

week, and no one except those that are in the stable—— Why, bless my soul, if this isn't the rummiest coincidence I ever come across in all my born days. I'm talking to you about Vinolia, and here my eye lights on the very name. Thirty-three to one. Let's see what it says about it. 'Vinolia appears to stand no earthly chance, and we are at a loss to comprehend why the owner should take the trouble to run him.' "

"What does thirty-three to one mean, William ? "

"Thirty-three to one means," he explained, "that if you handed me your money and I placed it for you, and Vinolia came in first, you'd get thirty-three times the amount, together with your original money, back. But the risk is a jolly sight too great, and I recommend you, speaking as a friend, to have nothing whatever to do with it. Besides, with me, it's a matter of principle. I object to gambling *in toto*. I look on gambling as one of the curses of the country. People win money at it, and it thor'ly demoralises 'em. They bring off something successful that means they've cleared as much as they could earn by honest labour in six or seven weeks, perhaps more ; consequence is that they get altogether unhinged. Upsets 'em. Knocks 'em off the main line. So my advice to you, old girl, is to put what I've been saying clean out of your head, and not