

similar to his last. In a word, he went on conducting his speculations with as much prudence, as he undertook them with energy and enterprise.

The period I am alluding to may be considered as the golden age of the shipping interest, and it will surprise no one acquainted with the commercial history of those days, to hear that in little more than five years time, Mr. Dudleigh could "write himself worth" £20,000. He practised a parsimony of the most excruciating kind. Though every one on 'Change was familiar with his name, and cited him as one of the most "rising young men there," he never associated with any of them but on occasions of strict business. He was content with the humblest fare; and trudged cheerfully to and from the city to his quiet quarters near Hackney, as if he had been but a clerk luxuriating on an income of £50 per annum. Matters went on thus prospering with him, till his thirty-second year, when he married the wealthy widow of a ship-builder. The influence which she had in his future fortunes, warrants me in pausing to describe her. She was about twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old; of passable person, as far as figure went, for her face was rather bloated and vulgar; a trifle of a dowdy in dress, unsufferably vain, and fond of extravagant display, a termagant, with little or no intellect. In fact, she was the perfect antipode of her husband. Mr. Dudleigh was a humble, unobtrusive, kind-hearted man, always intent on business, beyond which he did not pretend to know or care for much. How could such a man, it will be asked, marry such a woman? Was he the first who has been deceived and blinded by the blaze of a large fortune? Such was his case. Besides, a young widow is somewhat careful of undue exposures, which might fright away promising suitors. So they made a match of it; and he resuscitated the expiring business and connexion of his predecessor, and conducted it with a skill and energy, which in a short time opened upon him the floodgates of fortune. Alliance paired in from all quarters; and he was everywhere called by his printing, but distanced competitors in the city, the "fortunate" Mr. Dudleigh.

One memorable day, four of his vessels, richly freighted, came, almost together, into port, and on the same day he made one of the most fortunate speculations in the funds which had been heard of for years; so that he was able to say to his assembled family, as he drank their health after dinner, that he would not take a quarter of a million for what he was worth! And there, surely, he might have paused, and made his final stand, as the possessor of such a princely fortune, acquired with unblemished honour to himself, and latterly, spent in warrantable splendour and hospitality. But no! As is and ever will be the case, the more he had, the more he would have. Not to mention the incessant baiting of his ambitious wife, the increasing capabilities of indefinite increase to his wealth, proved irresistible. What might not be done by a man of Mr. Dudleigh's celebrity, with a floating capital of some hundred and fifty thousand pounds, and as much credit as he chose to accept of? The regular course of his shipping business brought him in constant, magnificent returns, and he began to sigh after other collateral sources of money-making; for why should nearly one half of his vast means lie unproductive? he had not long to look about, after it once became known that he was ready to employ his floating capital in profitable speculations. The brokers, for instance, came about him, and he leagued with them. By and by the world heard of a monopoly of nutmegs. There was not a store to be had anywhere in London, but at a most exorbitant price—for the fact was, that Mr. Dudleigh had laid his hands on them all, and by so doing cleared a very large sum. Presently he would play similar parts with otto of roses, and as soon as he had quadrupled the cost of that fashionable article, he would let loose his stores on the gaping market—by which he gained as large a profit as he had made with the nutmegs. Commercial people will easily see how he did this. The brokers, who wished to effect the monopoly, would apply to him for the use of his capital, and give him an ample indemnity against whatever loss might be the fate of the speculation; and, on his proving successful, awarded him a very large proportion of the profits. This is the scheme by which many splendid fortunes have been raised, with a rapidity which has astonished their grinders as much as any one else! Then again, he negotiated bills on a large scale, and at tremendous discounts; and, in a word, by these, and similar means, amassed, in a few years, the enormous sum of half a million of money!

