

A CHANGE OF AIR

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A change of air by Anthony Hope

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ANTHONY HOPE

**A
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ANTHONY HOPE HAWKINS.

A CHANGE OF AIR.

BY

ANTHONY HOPE

AUTHOR OF "THE PRISONER OF ZENDA," ETC.



NEW YORK

HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY

1894

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“ANTHONY HOPE.”

IN his speech at the annual banquet of the Royal Academy in 1894, among many other good things, Mr. Andrew Lang said :

“The thrifty plan of giving us sermons, politics, fiction, all in one stodgy sandwich, produces no permanent literature, produces but temporary ‘tracts for the times.’ Fortunately we have among us many novelists—young ones, luckily—who are true to the primitive and eternal, the Fijian canons of fiction. We have Oriental romance from the author of ‘Plain Tales from the Hills.’ We have the humor and tenderness—certainly not Fijian, I admit—which produces that masterpiece ‘A Window in Thrums’; we have the adventurous fancy that gives us ‘A Gentleman of France,’ ‘The Master of Ballantrae,’ ‘Micah Clarke,’ ‘The Raiders,’ ‘The Prisoner of Zenda.’”

The last of these books was by Anthony Hope Hawkins, whom Mr. Lang thus classed among potential immortals. This romance has made him within the last three months fairly famous. Walter Besant, too, has stamped it with his high approval, and the English and American press have been unusually unanimous in their praise.

Its hero is a rare and striking figure, and thoroughly represents the ideal soldier of our Anglo-Saxon race. He faces great dangers and does brave deeds, quietly and quickly. He suffers and loves deeply, but says little. In his portrayal, the possibilities of "repressed emotion" have been startlingly indicated. He appeals to Americans and English far more than the swaggering and loquacious, though more historic heroes of Dumas and his school ever can.

Much curiosity has been excited regarding "Anthony Hope."

The author's methods of composition and what may have suggested the very original plot are as yet unknown. Besides what we may get from his portrait, we are told that he is "a tall, thin, dark man, with a face that would be ascetic if it were not bubbling with humor." He is a lawyer, as other good romancers have been before him, and has chambers in the Middle Temple, a place made famous in fiction by Thackeray and on the stage by Pinero. His profession and politics are his chief concerns, and literature a diversion in his leisure hours. He is an extremely modest man, and in response to a request from his American publishers for autobiographical matter, gave the barest facts of his life. He expressed absolutely no opinion on literary canons or on his own work. There was, however, a rare sincerity and cordiality in his letters.

Anthony Hope Hawkins was born in 1863, his father being the Rev. E. C. Hawkins of St.