

sent it back. What happened to the horse? . . . You ken the tenant in Tullich—Ellar-an-Eich? It came to me, this day, that his by-name came from a song made on him by the cobbler. I knew it but in parts, and I went to the cobbler and made him sing it. It all rose out of a horse Mackellar said he found astray, and nobody believed him. So I went up to Tullich. 'Fourteen years ago,' I says, 'a horse was lost. You sold, about that time, a horse at Kilmichael market, and I'm curious to ken just where ye got it.'

"He told me there and then. What he said from the first was true—it was a wandered horse, and he found it on a Sunday in his corn, a wise-like, well-bred saddle-beast, without a strap on. He put it in his stable for a fortnight, with never a word to any one about his find. It was the very week Paul rode from Inverness; a fortnight later came Kilmichael market, and Mackellar rode it there in night-time—thirty miles, and got twenty Saxon pounds for it. Of course the thing came out; the whole land kent of it; the cobbler made his song, and the droll thing was there was never a cheep in the shire of a missing horse!

"There's no mistake about it, Alan; that was Lovat's horse, the one he lent your brother! And here's the copestone of it—Lovat told ye, Æneas, at his table, that your father, later on, through Duncanson, sent the value of the beast. Your father never did, poor man! The money came out of Sandy's pocket, and he little guessed that after fourteen years the lie would rise against him. Sandy heard, like all the rest, that a horse was found in Tullich, but he never said a word. Yet he paid the value of the horse to Lovat! . . . 'I didna hear ye bark!' MacCailein said. If Duncanson was living now there would be barking, for I have everything except the corp of the man he killed. I see the whole thing but the blow? Was it the dirk or pistol?"

"I canna follow ye!" said Alan-Iain-Alain Og, confused.

"Then I'll make it plainer for ye, Alan, and I'll start again wi' Paul in Castle Dounie. He knew he