

of fortune. As the coach was to start at five in the morning from Carlisle, the young adventurer slept the night before at the Gray Goat Inn in that city. (The name is worth remembering for sake of one of the many strange incidents of the story). Two days later he got his first view of the million-peopled city from Highgate Hill. Starting at once, with high hopes and no small conceit of his own value, to search for a situation, he had his mettle tested by failure after failure day after day for a fortnight. After having travelled over London from end to end in vain, he called at Swan and Edgar's, and was told that Messrs. Flint, Ray, and Co., of Soho Square, had inquired if any one knew where he was. He went to Soho Square, and found that Mr. Ray, himself a Cumberland statesman's son, had heard about him, and wished to befriend him. He was forthwith engaged at £30 a year.

He only earned one year's salary there; but several memorable things belong to these first twelve months in London. He commended himself to all about him by readiness to do whatever was to be done. He found that his ignorance and ungainliness were against him, and resolutely set himself to remedy these defects. About six months after coming to London, he one day "saw a bright little girl come tripping into the warehouse," and was told she was Mr. Ray's daughter. Thereupon he announced his fixed determination that she should be his wife, and brought on himself the loud ridicule of his companions; but fifteen years afterwards the laugh was on his side. Another time, being sent with goods on approbation to the house of a lady of title, he sold her twenty pounds worth, and gave a receipt for twenty-one pounds. The lady came to Soho Square, and denounced George Moore as a thief. The case certainly looked bad; but he cross-questioned Lady Conyngham as to the money she had had that morning, how much she had given to the baker, how much to the grocer, and how much she had left, proving, on her own testimony, that she could not have given him more than twenty pounds. He must have made an error in her bill. "Providentially, I all at once recollected that I had taken down a memorandum of the articles sold. I produced this, and found that I had received the money according to this memorandum, and not according to the receipted bill which I had left with the lady. Knowing my innocence, I boldly asserted the fact. My employer was satisfied." Nevertheless the lady left the place in a rage, loudly declaring that "the boy was a thief!" But when her temper had time to cool, she relented and justified him.

It was a narrow escape: a young man employed in a neighbouring