when we like in the free air." <sup>2</sup>

Ann never displays her kindness, but she is in fact capable of unselfish acts. When Mrs. Megan has been rescued from the river where she intended to drown herself, it is Ann who instantly takes off her jacket and helps Mrs. Megan into it without a word.

It is quite clear that Galsworthy had not a little knowledge about the poor and of how to deal with them. He was really interested in them, and many instances in his life confirm this fact. Yet there were still a number of people who objected to Galsworthy every time he wrote about the poor. When the stories of Ferrand appeared, there was again a complaint that Galsworthy was not sufficiently in Ferrand's skin to portray him accurately. But besides Ferrand himself I wonder whether there was anyone else who knew Ferrand better than Galsworthy

1. Galsworthy : The Island Pharisees (1932), p. 126

2. Galsworthy : The Plays of John Galsworthy (1929), p. 366

who in his relationship with Ferrand had made such a deep and lasting contact with him. This contact was kept up until Clermont's death, and Clermont's letters were kept by Galsworthy until his own death some thirty years later. But then if Galsworthy was still unable to identify himself with Ferrand as deeply as his critics wanted him to, it was not his fault. It was not easy for an English middle - class man to come completely out of his class, and according to Clermont himself it was even more difficult for such a man to "enter the world of the disinherited than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle."<sup>1</sup>

However it seems that Galsworthy tried effectively - to the growth of his own soul: his eyes were more widely opened, and his knowledge of the less fortunate as well as his compassion for them increased.

What is the bearing of all this, the Clermont - Ferrand - Galsworthy relationship on a discussion of Galsworthy's plays? I consider that it is extremely important because as suggested here, the original meeting and friendship with Clermont made a deep mark on Galsworthy, above all leading him to an understanding and awareness of new depths of the human soul and its needs. It is this awareness that is the constant inspiration of his plays; we see it clearly in The Pigeon -- we have already seen it in his tenderness and compassion for characters such as The Joneses in The Silver Box, Mrs. Roberts in Strife, and Falder in Justice. After The Pigeon we see it in the sympathy for Freda in The Eldest Son, and Clare in The Fugitive, and to a greater or lesser extent illuminating the picture of society Galsworthy continued to present to the end of his writing career.

APPENDIX 2Synopses of Galsworthy's playsThe Silver Box (1906)<sup>1</sup>

Jones, a poor man who has lost his job, is invited by a rich young man, Jack Barthwick, to enter his house and have some drink. Jones is so overwhelmed with whisky and hunger that, no longer responsible for his actions, he steals a silver cigarette box and a purse which Jack has himself taken from a woman as an act of revenge.

Jones is arrested in his own house by Mr. Snow, a detective. He is tried and proved to be guilty of stealing, and of attacking the police officers. He is sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour, and has to leave his three children and his wife behind. His wife, who formerly worked in the Barthwicks' house can no longer work there because of this event. As for Jack Barthwick, he suffers nothing because Mr. Roper, a solicitor who is his father's friend, helps to conceal his crime.

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Joy (1907)

Joy, a seventeen - year - old girl is very excited as she is to meet her mother, Mrs. Gwyn, whom she has not seen for two months. She is very unhappy when she sees that her mother is accompanied by Lever who seems to be her mother's lover. She feels ashamed as well as jealous. Mrs. Gwyn is at her wit's end. She has to choose one or the other. In the end, Dick, a young boy who has fallen in love with Joy, makes the daughter realize that her mother has a right to be happy with the man she loves since she has never been happy with Joy's father, who is now in India. Thus, the mother and child separate realizing that they are no longer first with one another.

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1. Date of first production.

Strife (1909)

This is the story of a conflict between the people of the working class and the employers. The workers under the leadership of Roberts strike for higher wages. The employers consider that the workers are asking for more than they deserve, and that if they give in now, they will only have to do so another time. The heads of the two sides are both men of strong will; they never think of surrendering. The two sides suffer a great deal: the workers, from starvation; the employers, from the loss of their money. In the end, Roberts' wife, Annie, dies of hunger and illness. Eventually, the two leaders are opposed by their colleagues and lose their leadership and the two parties are finally able to come to a new agreement.

