"And India is so dreadfully far away, Sir Thomas," put in my mother translously "Why, as to that, cousin," said the law ver, with an unctuous smile, "coelum non animum muiant qui trans mare currant (crossing the seas does not change a man's

No notice being taken of this speech, I stammered what I regret to have to confees was hardly the truth-namely, that I had given the matter careful consideration and was fully resolved to go to India.

the dinner had little relish, for she and Isabel left the table early. There was silence for a little while after their with-

Then Sir Thomas said: "Since you have decided then, Mr. Andrew, if it would not be prying too much into private affairs might I ask—if I am impertment pray tell me so—what your plans are after your ar-rival in India. I have a special rease. for

To this I was forced to confess that I had not thought out my plans, that in fact I had

"Youth trusts to luck," said the lawyer, ever ready to thrust his tongue in where it was not wanted. "Fortune favors them who have the pluck to show they don't care a rap-for the jade."
"I trust, Kilburnie," said Sir Thomas,

turning to my father and ignoring the lawyer's remark, "that when you have heard my reason you will not deem me intolera-bly selfish. I wished to ascertain that Mr. Andrew had fully made up his mind before intruding any personal concern of my own lest his generosity might lead him to neglect his own interests." You are quite incapable of doing any-

thing from solfish motives, Sir Thomas," returned my father quickly and cordially. "Whatever be your reasons, I am ready to wager they do you honor.'

"You are extremely good to express such sentiments," said Sir Thomas, "but I am afraid my motives in this instance are self-

"Then, Sir Thomas, I shall be very much surprised indeed," responded my father

"You are too generous, Kilburnie," said when I have explained my reasons for being incuisitive. The fact is I am anxdertake a delicate family mission for me. My heart jumped at this. What could the family mission be? And would Isabel "There are those in India," continued

Sir Thomas, after a short pause, "of whom I should very much like to have intelligence." He stopped a moment, fingering his glasses absently, lifting it to his mouth and putting it down again without drink-Then he went on, while we all Is

seem somehow or other to have lost sight of him. It may be that he is dead," and

ous spirit. I only wish I could substitute stern with me.

"Never fear, Sir Thomas. Never fear,"

murnured Sir Thomas. "You have made me 59 years younger. My spirit—ah, me! Next morning Duncan drow but there, there. Shall we join the ladies? village to meet the stage—my

"Mr. Andrew is going to India and will search out Donald," continued Sir Thomas. "There's news to gladden your heart, my

so that I would fain have taken hold of

fancied was meant for my ear alone, "if you could only get tidings of my brother I cannot tell how grateful I should be. But the news that you are even to try saems | were hastily taken, and I mounted to my | it had been lodged there for his use, and

delight, but when they were radiant with hope and happy by anticipation, my dear mother's face blanched so that my gladness was checked by the duty of comforting her. In this office Isabel came to my ways that were all her own, and by dint of our unceasing perseverance in looking at the sunny side of things and keeping the dark out of view, in a little while my mother smiled through her tears, owning, with a fervent embrace, that it was good for young men to go out into the world and try hazards with fortune. "Few have such friends, Andrew," she said, looking toward Isabel, while clinging to me. "And I would not stand between you and distinction, far less would I hinder you from doing a worthy action." And then she and Isabel laughed and cried together, while I chewed

my thumb in a corner, and there was an turned, setting my face resolutely forward. . It must be understood that I was not to go solely as Sir Thomas' emissary to seek own account—to push my own fortune—and to put it, "a mere get of charity done to a ed me with letters of introduction to the letters and drafts brought every man of best known and most influential men in them as near to bursting as the frog in the

way to affluence for one of my talents.

company are over. There are no fortunes being made in that service now, though," in a significant voice, "it was not always so. But India is a wide field, and these letters, Mr. Andrew, will, I think, put you in a position to choose according to your

tastes. I have no advice to offer except not to be in too much haste to decide." For what Sir Thomas had specially at heart all provision was made both in letters and in money. Of the last there was to be absolutely no stint. I was to spend as much and as long as I should think proper, or in other words as long as there should

be the faintest hope of tracking Donald. "My bankers shall have full instructions in the matter," said Sir Thomas, "and in the meantime we must not forget preliminary expenses." Whereupon he insisted on my taking in ready money and bankers' drafts a sum that seemed to me a fortune. Finally, as I was in great glee with my prospects and protested against delay, it was arranged that in exactly three weeks from the date of my homecoming I was to sail from London in the steamship the Pearl of the Orient, commanded by Cap-Thomas, was charged to provide for my

comfort on shipboard. And so the ultimate decision was made. was to lift anchor and set sail for the unknown, as so many did before and so many will do after me. How I fared there, how the reality belied all dreams and anticipations, how fate mocked at wisdom, made naught of forethought and a plaything of me it will be the business of succeeding pages to tell. Coming events cast no shadow before, and in the meantime I was eager

How the three weeks passed I cannot The Elms and saw a good deal of Isabel, whose presence I learned to bear without shrinking or shaking. She talked to me of her life in India, and also of her brother, for whom she had the warmest affection and admiration.

