

KERSEY COATES TERRACE, KANSAS CITY

# *An Object Lesson in Landscape*

*By Charles Phelps Cushing*

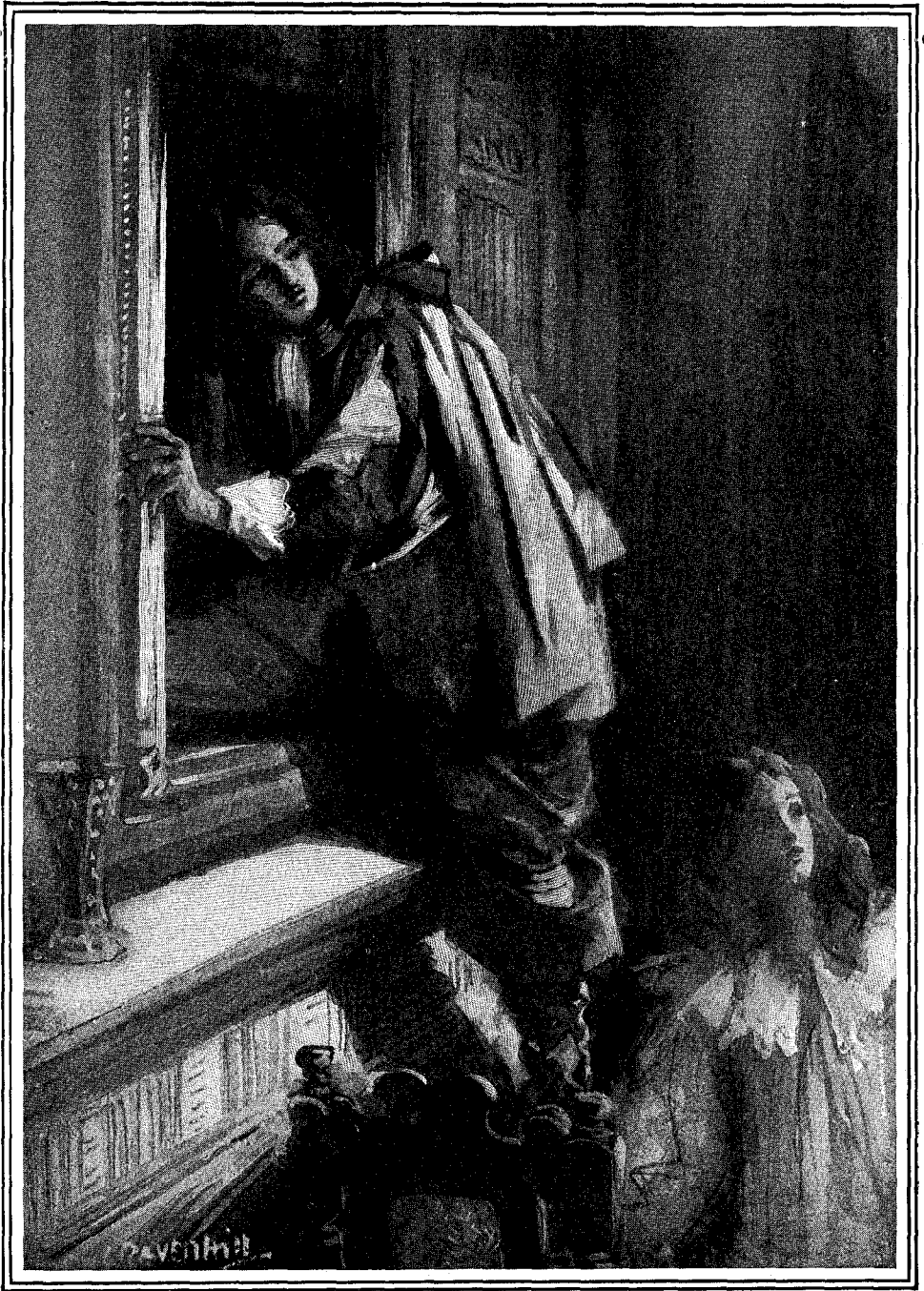
SOME day the story of this country's long battle against ugliness will be written, with a leading chapter on the triumph Kansas City has achieved in turning its barren hillsides and shantylittered hollows into beautiful parks. A notable paragraph of this chapter will be upon the transformation of a supremely unprepossessing bluff which overshadowed the city's union station. That bluff was the traveler's most lasting impression of Kansas City, for beneath the shadows of its sheds and shanties, weeds and trash heaps, the trains always stopped—with sighs, moans, and dismal whistles. No wonder!

But to-day this cliff is a terrace which is becoming famous the country over for its picturesqueness. Its steep sides are planted with shrubs which make the bare stones have artistic value. Half-way up the slope a broad boulevard traverses a shelf circling the hill; and above that is a flight of white stone stairs climbing sinuously to a high wall which is surmounted with two red-topped lookout towers. From these may be seen a striking panoramic view of one of the city's manufacturing and wholesale districts, the Kaw (Kansas) and Missouri Rivers, and half of Kansas City, Kansas. After a recent visit to "Kersey Coates Terrace," Lorado Taft, the sculptor, compared it to the appearance of the hill towns of Italy. He declared it was "very close to the most picturesque thing of Europe."

From the ugliest sight in the Middle West to something very close to the famed beauty spots of Europe is a record in jumping. In scraping the blots from this scene and retouching it with new colors, Kansas City appears to have produced a picture with a moral—an object-lesson in landscape.







"HE RETURNED TO HIS HIDING-PLACE FOR THE REST OF THE WEARY DAY"