Justice (1910)

Falder, a young clerk in a lawyer's office, has to go to prison for three years because he has made out a false cheque. He has done so because he wanted money very badly to help the woman he loves, Mrs. Honeywill and her children to get away from her cruel husband as quickly as possible. Three years in prison makes him a completely different man. He declines both physically and mentally. Moreover, he is cut off from his old society; his friends and relatives reject him. Finally he comes to his old employer who agrees to help him on condition that he makes an end of his relationship with Mrs. Honeywill who finding no way to live has become a prostitute. Falder refuses, and is shortly afterwards suspected of having tried to obtain employment with a forged reference. Falder is arrested, but makes an end of everything by jumping down the stairwell and killing himself.

The Little Dream (1911)

Seelchen, a mountain girl, dreams about the two men who have fallen in love with her. One is a German climber, Lamond. In her dream, he is represented by the youth of the Wine Horn who offers her his love, new experience and a change. She follows him into a brilliantly illuminated town and stays there with him. Later on, she grows tired of this kind of life and returns to Folsman, a mountain guide who also loves her. Folsman, in the form of a shepherd of the Cow Horn, offers her the mountain, wild nature, his quiet and steady love. Years pass, she becomes once again tired of Folsman. Lamond appears, but neither of them can win her back. The two mountains no longer cast a spell upon her. At last she makes her way to the Great Horn Mountain, the only one that remains a mystery to her.

The Pigeon (1912)

The 'Pigeon' is Christopher Wellwyn. He is the only person to whom the vagabonds or the drunkards turn for help. They do not appreciate the work of the social workers who do not understand them as well as Wellwyn. However, Ann, Wellwyn's daughter, considers him the despair of all social reformers. He has given almost everything of his own to those in need until he has only a pair of trousers left. His daughter therefore tries to find a new place for them to live in order to get away from these people. Her attempt is a failure. When Ann and her father are about to move out, she finds out that her father has already given his new address to six vagabonds all of whom promise to come to him again when they need help.



The Eldest Son (1912)

Young Dunning, a worker on the estate of a wealthy Cheshire family, refuses to marry Rose Taylor, a village girl whom he has seduced. But he is forced by Sir William Cheshire to marry her in order to stop the scandal in the village. The Cheshires are then faced with a parallel situation in their own family: Bill, the eldest son, has seduced their maid, Freda Studdenham, and she is going to have his baby. When Bill insists on marrying Freda, Sir William threatens to cut him off from the family and to give his younger brother his title, position and wealth instead. Bill still insists on marrying Freda, although it is clear he no longer loves her, but Freda's father, old Studdenham, declares that he will not let his daughter marry where she is not welcome. Though she may have lost her good name, she will keep her proper pride; he will by no means have a charity marriage in his family. The decision is thus taken away from the Cheshires, and Freda leaves them to go with her father.

The Fugitive (1913)

Clare in her comfortable upper middle - class home is unable to get along with her husband. She runs away and tries to lead her own life. After being a shop girl for some time, she is recognized by her friend. Being afraid that her friends and relatives might try to bring her back to her husband, she flies for shelter to her lover, Malise and they live together as man and wife. Their happiness does not last long. George Dodmond, Clare's first husband, threatens to divorce her and claim damages if she remains with Malise. Fearing that Malise will be ruined, Clare decides to leave him.

She tries to exist on her own and frequents restaurants alone, in which she is easily mistaken for a bad woman. She loses all hope, and seeing no prospect of saving herself from sinking so low, she poisons herself. This is her final escape, and the only successful one.

The Mob (1914)

Stephen More, a Member of Parliament, has an argument with his political friends concerning the policy of his country. Although Britain has been snubbed by a certain small country, he objects to her making a war of retaliation on the minor power. He sticks to his opinion in the face of popular disapproval and leads a minority campaign in support of it. Again and again, he is hooded and injured by blood - thirsty jingoist mob. None of his friends takes his side, not even his wife whose father is at the War Office and whose brother is out fighting and is killed. In the end, the small country is defeated, and in the popular commotion at the news of victory, the mob bursts into More's house and attacks him, unintentionally killing him in the confusion.

