

CHAPTER XIX.

THE following morning found Johnston at his office at the usual hour. The result of the election had, of course, preceded him; and those who had watched his steady ascendancy in the business world wondered how he would meet an adverse turn. Early in the day they decided there was nothing in his appearance to indicate defeat.

"If you will permit me to say so," one of the men remarked, "I am glad you were not elected. You are needed all the time right here."

Johnston smiled. "Sorry to disturb your satisfaction with present conditions, my dear man, but I shall yet be elected in Middleworth, and that before many months have passed."

The man looked at him curiously. "Yes, I dare say you will."

Towards noon Johnston obeyed a summons to see the chief at his own home. The latter lived on one of the fine residential streets of the city, an old bachelor surrounded only by servants.

Johnston smiled as he thought of the reception he would receive, for the chief had strongly opposed what he called trying an experiment on Middleworth.