They may tell you stories about Donald," she once said. "They may say he was a scamp, and all that, for it is easy talking. But don't believe them. He was high spirited, that was his fault, and my father with all its frenzied might to burst its bonds Sir Thomas, "but you will be better able to crossed him. His worst sin was to become a soldier when his friends wanted him to be something else, and the records of the war office show he was no coward. He saved the British colors when the enemy broke a British square, and he has done many a brave thing since. If he had remained in the army, he'd have got almost any rank, but he hadn't peace to do that, and it's since he left it we have lost trace of

> She never missed a chance of speaking soul, to be her only thought, a circumstance that secretly piqued me not a little.
> "Oh," she would often break out in the

most irrelevant way, "If you could only find my brother, if you could only find Donald, gentlemen-is a mistake. She has a broth- deed, indeed," and here she would look in him I would fain have news. The young heaven, "I will be just as grateful to you man himself is not addicted to letter writ- if you never find him. Words cannot ex-

there was a quiver in his voice. "If so, it always brought me a rapturous smile of would be some satisfaction to know it. thanks and further visions of paradise. would be some satisfaction to know it.

And, to be brief, I thought that if Andrew were going to India he might possibly be able to look Donald up."

I will pass swittly over the preparation made at Kilburnle for my departure. My dear mother took care that my outfit lacked ers, their wanderings for the present over, their wanderings for the present over.

mission to suit one of Andrew's adventur- ing conscience stricken for having been so "You do well, Andrew," hesaid one even ing when we chanced to be by curselves, my own son. But Andrew is not to be superseded. I enry him his opportunity."

"We all enry the opportunities of youth,"
said Sir Thomas. Then turning to my fa-

ther, with a smile, "You see, Kilburnie, my own instincts. When you go so far awaymotives are selfish after all."

Andrew, I have no the notion of a wayfor to a homekeeping man like me it is so motives are selfish after all."

for to a homekeeping man like me it is so far away, though it is still in God's uni verse—when you go away, do not forget that we are left behind, and you'll let us father stoutly, "and he were no son of that we are left behind, and you'll let us mine, who, going to India, would not exert hear from you. And as to the other thing

"Thank you, my dear boy," responded "It is for Air. Andrew," he said. "He is for Air. Andrew," he said. "He will be going away, God bless him, and be a big man, with black servants, and may be member that should you change your mind you will not let this generous promise to me in any way hinder you. I will not accept your service on any other condition." And, God bless him, he will have the pipes is to me in any way hinder you. I will not accept your service on any other condition." And, God bless him, he will have the pipes in the following the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing with oily natives in another town. He milts, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, or trainer, ing the cool air among the fills, and the cool air among the fills, ing the cool air among the fills, and the cool air among the too." And so lustily did Duncan blow that slipped all his friends in Bombay. not a word of conversation could we have during the whole meal. When his chanter answered my father for me. "Make your self quite at case on that score. If he was silent, however, and the dusk had fall I was no niggard. I stated, truthfully changes his mind, he will tell you so en, and we three, my father, my mother and myself, sat together, there was talk,

Next morning Duncan drove me to the village to meet the stage-my father and mother accompanying. Early as was the hour, Sir Thomas and Isabel were waiting "My dear Isabel," cried Sir Thomas, with for us, and greeted us with a fervor that that he had failed to find so much as a was almost silent. Isabel held in her hand single clue. Had I written what was in my ing room; "come here, child. I have news for you." She rose instantly and met him with a pretty look of expectation on her child."

Isabel turned toward me, her eyes gleaming with a dewy, wistful brightness and her hands shaking with a sudden tremor, so that I would fain have taken both again."

Ior Donam—you see I expect you to find him. The other," and her voice fell to a mere whisper, "is for yourself. It will keep you in mind of the old home, and perhaps I may see them both again."

