Posing as a respectable vicar in Dymchurch at the turn of the 18th century, Dr. Syn is actually the retired pirate Captain Clegg. Clegg, believed hanged in Rye, is no longer being sought by the authorities. However, country life proves too tame for the good Dr. Syn, and his attention turns to smuggling. He takes on a secret identity, The Scarecrow, and leads a gang of smugglers known as the Marsh Men. They travel Romney Marsh by night on horseback, sometimes using mounts painted with phosphorus to give them a spectral appearance, spreading legends of supernatural evil and menace. Although a criminal, Syn's appeal is almost Robin Hood-like. He uses his ill-gotten gains to help his parish, and the Kings Men sent to ferret out him and his men are hardly a sympathetic lot, even though they represent the forces of law. It's little wonder that the Doctor Syn proved a hit among readers of its day.

My Personal Review:
My first read from Thorndyke and it was good time spent. If you saw the movie offering from Disney you feel right at home in the "marsh" reading this book. If you didn't then you will want to see the movie after reading the book. My only disappointment was the ending and maybe that was Thorndyke's intent because when you hit the last page there were a lot of unanswered questions and incomplete activities by the characters. Therefore based on my own conclusions I have ordered another book on Dr. Syn to see if there is a connection. I sure hope so because I want to find out how it ends, if ever. You'll enjoy this classic.

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