

declared that had Mr. Jiggers been a professional surgeon he could not possibly have done more for them. It was only a question of a week or two before their wounds would be healed. I then went to my former acquaintance, the agent of the firm, to whom I had letters of introduction, and with him went to the bank manager. We took a dray down to the place where the *Petrel* had been left in charge of Mr. Jiggers, and, putting the treasure in sacks, loaded up.

I never saw such astonishment depicted on men's faces as on the banker's and the agent's when they saw the pile of gleaming gold and precious gems lying in the bottom of the hold.

In five minutes we were at the telegraph office, and my father had five thousand pounds wired to his credit at Roma. I also despatched a telegram to my people telling them of my safe arrival. Afterwards I learned that my wire was sent none too soon, for, in a couple of days, the banks, which had exercised great forbearance, would have been obliged to close upon our station property, and that, of course, would have meant ruin.