I argued in this way: Donald Gordon has a multitude of friends in Bombay, and if he wished to have be wished.

of a bugle broke upon the morning still-ness, and a minute or two later the stage-to do. There is ample evidence that he nev coach came up at a handsome pace, the er breathed a syllable to one of them of any horses fresh and mettlesome and shaking their heads as if eager for the road. My considerable sum of money standing to his baggage was quickly bundled up, farewells | credit with his father's banker. He knew place, feeling as if I were in an unfamiliar region of mists. Suddenly old Duncan slender means of living and the almost ab scrambled up beside me, a percel rolled in blue cloth in his hand. "Take it," he said huskily, pushing it into my arms. "God cline to take advantage of this provision bless ye, take it. It will be the siller pipes | which had been made for him? Then there I learned ye to blaw on. Ayont the seas is the curious circumstance that he was ye'll can gie a skirl at times to mind ye of old friends, and when ye come back ye'll received the banker's letter apprising him can march to your own quickstep, and may be Donald will be there to fling his bonnet credit. in the air. Hooch aye! God bless ye-God bless ye!" and a tremulous hand patted me like a baby on the back. Then Duncan leaped down and stalked back to his horses, daring any one to say tears were on his Donald, but, finding the thing impossible cheeks or that his hands were shaking as if with a palsy. His was an odd gift, but I any one became aware of its existence? took it, knowing how refusal would burt

In another minute the driver had gath ered up the reins, touched the prancing leaders with his whip, and we were off. I the orthodox fashion, else there would be a gazed back, waving my hand to the little group by the inn door till we turned a bend | dence that he ever left the city, and he was in the road. Then, seeing none too well, I not in it now.

THE SEARCH FOR DONALD GORDON. On the journey south, my spirits being now mounting like mercury in the sun, I could not resist the temptation to spend an bour or two in Edinburgh in the delectable diversion of making my old comrades en A few significant hints and the sight of my Bombay, besides writing many private and special letters in my behalf which I did not the adventures, others said it was the beau see. My career was to be a mercantile one tiful combination of both that took their -that, on mature consideration, being fancy, and all agreed I had certaint, been thought to afford the easiest and speediest born with the coveted silver spoon in my fancy, and all agreed I had certaint, been mouth.

"The richest Europeans in India are mer chants and bankers," said Sir Thomas, Fortune," said an embryotic divine, slap-"and ther are all as the saving is said ping me on the shoulder "Here you so

out there to ride elephants and shoot tigers and order flunkies and enrich yourself from inexhaustible treasures of gold and gems. while I am left to wrestle with harrowing problems in theology. Do you call that I was to write them volumes about the

wonders of the Indies and was to give particular information on these two pointsnamely, the feeling inspired by a wounded tiger charging full upon you when your gun is empty and what I thought of the heathen gods-from a financial point of view. "I believe," remarked one with a taste for finance, "those unconscionable pagans make themselves deities of the finest ore set with precious stones while we haven't cash enough for an afternoon's outing. Just send us a god, old chappie, till we see how the heathen abomination would melt in the

crucible of a Christian goldsmith." They escorted me in a body to my coach. For, being prosperous now, acquaintances became friends. They gave a prolonged cheer as the vehicle moved off and a unanimous injunction to mind my liver and be on my guard against the encroachments of pride when, as nabob with a retinue of slaves, I hobnobbed with the dusky and luxurious potentates of the east.

Only one thing marred my enjoyment. I had it set in my mind to give Peter Clephane the soundest drubbing he had ever had in his life, but as he happened to be absent in Dundee my virtuous intent did not blossom into action.

Arrived in London, my first business was to find Captain Rogers. He had heard from Sir Thomas and received me with great affability and consideration, undertaking to have me bestowed in the best part of the ship and to let me see something of the town before we started. In me, as I remember, our sightseeing expeditions produced perhaps as much bewilderment as pleasure. I wandered through the seething, roaring wilderness of the largest city of the world eager to learn and admire, yet feeling so utterly out of my element, so tain Rogers, who, being a friend of Sir | much confounded by the din and smoke and rush, by the ruthless self assertiveners and indifference that seemed to character ize men and things alike, by the squalor and splendor so grotesquely blended and tragically contrasted-in a word, so dazed by the distracting throb and tumult of a nation's mighty heart, that I was glad to

get away. When the time came to sail, the river sides were througed with people to witness the spectacle of our departure; for, that being just the beginning of the era of steam, it was thought a miraculous thing to see a stately three decker sailing off with never very well say. I was a frequent guest at a stitch of canvas set nor any visible means of getting forward save by a wheel that frantically churned the water into foam and if it was strange to the spectators on shore to see a big ship going bravely on in dependently of wind and tide I must own it was rather startling to one at least of those on board to be caged up on the waters with a belching, pounding, wheezing, screeching fire demon that seemed to be

