

- Page 1, line 7

I think it most unlikely that the majority of the servants in such a grand house would have the afternoon off. In any case a little later there seem to be a large number of them around.
- Page 3, line 19

Surely I am right in saying that servants did not normally knock on the door, at least the drawing-room door.
- Page 6, line 2 and page 11, line 7

Churchill would certainly not have called Lord Walden 'my lord'. If he didn't know him at all well he would call him 'Lord Walden' and if he knew him reasonably well just 'Walden'.
- Page 25, line 8

The word 'scary' seems to me wrong for the period.
- Page 45, 5 lines from end

Still less would a Russian prince knock at the door. Indeed surely he could be announced by the butler.
- Page 53, line 6

I think the word 'date' again is an anachronism. I think one needs something like arrangement or appointment.
- Page 54, line 19

I have deleted the words 'and ... their father' as they seem a little superfluous.
- Page 54, line 23

* I very much doubt whether the Waldens would have had a villa in Monte Carlo. I don't think that the great passion for South of France villas really started until the 1920s and the Waldens would have been a little too conservative in any case. Also as you say he owns a big chunk of Scotland, to add that he also needs a shooting-box in Scotland strikes me as odd. Finally I don't think you can say that he 'possesses' a seat in the House of Lords.
- Page 55, line 7:

Lady Walden would certainly not have automatically become lady-in-waiting to the Queen and indeed I think later passages indicate that she never did so.
- Page 55, line 18

'good countess material' is rather too slangy, I suggest 'she was suited to being a countess'.
- Page 56

The description of the breakfast is fine as it goes but not surely for this time of the year. As it is the beginning of the season pheasant, grouse, partridge and ptarmigan would not be available in the days before deep freezes. I suppose though that nectarines and peaches could have been forced in a hot house.
- Page 60, 4 lines from end

I think Walden would not have called Aleks 'lad', more likely 'my boy'.
- Page 63, line 16

* 'tearaways' sounds wrong for the period.
- Page 68, 3 lines from end

* I think the reference to Harrods is improbable. I generally wonder whether Garfield would have been aware of the existence of Harrods and certainly would not have thought of it as supplying guns and cartridges.

- Page 70, line 5 The word 'fine' doesn't sound to me right.
- Page 70, lines 19-23 This paragraph seems to me a little clumsy. I suppose it is the juxta-position of Mama and her mother.
- Page 71, line 16 * I don't think the tail-coat would be velvet. I have also inserted the word 'court' before sword. *No. Nobody knows what a court sword is.*
- Page 72, line 5 * They know that they are going to get dinner after the presentation and as you yourself say the queue is only an hour long, in this case do you honestly think that they would have taken a hamper of food?
- Page 74, last line 'switch' seems the wrong word. *Yes. No.* This whole paragraph strikes me as space filling. Do we in fact need it? *Yes*
- Page 75, line 16 The reference to John Burns is odd. He never appears again and most people won't have heard of him. In any case what do you mean by his regalia? Surely he would have been wearing white tie and tails?
- Page 75, lines 19-22 What do you mean by the 'most senior nobility'? Dukes, marquesses? Is this really correct? *Yes.*
- Page 78, line 22 The King might, I suppose, have inclined his head, but surely Queen Mary would not have curtsied.
- Page 79, line 14 I think 'great' rather than 'grand' as the latter sounds a little American, and in the following line 'it looks marvellous' sounds odd.
- Page 79, line 19 'Walden got a loaded plate and sat down to tuck in' sounds to me out of character and is not particularly elegantly phrased.
- Page 83, lines 2-3 I imagine that this is for the benefit of an American reader but I think everyone this side of the Atlantic will know what the Mall is.
- Page 94, 3 lines from end Did they have roadblocks in those days?
- Page 95, line 7 Can we have 'dignitary' instead of 'VIP'?
- Page 95, line 18 I don't think it would have been called 'theatreland'. I suggest Seven Dials which is the area. *No.*
- Page 95, line 24 Is it the façade of the University or is it in fact the back of the British Museum? *No.*
- Page 104, line 4 The word 'hungrily' seems to me a little bit of a cliché, particularly as you have 'greedily' three lines later.
- Page 107, line 18 Surely a general would not have been in the reception hall. I imagine it would have been a junior officer. *Why not a US?*
- Page 109, line 21 Is the use of the word 'pump' not an anachronism?
- Page 110, line 6 I realise that this is going to be a problem but I find it unlikely that Charlotte would have gone

