

policy and British arms had triumphed, instead of failing; they had nearly always triumphed in the end. Therefore Bodinton's premisses had been insufficient, and therefore false.

"Which is a syllogism itself, by-the-by!" Dick Stewart exclaims, with his hearty generous laugh. So difficult is it, not to be logistic. "It was always your amazing English luck, mon cher!" Bodinton had said, his shoulders up to his ears. Luck and logic *must* be antagonistic, of course. The world-famous British luck is another name for British illogic. British statesmen and captains had acted, not argued; they had been guided by the immediate and pressing circumstances, not by fine-drawn plans; they had done what seemed on the whole at the time to be the best for their purpose, not what appeared the most logical or consistent. And so we had gloriously triumphed, when every logician in Europe looked to see us fail.

And if—to drop to small and personal matters—if British policy and action had so often gone at hap and hazard towards shining triumph, why should not he?

His play had been logical so far, and the consistent thing to do would be to continue his game, not change it—to keep to his swift machine and journey from possible place to place till each had been visited in turn. But he had tired of all; too much fag, too disappointing, so tediously futile. "No!" he had suddenly concluded last night, "*that's* no go!" He would give dull system the go-by, and throw himself into the arms of merry chance.

And this is why he had discarded the precise mechanic vehicle which had carried him along till then; it would be absurd to go at hap and hazard in an automobile. A bicycle would be only a degree more stable; so would a gig. Two wheels or four, one could dare through forests and hedges on wheels, or take "the footpath way." More of luck and *laissez-aller* about a nag, perhaps; and "Indeed," resentful Reason had said to him, "you ought to go a-horseback, young Quixote; as did the great Don of you all!" But Reason had always disliked his going on the quest, from the first.