

head? Fenianism would be nothing without foreign countenance and support."

"Aye; they say they muster strang ower the watter," assented the Scot, indifferently.

"Yes; and they are sending their agents here, rousing up sedition, and inciting the people to acts of outrage."

"Terrible!" said Sandy, with a yawn.

"Look here, McWhirter. Has it never struck you what might be the true errand of this American, Harvey, here?"

"Deed, Maister Deilawful, I winna say but I've had my ain thochts at times," said McWhirter with reviving interest. "It does look queer to hae folk stravagin' the kintra a' day, an' maist feck o' the nicht forbye."

"Well, that *does* look suspicious," said his visitor.

"And then, come to think o' it; we had nae sic gangins-on hereawa afore they cam; an' it's an auld word, 'There's aye water whaur the stirkie drowns.' Gude sen' it mayna be my turn neist. Wha kens? Ye see, at orra times I carry on a bit o' the factorin' business for that glaiket Englisher o' a laird, Sir Jute Cotton, ye ken. An' I winna say but what I've had to come down sharp on the nail wi' some o' them afore they wad pay their bit lawin. I wadna misdoubt but they're awin' me a grutch for that."

"Well, you had best be beforehand with them, by helping to shut up their leader. Harvey, I must tell you, has this evening been taken into custody on suspicion of being concerned in seditious proceedings. Now, in a word, you know the government reward for such information as may lead to a conviction?"

The entrance of the waiter here interrupted the colloquy. Delaval sauntered back and forth through the apartments, noting with sharp glance every detail. When they were again alone he resumed:

"Well, what do you think? Can you procure such evidence as may convict, or failing that, can you *invent* it?" and he emphasized the last word by placing ten sovereigns on the table.

The host eyed the gold with avidity, but shook his head, saying:

"It's a risky business, Deilawful. I maun think ower it awee, or maybe I'll rin my neck intil a tether."

"Take your own time to it, my man," said his tempter. "But think how it will sound at headquarters should it appear that you