

mean all the people with money can threaten to refuse a loan. You can refuse other things, too—steel, lead, propellants, explosives—I gather that this South African rum-pus is affecting you? Well, I told you that you'd expanded so far that sooner or later you'd be sensitive to any kind of disturbance in any part of the world. You'd better study the raw material of war and make a corner."

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Sir Aylmer interrupted his reverie to push back his chair and accept the support of Hatherly's arm from the dining-room to his own study. He had been waiting for Deryk to come back and could not imagine where he had gone; it was not much to ask of him that he should remain in the room till the end of dinner on his first night at home; apparently he had not changed much in two years.

"How is Rayn and?" Hatherly asked, as he pulled two armchairs to the fire and arranged a rest for Sir Aylmer's feet.

"As—effervescent as ever," was the reply, given a little grudgingly. Sir Aylmer never understood how he came to surrender so easily and often to Raymond's spell; yet, after their two-minute discussion of the Jameson Raid, he had set his mind to work for the first time on the wider potentialities of money. A growing intelligence department, collected automatically and of necessity to watch on his behalf what he had neither time nor knowledge to watch for himself, guided his hesitating steps beyond the limits of pure commerce. Each earlier development had followed logically from the one before; he had built a railroad to carry grain, he had bought lumber and steel to build a railroad. Hitherto he had not confused commerce with politics; that steady concentration of purpose, indeed, distinguished him from old Diethelm, who was always flitting between Frankfurt, Paris, London and New York, trying to consolidate the international bankers and open their eyes to a realisation of their own diplomatic powers. (It was