By John A. Steuart.

It's a pleasure to me to welcome u to Kilburnie," interrupted my ther. "And it was wholly unex-

unexpected, cousin, returned Mr. Clephane, urbanely. "What's expected is discounted, enjoyed before its time, so to speak, like wind raised by

like simplicity.

I hoped that luncheon would pass without reference being made to what had brought me home, but in that I was disappointed, for the matter lay too near my father's heart to be kept out of his conversation. Sir Thomas was told of the plans that had been made for me, and how for some unaccountable reason I was bent on stolling them.

"We must not be angry or disappointed if youth does not see with the eyes of age," said Sir Thomas, graciously, looking at me. "Morning and evening have different lights. Mr. Andrew has the fresh vision and quick intelligence of his time of life. They are not to be despised. At the same time I am sure he will consider soberly, and not underestimate the importance of the decision he is called on to make. Least of all will he grieve by any obstinacy those to whom his welfare is perhaps dearer than to himself," and then he added, after a patse:—"People's thoughts run on the lines that are most familiar to them. India occurred to me. I make a nere suggestion. How would you like to make your fortune in India?"

"No better place in the world for a young man of ability and enterprise," put in Mr. Clephane, quickly. "Dod, many's the fortune has been made in India. I think I see in Andrew a nabob in embryo."

No one took the least notice of him,

CHAPTER IV. THE ELMS-A MOMENTOUS DE-CISION.

Youth has an enviable knack of turning its back upon the troublous past so soon as a blink of hope shines out of the future.

Next day I had forgotten my woes, and was as snugly in conceit with myself, as ardent, as full of preposterous schemes as if, instead of being the football of fortune, I had been her first favourite and grand vizier. I passed the day zealously cultivating those aerial estates which make so fine a show in the eye of imagination and promise so rare a revenue, and waited with impatience for the evening. Yet when the hour came, and I found myself at The Elms, somehow my elation forsook me, and with it my confidence and self-possession. The ordeal of the introduction to Miss Gordon was trying. It left me with hot gills and an uneasy foreboding that I was going to make a fool of nivself. Youth has an enviable knack of

respondents in the East seem somehow or other to have lost sight of him. It may be that he is dead," and there was a quiver in his voice. "If so, it would be some satisfaction to know it. And, to be brief, I thought that if Andrew were going to India he might possibly be able to look Donald up." "Gad, Sir Thomas, Andrew is just the very man to do that," put in Mr. Clephane. "I'll warrant he'll find your son. It is a mission to suit one of Andrew's adventurous spirit. I only wish I could substitute my own son. But Andrew is not to be superseded. I envy him his opportunity."

"We all envy the opportunities of youth," said Sir Thomas. Then turning to my father, with a smile, "You see. Kilburnie, my motives are selfish after all."

by any obstinacy those to whom his welfare is perhaps dearer than to himself," and then he added, after a parse - "People's thoughts run on the lines that are most familiar to them. India occurred to me. I make a mere suggestion. How would you like to make your fortune in India?"

"No better place in the world for a young man of ability and enterprise," put in Mr. Clephane, quickly "Dod, many's the fortune has been made in India. I think I see in Andrew a nabob in embryo."

No one took the least notice of him, all the attention being bent on me. I was embarrassed and floundered like a man out of his depth and reckoning. I had not thought of India, but as the drowning man clutches at a straw so I gradently expressed a desire to go to India, greatly to the astonishment of my father, and the horror and consternation of my poor mother.

"Do not make a hasty choice," said Sir Thomas, in his kindly tone."

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"Do not make a na Mr. Clephane, I shall be honoured if you, too, will join use "free far," answered my father, town of the Elims to-morrow evening, and we will talk the matter over at dinner. Perhaps we may have the honour of Mr. and Mrs. Kilgour's company also, and Mr. Clephane, I shall be honoured if you, too, will join use "free far," answered my father for me many also, and Mr. Clephane, I shall be honoured if you, too, will join use "free far," answered my father stanks to you, Kilburnie," murmured Sir Thomas, "You Kilburnie," murmured Sir Thomas, "You Kilburnie," murmured Sir Thomas, "You be an all help destiny to choose a career for Mr. Andrew."

"My hearty the opportunity."

