

**THE
ABSOLUTE
AT LARGE**

**KAREL
ČAPEK**

THE ABSOLUTE AT LARGE



MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED
LONDON • BOMBAY • CALCUTTA • MADRAS
MELBOURNE

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
NEW YORK • BOSTON • CHICAGO
DALLAS • SAN FRANCISCO

THE MACMILLAN CO. OF CANADA, LTD.
TORONTO

THE ABSOLUTE AT LARGE

BY

KAREL ČAPEK

MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED
ST. MARTIN'S STREET, LONDON

1927

COPYRIGHT

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE ADVERTISEMENT	I
II. THE KARBURATOR	10
III. PANTHEISM	20
IV. GOD IN THE CELLAR	31
V. BISHOP LINDA	41
VI. THE BOARD-MEETING	54
VII. DEVELOPMENTS	64
VIII. THE DREDGE	72
IX. THE CEREMONY	86
X. SAINT ELLEN	96
XI. THE FIRST BLOW STRUCK	105
XII. DOCTOR BLAHOUS	116
XIII. THE CHRONICLER'S APOLOGY	125
XIV. THE LAND OF PLENTY	134
XV. DISASTER	146

THE ABSOLUTE AT LARGE

CHAPTER	PAGE
XVI. IN THE MOUNTAINS	158
XVII. THE HAMMER AND STAR	168
XVIII. IN THE NIGHT EDITOR'S ROOM	176
XIX. THE PROCESS OF CANONIZATION	186
XX. ST. KILDA	194
XXI. THE TELEGRAM	206
XXII. THE OLD PATRIOT	215
XXIII. THE AUGSBURG IMBROGLIO	226
XXIV. THE NAPOLEON OF THE MOUNTAIN BRIGADE	236
XXV. THE SO-CALLED GREATEST WAR	245
XXVI. THE BATTLE OF HRADEC KRALOVE	253
XXVII. A CORAL ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC	262
XXVIII. AT SEVEN COTTAGES	270
XXIX. THE LAST BATTLE	278
XXX. THE END OF EVERYTHING	286