

important and choice public companies which he finds so useful in consolidating the credit of the house. Mr. Docket is a copy of Mr. Vortex, some fifteen years younger; he attends to the working part of the business, whatever that may be; superintends the clerks, answers troublesome inquiries, and is supposed to buy and sell all the merchandize. The ramifications of the house extend to most cities of importance in England, abroad, and to the colonies.

In Glasgow there is the branch firm of McVortex & Co., who have established friendly relations with all the leading banks, and whose paper, drawn upon the substantial firm of O'Docket & Co., Dublin, is "done" without a whisper of the *minimum* rate. The substantial firm of O'Docket & Co., of Dublin enjoys the highest credit that can be obtained by a long course of regular trading in the land of generous sympathies and impulsive genius; and their paper upon the highly respectable firm of McVortex & Co., of Glasgow, is much in demand, at very low rates of discount indeed. Then there is Alphonse, Collaps, & Co., of Paris; the great house of Collaps Brothers, at Calcutta; Vortex, Collaps, and Docket, of San Francisco; Docket, Brothers, and Collaps, of New York; Collaps, Collaps, & Co., of the Cape of Good Hope; Vortex, Docket, and Vortex, of Melbourne, Australia; and Vortex, Brothers, and Docket of Montreal, Canada. These all draw and feed upon each other as their necessities require; and the parent firm of Collaps, Vortex, Docket & Co., of Tobacco-lane, London, watches over its obedient children with a more than fatherly interest, and trades upon their acceptances to the extent of millions. Formerly the great London house used to stop payment during every commercial panic, their credit preventing the necessity of their doing so at any other time. Now they have grown too wise and important to do that. It is not that their trade has become in any degree sounder or more legitimate, but the accumulated liabilities of many years have swelled their transactions into such gigantic proportions that the mere whisper of any difficulty to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England causes a representation to be made to our paternal Government, whose mission it is to foster, protect, and accommodate trade; and it is agreed that such a public calamity as the suspension of Messrs. Collaps, Vortex, Docket, & Co., must be prevented at any cost. It is prevented by the suspension of the Bank Charter Act instead; an extra issue of Bank of England notes, is authorised, with a Government guarantee in case there should not be gold to exchange for them; and commerce—ill-used commerce—breathes again.

My next house is the firm of Messrs. Ignès, Fatui, & Co., the extensive and eccentric shippers, of Skye Chambers, old Broad Street, who are always on the search for new markets, and who have very peculiar notions of the requirements of distant countries. They are constantly sending large cargoes of damask table-cloths and silver tooth picks to the Sandwich Islands, or molu clocks to Terra del Fuego; and pianoes, articles of vertu, and Birmingham idols to the southern coast of Africa. They import, in return, for the London Market, tomahawks, heathen gods and goddesses carved out of stumps of trees with occasionally a Holy Family, painted by some intelligent native Raffaëlle of Mozambique, in which the mother and child, with very thicklips and sable skins are evidently doing well. Messrs. Ignès, Fatui, & Co., are not so particular as they might be about the nature of their shipments, because they find great facilities in obtaining loans upon paper, called bills of