"We heart the only state, with a smile, "You and be with a sailer, however, and sellen, and we have during the whole meals. When the mide is chair the many father, you say lable of, it will be set down here, so the will see the man w

have made me fifty years younger.
My spirit—sh, me! But there, there.
Shall we join the ladies? I daressay
they are feeling rather loney." And
"My dear lasbel," oried Sir Thomas,
with the giee of a boy, as we entered
the drawing-room; "come here, child,"
I have news for you." She rose instantly, and met him with a pretty
lock of expectation on her face.
"Mr. Andrew is going to India and
will search out Donald," continued Sir
Thomas. "There's news to gladden
your heart, my child."
I sabel turned toward me, her eyes
gleaming with a dewy, wisful brightaress, and her hands shaking with a
have taken noled of them to comfort
her. "Oh," she said, advancing a stepprarer me, and speaking in a low
voice which I fancied was mean for
my ear alone, "if you could only get
tidings of my brother I cannot tell
how grateful I should be. But the
news that you are even to try seems
too good to be true. How can we ever
thank you? What can we ever
thank you? The proper was the stant with nope and happy by anticlipation, my dear mother's face blanched so that my gladness was checked
by the duty of comforting her. In
this office Isabel came to my help with
the sweet words and winning ways
that were all her own, and by fint of
our unceasing perseverance in looking
with properties of the same thanks, and the sight of
the sweet words and winning ways
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the sweet words and winning ways
that were all her own, and by fint of
our unceasing perseverance in looking
the sweet words and win

"He is a shame, Androw", the salt, says, "but Mr. Cluphan probably have been shaped by the salt says," but Mr. Cluphan probably have been shaped by the salt says, "but Mr. Cluphan probably have been shaped by the salt says," but Mr. Cluphan probably have been shaped by the salt says, and the same shaped by the same shaped by the says, and the same shaped by the same shape whole soul, to be her only thought, a circumstance that secretly plqued me not a little.

"Oh," she would often break out in the mogt irrelevant way, "if you could only find my brother, if you could only find bonald, I should be so grateful to you. But indeed, indeed," and here she would look in my face till I thought I saw visions of heaven, "I will be just as grateful to you if you never find him. Words cannot express your goodness in trying."

Then I would reply that if Donald were in India I would find him, a speech which always brought me a rapturous smille of thanks and further visions of paradise.

I will pass swiftly over the oreparation made at Kilburnie for my deparation made at Kilburnie for my deparation. My dear mother took care that my outful lacked nothing it was possible for her to procure, and my father softened toward me, busying himself with my affairs and seeming conscience-stricken for having been so stern with me.

"You do well, Andrew," he said one evening, when we chanced to be by ourselves, and his voice was husky.

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"You do well, Andrew," he said one evening, when we chanced to be by ourselves, and his voice was husky, "You do well, Andrew," he said one evening man like me it is so for away, though it is still in God's universewhen you go away, do not forget that we are left behind, and you'll let us hear from you. And as to the other thing, we may find a way out of our troubles, God bless you, my boy. We are all in His hands." And he could say no more.

At dinner, on the last evening, Duacan, the coachman, who was also gamekeeper, factor, forester, and general factotum, and served the Kiigours, man and boy, for fifty years, got out his pipes and serenaded us in his most stirr

stirring manner.

"It is for Mr. Andrew," he said. "He will be going away. God bless him, and be a big man, with black servants, and maybe Duncan will never set eyes on him again. And, God bless him, he will have the pipes to his denner whatever, just as loud as auld Duncan's lungs can blaw. Ave. will he too." lungs can blaw. Ave, will he too." And so lustily did Duncan blow that

Secreptions are approximated when the procession of the control of all control of

completely slipped all his friends in Bombay. In my first report home, then, I had nothing better to send than hope, of which I was no niggard. I stated, truthfully enough I trust, that I had

already learned something about Donald; also, I fear not quite so truthfully, that I was not without reasonable ground for thinking that he and I should shortly have a dish of curry together. I did not tell them that as a last resource I had employed the eleverest private detective in the city. cleverest private detective in the city to help me, and that he had failed to find so much as a single clue. Had course would have been to say that I saw this more clearly when the letter was gone, and I had stronger rea-To be Continued.

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