

"There are swells and swells," responded Mr. Fildew dryly. "What was the name of this particular one?"

"The Earl of Loughton. Pitched off his hunter and broke his neck. Not quite one-and-twenty."

Mr. Fildew, who had been in the act of lifting his glass to his lips, put it down untasted. Mr. Nipper turned and stared at him.

"Hullo! I say, what's the matter? Was the young lord a friend of your grace?" This was asked with something of a grin. "By Jove! you are all of a shake."

"The Earl of Loughton was no friend of mine. I never saw him in my life. But I happen to be acquainted with the man who will succeed him in the title."

"Bully for you, my boy," responded Mr. Nipper, who could not forget that he had once spent six months in the States. "Here's the account. Perhaps you would like to read it." He pointed to a brief paragraph, which Fildew, with the newspaper held up within an inch or two of his nose, read carefully through more than once.

"I must write to my friend to-night, and congratulate him," he said, in his usual quiet, matter-of-fact tone, as he laid down the newspaper. "It will be a great surprise for him."

"Let us hope that in the day of his prosperity the friends of his adversity will not be forgotten," said Nipper, who was one of the orators of the B. B.

"It is but a barren honor that he will come into," answered Fildew. "The title will be his, but the estates go elsewhere;" and nodding a curt "good-night" to the auctioneer, he emptied his glass and left the room.

CHAPTER III.

NEGOTIATIONS.

WHETHER Mr. Fildew ever wrote that particular letter respecting which he spoke to Mr. Nipper, is more than doubtful. Like many other men, he hated letter-writing, and it is possible that the incident in connection with Lord Loughton, to which he had seemed to attach so much importance when he first heard of it, may have assumed a different aspect when recalled to mind in the cool light of morning. In any case, there was no observable difference in his appearance or mode of life. He came and went, and smoked and drank, as heretofore; only it might be that he was a little more particular in scanning the newspapers than he had previously been. At the end of a week his friend Nipper said to him, "I see that poor young fellow was buried yesterday."

"You mean Lord Loughton? Yes, I saw the account in this morning's paper."

"Written to your friend yet?"

"No. On second thoughts it seemed to me that it would be better to wait a few weeks before troubling him. He'll have enough to do and plenty to think of for a little while."

"Well, I wouldn't lose sight of him if I were you. It must be rather nice to be on nodding terms with an earl. Not that I should care about that sort of thing, you know," added Nipper, hastily. He had forgotten for the moment that he was in the habit of posing as a democrat. "And then"—with a glance at Fildew's thread bare coat and patched boots—"he might do something for you, you know; some snug little government sinecure, or something of that kind. There's lots of 'em knocking about."

Mr. Fildew laughed a little bitterly. "It may be all very well for me not to forget him, but he may not choose to remember me."

"Well, that's the way of the world and no mistake," said the auctioneer, with a shrug. "But, for all that, I shouldn't forget to jog his memory. Where's the use of having swell friends if you can't make use of 'em?"

A few evenings later Mr. Fildew called for pen, ink, and paper, and, seating himself at a little table, apart from the rest of the company, he wrote the following letter, which George, the potman, afterward took for him to the nearest post:

"The Brown Bear Tavern, Chalcot Street, W. C.
"February 25th, 18—.

"Messrs. Flicker & Tapp, Bedford Row:

"GENTLEMEN—In common with a great number of other people, I have heard with extreme regret of the untimely demise of the late Earl of Loughton. That a life so abounding in promise should be thus suddenly nipped in the bud must be almost enough to cause those near and dear to him to arraign the decrees of Providence."

"I know not whether it may be a matter of any moment either to the Dowager Countess of Loughton or to yourself, as business agents for the family, to be made acquainted with the whereabouts of the present earl; but should it be so, I think I may safely say that I am the only person in England who can furnish you with his address. You may probably be aware that Mr. Lorrimer, as we still call him, has resided abroad for several years; but as I happen to have had a communication from him only a fortnight ago, I am fully competent to supply you with the information stated above. Should you think it worth your while to take any notice of this communication, I am to be found here any evening from 8.30 till 11.30 p.m."