A Bit O' Love (1915)

Strangway, a clergyman, is deserted by his wife. She comes to him to beg him not to divorce her and to cause a scandal for fear that her lover, a doctor, should lose his practice. The fact that Strangway consents to her request annoys all the villagers in his parish. They try to cast him out for his 'wrong forgiving'. They no longer regard him as a holy man because he has forgiven an unfaithful woman. Strangway, finding no way to solve his problem, goes into a barn to hang himself. There, he finds Tibby, a village child. The innocence of the child calms him down. Love kindles in his heart, and the play ends with Strangway asking God to give him strength to go on till he loves every living thing.

The Foundations (1917)

Lemmy, a plumber who hates all rich people and wants them to suffer, is discovered putting a bomb in Lord Dromondy's cellar. The bomb is a dummy, and it is only Lemmy's intention to frighten the large number of rich people who are to gather for a party in Lord Dromondy's house. The poor are also invited to this party to speak out about their troubles so that the rich may be able to help them. Lemmy's mother is persuaded by a newspaper man to come to this house with Lemmy and a little girl, Aida, not knowing that they have been brought to the very house in which Lemmy caused the alarm earlier in the day. However, Lord Dromondy forgives Lemmy for the trouble he has tried to cause, and, after hearing of old Mrs. Lemmy's troubles, he offers her a weekly allowance to save her doing hard work. At that moment, a great number of poor people who have joined forces to attack and loot the houses of the rich come to Lord Dromondy's house. Lemmy then asks them to spare the Dromondys since they are actually kind and unselfish. Moreover, he also tells the crowd to follow his example by bringing their mothers to see Lord Dromondy as well. The crowd then move away leaving the Dromondys under great obligation to Lemmy.

The Skin Game (1920)

Hornblower, the head of a newly rich family disturbs all his neighbours by trying to bring industry to their beautiful peaceful village. Some poor people have to move out to make room for his factories. Then he wants to buy a piece of land known as the Centry to put more chimneys up there. This place is near Hillcrist's house which has been standing undisturbed for generations. Hillcrist tries to stop Hornblower. But Hornblower is cunning enough to beat Hillcrist at an auction and thus becomes the owner of the Centry. Later, Mrs. Hillcrist finds a way to take revenge. With the help of Dawker, Hillcrist's agent, she has gathered enough evidence to prove that Hornblower's daughter - in - law, Chloe, was once a prostitute. As the price of their secrecy, Hornblower

is forced to sell the Centry and another place he has taken from the poor to Mrs. Hillcrist at a much lower price. Later Charles, Chloe's husband, succeeds in forcing Dawker to tell him the truth about Chloe. He declares furiously that he will not own a child by a woman like Chloe. Chloe happens to hear this and decides to kill herself by jumping into a gravel pit. She is badly injured and may die. Hornblower cannot stay in this village any longer. Before leaving, he makes it known that he will look for an opportunity to do harm to Hillcrist and his family since it is because of them that he himself and his family have been utterly beaten and destroyed.

#### The First and The Last

Larry kills Wanda's husband who was cruel to her. His brother, Keith, who is a successful lawyer, helps to conceal his crime for the sake of his family's name. Later a beggar is suspected of the murder and is sentenced to death. Larry is unable to stand this, and he and Wanda commit suicide together. Before his death, he confesses his crime in a letter to his brother Keith, who burns it since he is afraid that the truth will ruin his future.

#### The Little Man

A number of people are waiting for a train in an Austrian railway station; they include an American, an English couple, a German, a Dutch man, and the little man who is of mixed blood. When the train arrives they all hurry to get in except the little man who stops to help a woman with a baby and a lot of bundles. When the train starts, the little man finds out that the mother of the baby had not succeeded in boarding the train. He then has to nurse the baby all the way through. The passengers examine the baby, find it has spots and suspect it of

having typhus, whereupon everybody except the little man tries to stay as far as possible from it. But when the baby is finally handed over to its mother, it is proved to be sound and healthy. The little man is then considered a hero for his unselfish act.

#### Hall - Marked

A woman comes on a fight between a small dog and a much bigger one in a pond. She immediately jumps into the dirty pond to rescue the small dog which is afterwards tended with great care and skill by her. Everybody, especially the owners of the small dog, is greatly impressed by her bravery and her merciful act and is very friendly towards her, until, noticing that she wears no wedding ring, they suspect that she is not lawfully married to the man she treats as her husband. The ring was in fact taken off while the woman was bathing the dog and she forgot to put it on again. The owners of the dog and their friends do not know this. They shrink back from her and leave her in disgust forgetting all she has done for them and their dog.

