

little empire," Duncan answered. "It is from the money-grabbers of the Transvaal that we have most to fear. Only those know what Africa is and what it might mean to us, who shake the dust of civilization from their feet and creep a little way into its heart. It is here in the quiet places that one begins to understand. One has the sense of coming into a virgin country, strong, fresh and wonderful. Think of the race who might be bred here! They would rejuvenate the world!"

"And yet," the woman at his side murmured, the woman who had been a queen, "it is not a virgin country after all. A little farther northwards and the forests have in their keeping the secrets of ages. Shall we ever possess them, I wonder!"

In the darkness she felt his arms about her. Louise and her husband had wandered away.

"One thing at least remains—changeless and eternal as history itself," he murmured, as their lips met. "Thank God for it!"

THE END.