

he could best help him. As he was leaving the office to go home for lunch he met John Fletcher just without the gates on his way back to work after the dinner hour.

"Well, John, how's the world using you?" he said, cheerily. "I am sorry to hear that Mrs. Fletcher has not been so well. You heard, I suppose, of the service Rob did us last night?"

"Yes, sir, I did, and I'll never forgive myself for letting Miss Adair go that lonely bit o' road hersel'; but she had no fear she said, and I was concerned about Mary at the time, and did not insist."

"Oh, it all happened very easily and naturally, it was no one's fault; but it will be a lesson to her in the future. I have been talking to Rob this morning, John, and there's a lot more in him than any of us have thought. Halliwell will not hold him long."

"I have never thought it would, sir," said John. "It's long since I said to you that I thought he wouldna bide here."

"Well, we must do something to help him, that is all. What do you think his ambition is? Have you any idea?"

"No much," said John, with intense interest. "He has never spoken very freely to me. I think his mother understands him better."

"He aims at nothing less than a seat in Parliament, John," said the millowner with a smile, "and I have told him that stranger things have happened. There's power and ability yonder, John, more perhaps than we are aware of. I will help him if I can."

"I whiles say to Mary, Mr. Bremner, that if we kent his folk we would be better able to deal wi' him. He has several times spoken to Mary about gaun to

Long  
thing  
"J  
be a  
conti  
of h  
Mini  
secre  
what  
Th  
for th  
bours  
he wa  
Pu  
Fletc  
was  
people  
than  
long  
were  
mome  
alone,  
had ne  
gether  
a hun  
shelves  
had lo  
between  
may b  
seemed  
man of  
what  
power  
all age