#### Defeat

During the war, a young American soldier meets a German girl who has disguised herself as a Russian but who reveals her real nationality to him because she thinks he is kind and different from other people she has met. This girl earns her living by walking the streets at night. She tells him that she no longer cares for anything or anybody since everybody she knew is dead, and that she does not even care which side wins the war. But this is not all true, and she is overwhelmed with passion and anger when the news of her country's big defeat reaches her. She tears up the bank-notes that the American has given her

deciding that it is better to die than use the money of those who have destroyed her country.

#### The Sun

After the end of the war, a soldier returns home and finds that his girl has taken another man. This man challenges the soldier to fight, but he refuses. War has changed him and calmed him down. Nothing can disappoint or sadden him anymore. He says good - bye to the two lovers and goes away quite happily.

#### Punch and Go

The play Orpheus with His Lute is being rehearsed before the big boss, Mr. Frust. It is an allegory, intended to portray the tragedy of civilization. The boss likes this play as a play, but he cannot consent to its production because he knows that the audience does not want plays with a lesson; they only want to be entertained. What they want, he says, is just 'punch and go'. So he selects another play with nothing much in it to be performed instead.

A Family Man

John Builder, a dutiful magistrate who is going to be nominated as Mayor in the next election, is faced with family problems. He finds out that Athene, his eldest daughter has run away with an airman. More than that, Maud, his second daughter, declares that she is going to be a film actress. Builder is very unhappy; he tries to seek comfort from his French maid. Seeing him kissing the maid, Mrs. Builder flies away in anger. When Builder comes to Athene's studio to fetch her back, Maud and a policeman try to stop him. Builder attacks them furiously and is consequently put in prison for one night. However he is at last discharged by the Mayor but with a caution. Being thus humiliated, he writes a letter to the Mayor attacking the law and his staff; he also declares in his letter that he intends to remain in his position as magistrate. Later on his sportsmanship becomes stronger than his selfish interest. He decides to resign. In the end his wife comes back to him, seeing that he has lost everything she hoped for.

Loyalties (1922)

De Levis, a Jew who tries to push himself into English society, discovers that a large sum of his money has been stolen while staying at a country house party. The man who stole the money is Captain Dancy, once a very brave English officer. He gives the money to Ricardos, the father of his former mistress who is blackmailing him, threatening to tell his wife Mabel about his past. Dancy's friends, being loyal to him, try to defend him, and in fact refuse to face his guilt, and humiliate De Levis in so doing, giving him no sympathy or help. However, Twisden, a famous English solicitor discovers the whole truth by the help of Conynge, Gilman and Ricardos. De Levis then declares that he will neither take his money back nor take further action against Dancy; he wants to give the whole sum of money to charity. Then he walks proudly out of the society which has humiliated him and treated him badly. As for Dancy he finishes his life with a gun leaving his wife to the care of

Colford, a friend who has always been loyal to him.

### Windows (1922)

Faith comes to work in the Marches' house through the help of her father, Mr. Bly, a window - cleaner. She has just come out of prison where she stayed for two years because she had smothered her two - day - old illegitimate baby. Everyone except Mrs. March sympathises with her, and Mrs. March finally fires her because she has been seen flirting with young Johnny March. Johnny will not let her go even when her lover comes to fetch her. At last a policeman discovers that Faith's lover is a wicked man who has been in the habit of living on the earnings of women. The Marches are sorry for her and Mrs. March allows her to stay in her house once again, but Faith refuses. She does not want to be saved; she wants to be loved. But nobody in the Marches' family can give her the kind of love she wants, not even Johnny. Therefore, she chooses to go out and fight her way all alone.

### The Forest (1924)

Bastable and his friends form an "Anti Slave Trade" group, as a cover for less honourable intentions -- one of the group, Beton, is in fact a fanatic and intends to get a "Coolie - labour bill" through parliament while attention is distracted by the covering movement and there are also strong business interests, principally in the rich diamond mines which a Belgian party is also seeking to claim. In fact all the activity of the group is motivated solely by their business interests.

Bastable's man, Strood, together with some people who do not know the real intentions of the promoter, make a trip into the African jungle. They are all killed except Dr. Franks who later comes to realize



what Bastable and Strood have really been after.