- straight to the kitchen. On the following line I have deleted the words 'for of course the family had dined out', partly because we know that and partly because ~~because~~ in any case the kitchen would have been spotless.
- Page 114, line 9 I am sure Basil Thompson had many qualities but I cannot believe he would have been Prime Minister of Tonga into the bargain.
- Page 120, lines 5-6 Would they not have had dance cards? *Not in the country.*
- Page 120, line 7 from end I know that George and Clarisse are supposed to be more modern but would they have had a band playing ragtime and aqually would it have been on the balcony of a bedroom which sounds to me a little small? *Yes.*
- Page 121, line 12 This begins to sound like a fancy dress ball, as surely Belinda would not have worn harem pants. *Yes.*
- Page 121, last line Do you think we have had too many descriptions of food? *Perhaps.*
- Page 122, line 9 I may well be corrected here, but I did not think that bridge was a game much played before the First World War. *Edward VI played bridge.*
- Page 128, line 2 The reference to a nightclub strikes me as odd - again this would have been of the 1920s.
- Page 133, line 1 Surely someone would have cleared away the cigar butts? *Next morning.*
On the same page I have substituted 'dismissed' for 'fired'.
- Page 146, last line Lydia seems very surprised at Stephen looking so fine in his white tie and tails but surely he would have worn them virtually every evening of the week.
- Page 153, line 13 I have substituted 'call for her' for 'pick her up'.
- Page 153, line 18 As Stephen's father was the Earl of Walden I think it not likely that he would have been called Viscount Walden before succeeding. *Yes, but*
- Page 153, 5 lines from end ~~Another 'tearaway'.~~
- Page 158, line 19 Can we delete this as it really is a bit of a cliché?
- Page 161, line 7 Another reference to Viscount Walden.
- Page 175, line 21 I very much doubt whether Charlotte would have a bank account and therefore could not have sent a cheque. Equally would she have lunched alone at Claridges, still less had morning coffee in the Café Royal which I have not in any case ever thought of as a kind of early coffee bar?
- Page 177, line 5 I suppose the hall was big enough to take as many as a thousand?
- Page 181, line 7 Would the phrase 'guerilla warfare' have been known. I slightly doubt it. It is repeated later on the page, but for all I know this may be a direct

- quote from Mrs Pankhurst.
- Page 226, 5 lines from end The phrase 'fly off the handle' sounds to me rather modern.
- Page 229, 4 lines from end A further reference to the villa in Monte Carlo.
- Page 237, line 6 Can we have an alternative to 'came out with a punch line'?
I have incidentally altered 'cable' to 'telegram'.
- Page 239, line 11 'keep out of this' sounds a bit thrillerish.
- Page 241, line 22 'to go right off the rails' again sounds a little odd.
- Page 247, line 6 I very much doubt whether Walden would have offered Thompson a cocktail. It might have been all right after the First World War but I am sure no club in London would have gone in for such new fangled drinks. *Wrong.*
- Page 250, line 5 I realise that appetites in those days were perhaps greater but the lunch that Walden and Thompson consume is of astronomical proportions. I would have thought a three course lunch would have been more probable and that in any case something as rarefied as a black forest gateau would not have been on the menu. They have already had a savoury before their ice cream and they then proceed to have cheese and sweet biscuits with the port. Obviously there was still a pang of hunger as on page 251 Walden is eating a peach and Thompson a melba pear (I take it you mean a pear melba). Finally they have yet more biscuits in the smoking room. I am surprised they ever moved again!
- Page 254, line 14 Can we have 'trick' instead of 'bamboozle'?
And 3 lines later on I don't like the work 'sneakily'.
- Page 273, 5 lines from end I don't think the phrase 'a real hen-party' is quite right.
- Page 276, 10 lines from end I don't think Charlotte would have referred to the Duchess as 'your grace'; more likely to have just called her 'Duchess'.
- Page 288, line 13 I don't think you can have a character called Viscountess Gay-Stephens. If you like the name I suggest just Lady instead of Viscountess. This is what I have altered it to.
- Page 290, line 16 I don't think you can have 'you're telling me!'.
- Page 293, 5 lines from end I don't quite see why you say 'leave us alone for a while' as Pritchard would surely not have remained in the room.
- Page 303, 8 lines from end I am sure that Walden would not have said 'bloody good show'. It sounds more like Monty.
- Page 310, 5 lines from end I don't think that third class carriages had corridors. However as the plot needs a corridor I suggest we forget about that.

- Page 317, line 17 Just for a change I think this is an anachronism going in the opposite direction. Surely blotting paper had been invented by then? The use of sand sounds to me distinctly eighteenth century.
- Page 328, 7 lines from end The word 'terrific' strikes me as wrong. It is repeated on page 329, line 14.
- Page 330, line 13 'It was quite a sight' sounds a bit slangy. In any case the reader has already had a full description of the roofs of Walden Hall quite early in the book.
- Page 336, 5 lines from end The phrase 'put myself right with God' sounds odd.
- Page 355, line 2 'woozy' sounds odd.
- Page 383, line 1 The description of Walden with his face showing abject terror seems to me quite out of character. Surely he is an extremely brave man? (One only has to remember the episode where he catches the nitroglycerine bomb.)
- Page 387 I think the reader will want to know what happened to Stephen and Lydia. Would you be able to insert a paragraph?
- Page 388 May we delete the last line. I think it sounds peculiar the author suddenly inserting himself for the first and last time.

I have made one or two other trifling alterations to the text and of course you are very welcome to see these if you want to or indeed alter them back at proof stage. They are mainly removals of repetitions and occasional mis-typings.