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I really think I may venture to say vigorous and well-chosen words." At last I had convinced them again and again during my recent journeying, in case I should manage to get an interview.

"Have you any references or papers of any kind?"

"None, my lord, except a few words from my bishop. He is the only person of influence with whom I have any acquaintance."

"The bishop of —. I think Cherrington is in his diocese."

"Just so, my lord." And I produced

The ancellor rapidly glanced at it, and next he glanced at his watch.

"I see, Mr. Vavasour, that the five minutes of which I spoke to you are out."

I stood mute and disappointed.

"Would eight o'clock in the morning be too early for you to call on me at my residence?"

"Oh, no my lord," I said.

I should have said the same thing respecting any other hour he might have named.

He gave me a nod, which I rightly interpreted as a dismissal.

In a few minutes, however, I was

I was close to the lord chancellor's house the next morning, and hung about it till the bells of a neighboring church-tower should clash eight.

I then gave my customary double knock. My friend of the preceding afternoon opened it, and for a moment a pantomimic gesture of surprise stole over his impassive features. Without

It was a dull, cold morning, and the lord high chancellor was stretching his right honorable person on a rug in front of the fire. He advanced and shook hands.

"Ah, Mr. Vavasour, good morning! Have you breakfasted?"

As a matter of fact, I had only had a biscuit and a glass of water. So I said I had not.

"Very well. Then you shall have some breakfast with me." 'Burroughs,' to the man, bring some cold chicken and another tea-cup."

I sat down amazed. In all my ex-

—this—that I should take a friendly bit of breakfast with the lord chancellor.

“Now, Mr. Vavasour, not to keep you in suspense, I may tell you at once that I mean to give you my living of Cherrington.”

“My lord, my lord!”

“I find, Mr. Vavasour, that you are a scholar, which is not the case with every clergyman. I find also that you have so far managed the parish of Cherrington very creditably. I have these two facts on the excellent testimony of the bishop of —. Now I assure you, Mr. Vavasour, that I have very often

an most anxious to appoint the best man. The difficulty is to find out the best man. But in the present case I have no difficulty on this point. I can place the utmost reliance upon your bishop's recommendation."

"I am sure, my lord, that I will do my very best, all my days, to deserve it."

"I am quite sure you will. But I appoint you simply and solely upon the strength of what the Bishop of — says about you. I have not sat so long with him in the upper house without seeing how thoroughly good and honest he is. And please tell the bishop when

that I have had great pleasure in giving you this living in consequence of his favorable report. After breakfast I will give you a line to my secretary of presentations, who will put you in the way of all necessary steps."

I hardly know how I got through my breakfast, but in some fashion I did so, and I know it did me good. With a full heart I left the house, knowing that my fortune was made. I glanced at Burroughs, the man in the hall. If I had had the money in my pocket, he half-crown ought to have blossomed into a five-pound note.

Indeed, thank Lord, now you are

ly a benevolent clergyman, I had nothing in my pocket that could take me home. The thought occurred to me that I might ask a cousin of mine, a lawyer in a good way of business, to help me. I went and asked him to lend me a sovereign to enable me to return home. "No," he said, buttoning up his sensitive breeches-pocket. "I make a rule never to lend anything to anybody."

"As a minister of the gospel, I must remind you that we are told that we ought at times to lend."

"Mr. Vavasour, I am perfectly shocked to hear a clergyman of the

"I don't know what you mean by sinking so low. I only know that the lord chancellor, with whom I have just breakfasted, has given me the living of Cherrington, which is more than four hundred a year."

"When?" said my second cousin with a sort of gasp. "That quite alters the case. Now, I dare say, my dear Vavasour, that you will want some money to pay induction expenses, stamp duties, dues to the

thing. I can lend you a hundred pounds on the usual business terms." I did not express my opinion of the fellow, but borrowed a proffered sovereign to enable me to return to Mary and the little ones. I sent it back to him in the shape of a guinea next day and have not seen him from that day to this. It is astonishing how ready people are to oblige you when you are in reality independent of their help. Even dear old Dawson left me, I believe, a much bigger slice of his property than he would have done if I had been a poor man.

ny footsteps on the first rung of the ladder of clerical promotion, of that great success in life for which I cannot feel too humble and too grateful. [This was substantially a story of early days which a very distinguished dignitary used to relate of himself. Its leading incident is strictly true, and seems worthy of a safer record than mere tradition.]