

114 *THE BUTTER AND EGG MAN*

PETER

Three hundred *dollars*, did you give him?
[*There is a knock on the door.*]

LEHMAN

Answer that, will you?

PETER

[*Mildly surprised at this treatment.*]
Who? Me?

LEHMAN

If you don't mind!

[*As PETER goes to the door FANNY quietly settles herself in the easy chair, taking the precaution to have a bottle of champagne and a glass in her hand. It is CECIL BENHAM who enters when PETER opens the door—a calm, reserved, and dignified Englishman, who is even able to wear a monocle without suggesting musical comedy. He comes placidly into the room, and instantly LEHMAN turns on him.*]

Thank God! What the hell happened to that scenery?

BENHAM

BEGIN

[*With great poise.*]
I beg your pardon?

THE BUTTER AND EGG MAN 115

LEHMAN

I said, what happened to the scenery? It was crooked—all through the show!

PETER

[*Tagging along.*]

I've got that down.

BENHAM

My dear Mr. Lehman, I was hardly in a position to prevent that.

LEHMAN

You're the director, aren't you?

BENHAM

Permit me to point out that not even a director can be everywhere. You may not realize it, but I was holding book all evening.

PETER

What was he doing?

LEHMAN

Oh! Well, if you were holding book where were you during that stage wait of Martin's in the second act? Couldn't you throw her the line?

BENHAM

I gave Miss Martin the line four times. She seemed to be nervous.

END