Often in the night have I lain listening to it in its miniature pandemonium, never silent, never slumbering, never for on brief moment at peace, but for ver wrench ing and writhing, f vever setting up the same inappeasable : ; of laboring pain and the same terrible threat of vengeance. Nowadays we have grown so familiar with the fire flend that, as it were, we stroke him complacently on the back, but I never come near him in steamer or hissing locomotive without a shudder at the thought about him. He seemed to fill her whole of the vengeance he will one day wreak on But in that fresh experience curiosity and

interest soon mastered fear. There was gladness in the case and speed with which our flame fed slave carried us down the riv er and along the coast of Kent and past "the tall white cliffs of Dover," the last prominent spot on which the exile's strain-ing eye rests when he is leaving England for the east and the first on which it wist man himself is not addicted to letter with ing, and my correspondents in the east press your goodness in trying."

fully falls when happily he returns. The seem somehow or other to have lost sight. Then I would reply that if Donald were sun was going down in a soft suffusion of color as we entered the strait, casting a glamorous iridescent light on the receding land and the sails of the many stately ships able to look Donald up."

"Gad, Sir Thomas, Andrew is just the very man to do that," put in Mr. Clephane.

"Til warrant he'll find your son. It is a busying himself with my for heaving hears."

"Til warrant he'll find your son. It is a busying himself with my for heaving hears."

"The wanderings for the present over, bound for the home we had left. I stood on the deck gazing backward till the hand busying himself with my for heaving hears." quietly slipped his arm in mine, and we went below to supper.

The Pearl of the Orient made a quick and

prosperous passage, landing us in Bombay in a day less than the time reckoned for the voyage before starting. You may be sure I did not allow Sir Thomas' business

Having presented my letters of introduction and undergone a brief but fiery course of hospitality, I set vigorously to the work before me, assisted by the numerous friends of my patron. I had no difficulty in dis-covering that Donald Gordon had been we may find a way out of our troubles of my patron. I had no difficulty it discovering that Donald Gordon had been a something to your taste perhaps."

I said, clearing my throat, for my excitement was great, "I need hardly assure you, sir Themas," I said, clearing my throat, for my excitement was great, "I need hardly assure you had seven in Bombay some 18 months before and had suddenly disappeared. But whither he had gone, whether he had departed by land or by sen, or been dispatched by the hand of the assassin, no one had the least idea. 50 years, got out his pipes and serenaded us in his most stirring manner.

There were of course conjectures in plenty. He might be hunting in the jungle, or tak-"It is for Mr. Andrew," he said. "He ling the cool air among the hills, or traffickpossibilities were endless, but there was I wrote the letter and rewrote it, and again

In my first report home, then, I had nothing better to send than hope, of which enough I trust, that I had already learned and myself, sat together, there was talk, something about Donald; also, I fear not quite so truthfully, that I was not without purmured Sir Thomas. "You have made for it was for ourselves alone. I should shortly have a dish of curry together. I did not tell them that as a last resource I had employed the cleverest prilast she came close to me, and with a soft ald. Perhaps the better course would have emotion suffusing her cheek and shining in her eye, she said: "This is for luck. One is when the letter was gone, and I had strong-

Supposing this letter was seen by others, would not the money be a great temptation to a needy villain who might take the risk as he proceeded, abandon the project ere

All this I reasoned with myself over and over again, and the more I reasoned the firmer became my conviction that Donald record of his death, but there was no evi

I laid my conclusion before the detective, before the bankers and some others. They all said it was plausible, "Only," said one, "you forget Donald's pride. He was the proudest man I ever knew in my life; in deed he was silly in that way." And, to be sure, there was Donald's pride to be taken into account. But it did not aid us. At the end of two months I had exhausted my own ingenuity and that of all my friends, including the detective, without coming on a single trace of Donald. If he was dead, he was buried beyond hope of dis effectually covered up his tracks. There seemed to be nothing for it but to abandon the search, write my dismal report, remit Sir Thomas his money and turn to my own concerns. My friends admitted it really

ald, a banker, at whose dinner table the matter was discussed, "if it were a financial speculation depending for return of profit on the finding of the volatile Donald Gordon-who, for aught I know, has the power of making himself invisible-I am bound to confess I would have nothing to do with it. It seems unquestionable that news of his friends, and I think you are right in giving up the chase. And now that you have disposed of Sir Thomas Gordon's business, might I ask what your

plans are for yourself?" I was obliged to answer that I had no definite plans as yet, having been so ab-sorbed in the hunt for Gordon that I had had no time to think of myself, but now I would certainly look out for an opening.
"As to that," said be, "there is a desk at your disposal in the house of Macdonald, Mactavish & Macintosh - good Scotch names, all of them, you will observe-any time you may feel inclined to begin work. The emoluments will be sufficient to enable you to live pending the finding of something better should you not take kind ly to banking."

