

business," the little lady returned promptly. "You legislators are not, I hope, spurred to activity only when personal interests are at stake."

"And what are Aniatariio's views?"

"I am sure his sympathies are on the right side. I have heard him talking it over with Mr. Poynett. There he is now, standing by the fire-place. Drive home with him and talk it over."

CHAPTER III.

Two days later it was rumored in Kanatio that a division would be taken on the divorce court bill some time during the after-dinner session, and when the speaker took his place in the chair that night there was a remarkably well-filled house before him, while the galleries were so crowded that people stood in the aisles.

The debate was a heated one. It afforded entertainment to some humorous members and to the galleries, but it was so plainly the dregs of old arguments that no one was impressed.

It was after midnight before several pages were simultaneously sent out with messages, and members who had previously tired of listening were seen coming back in groups. People braced their tired selves and promised one another a vote-taking very soon. They expected the traditional lively division that follows a heated debate, and they reckoned their fatigue as nothing with that prospect before them. For the assembly, when its dignity is relaxed, is an entertaining spectacle.

But the division was not yet. Geoffrey Smithson, and not the Whips, had despatched the pages to the smoking-room and lobbies.

Shortly after this Aniatariio rose. The Speaker greeted him with an encouraging flicker of a smile.

Men looked at their neighbors in astonishment for a moment; then every eye in the house turned to Aniatariio.