



Absolute Scoundrel

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"Considerable interest and curiosity has been felt in North Marston of late concerning a love affair in the village, which ultimately found its denouement at the Winslow Petty Sessions... a consummation which could be foreseen plainly enough by onlookers, but apparently not by those concerned. A travelling tailor went to lodge in a house in the village, and had not been there long before he discovered that in addition to her other charms the daughter of the house possessed a nest-egg in the Post Office Savings Bank. This Knight of the Needle made love to the lady with such good effect that he had only been there about three weeks when he proposed marriage, was accepted, and the wedding day fixed for Easter Monday. From the lady's own statement, she was induced to accept by his glowing account of his land and her future prospects .

She drew £10 out of the Bank and they had good time of it in driving about to places of amusement and paying visits to the lady's friends, for all of which she paid because the gentleman could not get a cheque cashed without going to Bedford. The young lady's brother too was to share in the rosy future. He was to settle down at Bedford with them and look after five nags horses, milk some cows, and look after some pigs and poultry, for which services he was to be amply remunerated. On the strength of this he gave up his situation in the village. In order that he might become acquainted with his new home and duties, it was arranged that he should go to Bedford with his prospective brother in law, and accordingly the pair set off one afternoon. They got as far as Bletchley Station, and there the confiding young man was put in a waiting room and told to await the arrival of the father-in-law, who would duly escort him to Bedford. Unfortunately, however, this gentleman did not turn up and after waiting for six hours the young man came to the conclusion that if he did not wish to be between two towns at bedtime he had better make tracks for home where he arrived at a not very early hour. It was then found that not only was the prospective bridegroom missing but also an overcoat, and it was put in the hands of the police, with the result that the gentleman was traced to Dunstable, where he was found to be wearing the missing coat also a hat and trousers he had purchased with the lady's money. The result of all this was that he was sentenced to two months' imprisonment and I told that if he had gone before a judge he would, in all probability, have been sentenced to six months."