

great group of lime trees on Burch's lawn: the harvest moon was just rising over the shoulder of the hill opposite, and the soft gurgle of the stream in the valley beneath and the rustle of the leaves above them were the only sounds that broke the silence. 'Yere be I a praper squire 'pin me own estate, wi' a plenty o' money fur missus and the young uns, and yere be yew a Parlymint man, med a barrownight for yer services theer by the Queen, not tew say nothen of her leddyship and they tew dear little byes of yourn. Who iver'd a thought it when us went out to that whisht old Santa Maria in the "Peronia"? Five hunderd thousand pound apiece! 'Tes surprisin'; I can't hardly belave it even now; 'tes a mort o' money, sure enough. Sometimes I thinks as 'tes rayther hard does on them ancient Jesuite prastes as gathered them diamonds and treasures and hid 'em so keerful,' and he paused as he knocked the ashes out of his pipe.

'Ah, well, I think we can keep what we have got with fairly clean consciences, Jan,' said Sir John Standen. 'You see, we risked our lives to find these treasures to begin with, and then everything that we have of them was given to us by the King, and was, after all, only our proper and legal share. And as to what was done with the bulk of the money, why,