It is easy to guess at the concomitants of such a fortune as this. At the instigation of his wife—for he himself retained all his old unobtrusive and personally economical habits—he supported two splendid establishments—the one at the "West End" of the town, and the other near Richmond. His wife—for Mr. Dudleigh himself seemed more like the hired steward of his fortune than its possessor—was soon surrounded

by swarms of those titled bloodsuckers that fatten on bloated opulence which has been floated into the sea of fashion. Mrs. Dudleigh's dinners, suppers, routes, soirées, fêtes champêtres, flashed astonishment on the town, through the columns of the obsequious prints. Miss Dudleigh, an elegant and really amiable girl, about seventeen, was beginning to get talked of as a fashionable beauty, and, report said, had refused her coronets by dozens! While "young Harry Dudleigh" far out-topped the astonished Oxoniads, by spending about half as much again as his noble allowance. Poor Mr. Dudleigh frequently looked on all this with fear and astonishment, and, when in the city, would shrug his shoulders, and speak of the "dreadful doings at the West!" I say, when in the city—for as soon as he travelled westwards, when he entered the sphere of his wife's influence, his energies were benumbed and paralyzed. He had too long justly succumbed to her authority to call it in question now, and therefore he submitted to the splendid appearance he was compelled to support. He often said, however, that "he could not understand what Mrs. Dudleigh was at;" but beyond such he never presumed. He was seldom or never to be seen amid the throng and crush of company that crowded his house evening after evening. The first arrival of his wife's guests, was his usual signal for seizing his hat and stick, dropping quietly from home, and betaking himself either to some sedate city friend, or to his country-house, where he now took a kind of morbid pleasure in ascertaining that his gains were safe, and planning greater, to make up, if possible, the would say, "for Mrs. Dudleigh's awful extravagance." He did this so constantly, that Mrs. Dudleigh began at last to expect and calculate on his absence, as a matter of course, whenever she gave a party; and her good-natured, accommodating husband, too easily acquiesced, on the ground, as his wife took care to go out, of his health's not bearing late hours and company. Though an economical, and even parsimonious man in his habits, Mr. Dudleigh had as warm and kind a heart as ever glowed in the breast of man. I have heard many accounts of his systematic benevolence, which he chiefly carried into effect at the periods of temporary relegation to the city, as he spoke of. Every Saturday evening, for instance, he had a sort of *terce*, numerously attended by merchants' clerks and commenting tradesmen, all of whom he assisted most liberally with both "cash and counsel," as he good-humouredly called it. Many a one of them owes his establishment in life to Mr. Dudleigh, who never lost sight of any deserving object had once served.

A far different creature Mrs. Dudleigh! The longer she lived, the more she had her way, the more frivolous and heartless did she become—the more despotic was the sway she exercised over her husband. Whenever he presumed to "lecture her," as she called it, she would stop his mouth, with referring to the fortune she had brought him, and ask him triumphantly, "what he could have done without her cash and connexions!" Such being the fact, it was past all controversy that she ought to be allowed "to have her fling, now she could so easily afford it!" The sums she spent on her own and her daughter's dress were absolutely incredible, and almost petrified her poor husband when the bills were brought to him. Both in the articles of dress and party giving, Mrs. Dudleigh was actuated by a spirit of frantic rivalry with her competitors; and what she wanted in elegance and refinement, she sought to compensate for in extravagance and ostentation. It was to no purpose that her trembling husband, with tears in his eyes, suggested to her recollection the old saying, "that fools make feasts, and wise men eat them;" and that if she gave magnificent dinners and suppers, of course great people would come and eat them for her; but would they thank her? Her constant answer was, that they "ought to support their station in society"—that "the world would not believe them rich, unless they showed it that they were," &c. &c. Then, again, she had a strong plea for her enormous expenditure in the "bringing out of Miss Dudleigh," in the arrayment of whom, painting, milliners "toiled in vain." In order to bring about this latter object, she induced, but with great difficulty, Mr. Dudleigh to give his bankers orders to accredit her separate cheques; and so prudently did she avail herself of this privilege for months, that she completely threw Mr. Dudleigh off his guard, and he allowed a very large balance to lie in his bankers' hands, subject to the unrestricted drafts of his wife. Did the reader never happen to see in society that horrid harpy, an old dowager, whose niggard jointure drives her to cards? Evening after evening did several of these old creatures squat, toad-like, round Mrs. Dudleigh's card table, and succeeded at last in inspiring her with such a frenzy for "PLAY," as the most ample fortune must melt away under, more rapidly than snow beneath sunbeams. The insatiable woman became notoriously the first to seek, and last

