

we trade in so many different things. General merchants would perhaps be the most applicable term. Business in Africa and business in England are very different things."

"Does the thing pay?" asked the Squire.

"Yes, my partner's income last year was three thousand pounds—mine about half of that. But I am on a different footing this year, and we share exactly alike. I believe I am safe in saying the entire profits of the business are not under five thousand."

"That's something like the thing, Dick!" said Doctor Harry, cracking his walnuts with real enjoyment.

"Fortunes can be quickly amassed in Kimberley surely," said the Squire a trifle drily.

"Sometimes. For one who hits the mark, fifty miss, and more do not get beyond making a decent livelihood. My partner has been a singularly fortunate man, and when my experience was coupled with his, we made a good thing of it, that is all, sir," said Richard.

"Then you are bent on not staying in England," repeated the Squire.

"Yes, even if it were doing a fair and just thing to my partner who befriended me in my need, I have no inclination to remain at present. My intention is to settle in Kimberley for a few years, that is if my wife's health and my own does not fail, until I have made a handsome competence. Then I shall return to the old country and perhaps embark in English commerce again, or perhaps begin the life of a country gentleman."