

He that had Received the Five Talents.

mere trifling to put such questions to *him*. So I tried him wi' two or three o' the hardest sums I could think o'. Man! he was ready wi' the answer before they were fairly out o' my mouth. I used to think I was pretty good at figures myself; but the fact is, I had to stop my questions, for I was afraid the boy was going to take me beyond my depth."

"Ho! ho!" said the smith, with a faint laugh to conceal his modesty and pride, "you're makin' ower muckle o' the laddie."

"Not a bit," said the schoolmaster; and then, turning to the minister, he added, "I've been giving him some lessons in Euclid and Algebra. It was no use keeping him wi' the rest o' the scholars at Arithmetic; I found he was away on by himself at Interest and Square Roots before any of them had got as far as Compound Addition. He's just wonderfully *gleg at the uptak*, as the saying is, in Mathematics; and I've been recommending his father to make an engineer o' him."

"Just the thing!" exclaimed the minister. "And I'll tell you what we'll do. You know my brother that comes down here sometimes for a few days in summer? Well, he's book-keeper to Stewart & Co. o' the Glenburn Engine Works in Glasgow; and, to tell you the truth, his salary's better than the stipend