

A MAN WHO COULD NOT BE POOR

SOME are born rich, some achieve riches, and some have riches thrust upon them. As regards the last-named experience, there was recently reported the case of a man who had fortune after fortune thrust upon him against his will, and who was perhaps literally worried to death by the imposition of undesired and unwelcome wealth.

He was the late John Evans, British millionaire copper mine owner, who, tired of wealth, gave his fortune of more than £3,000,000 to various charitable foundations and retired to privacy at Woodstock on an annuity of £400. Ten months later he was advised that some of his lands in British Guiana, which he had supposed to be worthless, had been found rich in copper. An offer of half a million pounds was made. Replying that he did not want the money, the former millionaire gave the mines outright to the engineer who had discovered them and who thus found himself in receipt of a yearly revenue of £90,000.

Two months elapsed, and then Mr. Evans was notified that an inheritance of £100,000 had been left to him. This he immediately signed over to an orphan asylum, and, leaving Woodstock, he hid himself at Tavistock, hoping thus to escape being bothered by any more fortunes. But it was in vain.

News followed him. He had fallen heir to £30,000. This sum was given to hospitals. Nor was even that the last of his worries. In order to rid himself of money, Mr. Evans bought a number of tickets in a charity lottery in Devonshire and won the capital prize of £5,000. A few days later he died, as if he felt that in no other way could he avoid the riches that persisted in forcing themselves upon him.