"I am, gentlemen, faithfully yours,

"JOHN FILDREW."

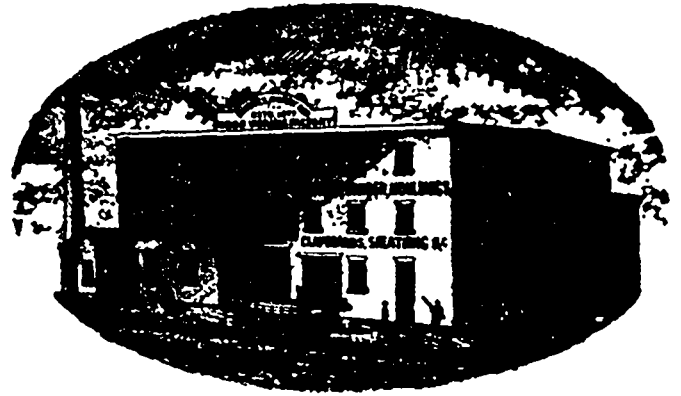
Two evenings passed away without any response, but on the third evening a dapper little man, with a very shiny hat and a pair of whiskers several sizes too large for him, walked into the bar of the Brown Bear, and asked for Mr. Fildew. Our friend, being called, came lounging out of the coffee-room, his glass in his eye and a thumb in each waistcoat pocket.

(To be continued.)

RHODES, CURRY & CO.

AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA,

Manufacturers and Builders,



PROPRIETORS AMHERST WOOD-WORKING FACTORY,

Where we keep in stock and made to order, Doors, Sashes, Blinds, Window and Door Frames, Stair Rails, Posts and Balusters; Brackets and Mouldings of all descriptions; Kiln-dried Walnut, Ash, Birch, Pine and Spruce Lumber. Also, Flooring and Sheathing, Shingles, Laths and Pickets.

BRICKS, LIME, PLASTER AND HAIR ALWAYS ON HAND.

Planing, Sawing and Turning done at short notice.

Wood Mantels and School Furniture a specialty.

All orders promptly attended to and shipped free of charge.

N. A. RHODES,
Builder.

NAT. CURRY,
Factory and Business Manager.

MARK CURRY,
Lumber Yard.

OPPOSITE DEPOT, AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA.

MACDONALD & CO.

BRASS FOUNDERS,

STEAM & HOT WATER ENGINEERS

—MANUFACTURERS OF—

STEAM ENGINES AND BOILERS.

MINING MACHINERY PROMPTLY PROVIDED.

WM. STAIRS, SON & MORROW,
HALIFAX, N. S.

HEADQUARTERS FOR

MOUNT VERNON COTTON DUCKS,
YARMOUTH COTTON DUCKS.

JOSEPH GUNDRY & CO'S

Best Salmon Twine,
Patent Top'd Salmon Twine,
Salmon Trawl Twine,
Trawl Twines,
Mullet Twines,
Net Norses,
Cotton Nets,

Seal Twine, twisted,
Seal Srawl, do
Mackerel Twine,
Caplin Twines,
Herring Twines,
Net Marline,
Hemp Nets.

MULLET SEINE NETTING; ENGLISH SEINE NETTING.

BUCHANAN'S Hand Line and Trawl Hooks
THE DARTMOUTH ROPE WORK CO'S Puro Manilla Rope, Sisal Rope, MM
Manilla Rope, Hemp Rope, Lobster Marline, etc., etc.

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

THE AMERICAN CYCLOPEDIA.

FACTS SHOWN BY FIGURES.

OVER \$500,000 expended by D. Appleton & Co. in the preparation of this GREAT WORK before a page was printed.

OVER \$50,000 annually expended by them to secure to their subscribers a continuance of these advantages.

OVER 7000 ILLUSTRATIONS and Maps, giving the latest and most correct representations of the subjects.

OVER 22,000 pages of the concentrated wisdom of the world.

OVER 600 Editors and Contributors, among the ablest writers and specialists of Europe and America.

OVER 2,600,000 volumes now in daily use.

OVER \$15,000,000 has been already invested in this great work by the English speaking people.

For terms and information, address

SOUTHWORTH BROS., Carlton House, Halifax.