"I have had some knowledge of highlanders," put in Mr. Matheson, one of the merchant princes to whom I had a letter of introduction. "I have had some knowledge of highlanders, and I hardly ever saw one of them feel at home at a desk. Put a gun, or a sword, or a tarry rope, or anything else that means fresh air and activity in their hands, and they're as much at home as a rabbit in a sand hill. But that's not saying that Mr. Kilgour would not take kindly to banking. If he's after rupces, he will," and Mr. Matheson cast a glance of intelligence at his friend.

I hastened to say that I was very grate ful to Mr. Macdonald for his generous offer, and that, with his permission, I would keep it under consideration for a day

"Quite right, Mr. Kilgour, quite right," said Mr. Macdonald cordially. "Look well before you leap, especially in this land of deceits, though, to tell you the truth and never flatter, you have done so well in this Gordon business that I should like to catch you. However, I say again, you are quite right to avoid a rash decision. A false step involves a change, and though the proverb says that changes are light



"Might I ask what your plans are to yourself?"

some it adds that only fools are fond of them. I am not one of those who pin their faith to proverbs, good or bad. If a rolling stone does not gather moss, it often gathers what is a great deal better than moss-an auriferons coating that we are all glad to admire. So don't decide hastily. It's a poor business getting out of the frying pan into the fire and back again from the f into the frying pan. Avoid it."

"And that you may have an alternative Mr. Kilgour," added Mr. Matheson, "let me say that in a week or two I have a vessel starting for Jedda, and that you are welcome to a free trip if you choose. It wil! enable you to look about, and maybe (who knows?) you may light on something that may strike you fancy. The trip will not take long altogether. It will be an outing to you, if nothing more, which, after your hard work as a detective, will, I dare say, be grateful. What do you say to that, Mac

"I think the suggestion an excellent one," nswered Mr. Macdonald, "and Mr. Kilgour ought to go."
I thanked Mr. Matheson as I had thank

ed Mr. Macdonald, saying that as the ship was not sailing immediately I would think the matter over. But the suggestion pleased me; whereas, though sincerely grateful to Mr. Macdonald, I was not in love with the idea of perching on a stool. The upshot was that I declined Mr. Mac

donald's offer and decided to visit Arabia in Mr. Matheson's ship. The kindly bank er would not, however, take a final an swer, but said that the post should be kept open till my return, as ships and tarry sailors might by that time have lost their attraction. If he has kept his word, there has been a vacant desk in that establishment for a very long time.

The decision made, my next piece of busi ness was to write home a long letter to Kil burnie and another to The Elms. The Kil burnie letter was out of hand with no effort, but the one to Sir Thomas was a different matter entirely. I felt a great pity for the poor gentleman, which I durst not express lest be should die of heartbreak, so that my communication had to be somewhat of the nature of a diplomatic dispatch. Unhappily the task of composing it called for gifts with which I was but scantily endowed wrote it; then took it to bed to dream over. undoing the whole thing on the morrow and going through such agonies of com position as do not make me envy the life of

an author. On the third day my patience was ex hausted, and the clumsy essay in diplomacy was posted. It tried to make out that there was abundant hope for the future, while there was also a sufficient reason for aban doning the search at present, but I fancy it could not have imposed on anybody. To put the better face on the thing, I fabri cated a little fiction about the severe heat telling on my health and being advised to take a short trip. I trust I shall be for given, for the motive was good, and I know that, acute as must have been Sir Thomas' disappointment, it was not any acuter than my own, for if his hope was centered in Donald so also was mine.

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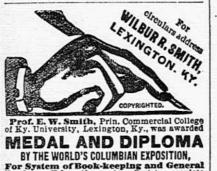
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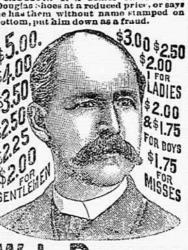
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