

A Son of Erin

Parliamentary life. I fancy he has grown tired of the hopeless struggle. He is going back to his Irish home to devote himself to literary work. I believe he has in contemplation a history of his own times, with special reference to Ireland under the Victorian rule. I daresay you can guess the rest?"

"Is it possible he would wish me to help him in any capacity?" asked Robert, eagerly.

The millowner nodded.

"That's just it. I have interested him in you, and one of the objects of his visit is to see you. One of the disadvantages of such a secretaryship would be enforced residence in Ireland for some time at least."

"That would be no disadvantage to me, sir," said Rob, eagerly. "I have always wanted to go to Ireland."

"He has that, sir. I tell him Irish bluid must run hot an' strong in his veins. He's faur owre hasty an' rash to be a canny Scot," put in John, quickly, whereat Mr. Bremner smiled, much amused.

"Well, it looks as if the thing had been made for you, Robert. I have spoken of you very highly to Captain Byrne, and I shall look to you not to belie my recommendation. You will find him a kind master, though exacting wherever duty is concerned. He has never spared himself; he will not spare others. It is his high sense of duty, I believe, that has caused him to come to the decision he has."

"He is no an auld man, sir?" said John, inquiringly. "Last year he looked as if he had ten guid years' work in him yet."

"So he has, John, so he has. It is not incapacity that has made him resign; but he is weary of the party and its methods. That's the real truth; and he