to leave the fatal card-table; and was reputed readiness with which she "bled," at last brought her the honour of an old Countess, who condescended to win her, at two sittings, very nearly £5000. It is not now difficult to account for the anxiety Mrs. Dudleigh manifested to banish her husband from her parties. She had many ways of satisfactorily accounting for her frequent drafts on his bankers. Miss Dudleigh had made a conquest of a young peer, who, as soon as he had accurately ascertained the reality of her vast expectations, fell deeply in love with her! The young lady herself had too much good sense to give him spontaneous credit for disinterested affection; but she was so dunned on the subject by her foolish mother, so potted and flattered by her noble, but impoverished family, that sought her connexion, and the young nobleman himself a handsome man, so ardent and persevering in his courtship, that at last her heart yielded, and she passed in society as the "envied object" of his attentions! The notion of intermingling their blood with nobility, so dazzled the vain imagination of Mrs. Dudleigh, that it gave her eloquence enough to succeed, at last, in stirring the phlegmatic temperament of her husband. "Have a nobleman for my son-in-law!" thought the merchant, morning, noon, and night; at the East and at the West End—in town and country! What would the city people say to that! He had a spice of ambition in his composition beyond what could be contented with the achievement of mere city eminence. He was tiring of it;—he had long been a kind of king on "Change, and, as it were, carried the Stocks in his pockets. He had long thought that it was "possible to choke a dog with pudding," and he was growing heartily wearied of the turtle and venison eastward of Temple-Bar, which he was compelled to eat at the public dinners of great companies, and elsewhere, when his own tastes would have led him, in every case, to pitch upon "port, beef-steaks, and the papers," as a fare fit for a king! The dazzling topic, therefore, in which his wife held forth with unwearied eloquence, was beginning to produce conviction in his mind; and though he himself eschewed his wife's kind of life, and refused to share in it, he did not lend a very unwilling ear to her representations of the necessity for an even increased rate of expenditure, to enable Miss Dudleigh to eclipse her gay competitors, and appear a worthy prize in the eyes of her noble suitor. Aware of the magnitude of the proposed object, he could not but assent to Mrs. Dudleigh's opinion, that extraordinary means must be made use of; and was at last persuaded into placing nearly £20,000 in his new banker's hands, subject, as before, to Mrs. Dudleigh's drafts, which she promised him should be as seldom and as moderate as she could possibly contrive to meet necessary expenses with. His many and heavy expenses, together with the great sacrifice in prospect, when the time of his daughter's marriage should arrive, supplied him with new incentives to enter into commercial speculations. He tried several new schemes, threw all the capital he could into now, and even more productive quarters, and calculated on making vast accessions of fortune at the end of the year.—To be continued.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, Aug. 25.

The report which we mentioned yesterday of grave troubles having taken place at Madrid, has been but too fully confirmed. On this subject the *Journal de Paris* has the following.—"A commercial courier passing thro' Oleron, on the 18th, announces that on the 16th a popular movement had been attempted at Madrid, accompanied with the cry "Vive Isabella II!" but that the royal guard had destroyed the barricade which had been partly constructed, and had disarmed the urban militia. At Barcelona (it is added) the constitution of 1812 is no longer spoken of; but a proclamation of the Junta, dated the 13th, speaks of guarantees to be obtained by a new charter, and demands for every province, the right of raising, dividing, and employing its own contributions, according to its will. A general armament has been ordered against the Carlists." The *Journal des Debats* adds, on the 11th, the urban militia and garrison of Madrid rose in insurrection, and demanded a change of Ministry. At the departure of the courier, the answer of the Queen was anxiously expected to a menacing message which had been addressed to her."