

If Winter Comes



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AMERICA . . . Wind, If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind SHELLEY 1153502
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FOUR MABEL EFFIE NONA 317 PART ONE MABEL F WINTER COMES CHAPTER I To take
Mark Sabre at the age of thirty-four, and in the year 1912, and at the place Penny Green
is to necessitate looking back a little towards the time of his marriage in 1904, but
happens to find him in good light for observa tion. Encountering him hereabouts, one
who had shared school days with him at his preparatory school so much as
twenty-four years back would have found matter for recognition. A usefully garrulous
person, one Hapgood, a solicitor, found much. Whom do you think I met yesterday Old
Sabre You remember old Sabre at old Wickamotes . . . Yes, that s the chap. Used to call
him Puzzlehead, temember 1 Because he used to screw up his forehead over things
old kWickamote or any of the other masters said and sort of drawl out, Well, I dont see
that, sir. . . . Yes, rather . . And then that other expression of his. Just the opposite. When
old Wickamote or some one had landed him, or all of us, with some dashed
punishment, andwe were gassing about it, used to screw up his nut in the same way
and say, Yes, but I see what he means And some one would say, Well, what does he
mean, you ass and he d start gassing some rot till some one said, Good IF WINTER
COMES ford, fancy sticking up for a master And old Puzzle head would say, You
sickening fool, I m not sticking up for him. I m only saying he s right from how he looks
at it and it s no good saying he s wrong ... Ha Funny days. . . . Jolly nice chap, though,
old Puzzle head was. . . . Yes, I met him. . . . Fact, I ran into him occasionally. We do a
mild amount of business with his firm. I buzz down there about once a yeat. Tid
borough. He s changed, of course. So have you, you know. That Vandyke beard, what
Ha Old Sab e s not done anything outrageous like that. Real thing I seemed to notice
about him when I bumped into him yes terday was that he did nt look very cheery.
Looked to me rather as though he d lost something and was wondering where it was.
Ha But dashed funny I mentioned something about that appalling speech that chap
made in that blasphemy case yesterday. ... Eh yes, absolutely frightful, wasnt it well, Im
dashed if old Sabre did nt puzzle up his nut in exactly the same old way and say, Yes,
but I see what he means I reminded him and ragged him about it no end. Absolutely
the same words and expression. Funny chap . . . nice chap. . . . What did he say the
blasphemy man meant Oh, J dont know some bilge, just as he used to about the
masters. You know the man talked some rubbish about how the State couldnt have it
both ways could n 1 blaspheme against God by flatly denying that all men wen equal
and basing all its legislation on keeping one class uf andthe other class down could nt
do that and at the same time prosecute him because he said that religion was well,
you know what he said I m dashed if I like to repeat it. Joke of it was that I found myself
using exactly the same expression to old Sabre as we used to ttse at school. I said,
Good lord, man, fancy sticking up for a chap like that And old Sabre by Jove, I tell

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