In England before the return of Dr. Franks, Bastable plan to distract attention from the coolie plan has failed, and its failure means a loss on the Stock Exchange. Can Bastable repair the damage by turning the search for diamonds to his own advantage? He gets a false statement about Strood's discovery of a diamond mine in Africa sent through a Portuguese source to the English press, news which causes a rush on the English stock exchange as people scramble to buy shares. Eventually his fraud is revealed by Dr. Franks and Tregay, but it is impossible to expose him since he has left no evidence against himself. Human lives are only pawns in the hands of the big business men who seem to rule the world with no feeling for humanity.

#### Old English (1924)

Heythorp, an old chairman of 'The Island Navigation Company', has some trouble with his creditors and also with his illegitimate grandchildren and their mother. He has to provide for them even though he himself has not enough money to pay his creditors. Ventnor, one of Heythorp's creditors and also a lawyer is very angry when he does not get his £ 300 back. He finds out later that Heythorp in persuading his company to buy the ships from "Pillin and Son", received a commission of 10 percent of the total cost of the ships and sent this sum of money secretly to his grandchildren 'under the rose' and their mother. Ventnor threatens to reveal this fact to his company if Heythorp does not give his money back. But old Heythorp never knows the word 'surrender'. He immediately sends his resignation to his company leaving no chance for Ventnor to avenge himself. Then he drinks himself to death.

The Show (1925)

Mr. Morecombe is found dead in his own house. It is proved that he killed himself with his gun. Later the Jury agrees that he did so when of unsound mind and therefore was not guilty. He killed himself because he had previously known spells of insanity and felt another coming on. This was also the reason why he had tried to separate from his wife fearing that his children might have inherited the same disease. But none of this is known until the last moments of the play, and in the interim the rumours about Morecombe's having an affair with a certain girl and about Mrs. Morecombe's new lover have already been widely spread. These have nothing to do with Morecombe's suicide, and would certainly have remained secret if it had not been for prying newspaper reporters and spectators who are always eager for 'human shows' and who have no respect for the sanctity of other people's lives and feelings.

Escape (1926)

Matt Donant, and athletic and a well - educated gentleman is put in prison because he has accidentally caused a policeman's death in his attempt to save a woman from being arrested. After one year in prison, Matt finally makes his escape. In his flight he comes across people of all sorts, for instance, a shingled (modern) lady; an old gentleman, once a judge; a shopkeeper and his wife; a man in plus - fours and his wife; and some labourers. Matt manages to make his escape either from these people or sometimes with their help, and in so doing provides us with many interesting episodes. At the end, he flees into a church, and the parson tries his best to help him. However, when the parson is about to lie to the police, Matt steps out and gives himself up to them in order to save the parson from having to lie for his sake.

Exiled (1929)

The once rich Sir Charles has become poor and has to sell his estate and other properties including his mine to Sir John Mazer who has now closed the mine because it does not make a profit. Many miners are unemployed and have become very poor. However they all hope that they will get some money if Sir Charles's race - horse wins. Unfortunately the horse is lamed by an unknown tramp who mistook it for Sir John's horse which he intended to put out of the race as an act of revenge. Thus Sir Charles and all those who backed his horse, have lost their chance of making money on the race. Unable to make a living in the country ~~that~~ he loves, Sir Charles himself decides to leave England with his friend, Mr. East. Eventually Sir John's horse wins the race as expected. In order to prove that he is not altogether hard - hearted, Sir John gives all his winnings to the workers who spend the money feasting away the night, drinking and laughing.

The Roof (1929)

The scene is laid in a small Parisian hotel. Brice, one of the guests, is very angry with Gustavo, an old waiter, and in order to alarm him, lights a small fire as a trick. His game results in more than he expected, for the whole hotel catches fire. We then see how people in each room of the hotel behave when they are informed about the fire. They all manage to escape to the roof safely except Gustavo who has lost his way in the smoke. Brice then goes back to help him, and succeeds in rescuing Gustavo. Everyone is safely carried down from the roof except Brice, who is now so tired that he staggers and falls down into the increasing smoke. He is given up for dead, though he is in fact alive, but when he sees that he has been abandoned to his fate on the roof, with a despairing cry, he falls back into the drifting smoke.