



CHAPTER I

"Upon my soul, Sen, I'm ashamed of bringing you to such a place! If you weren't the most ridiculously good-tempered man in the world, you would pitch me over this confounded jetty—you would indeed."

"Mine is an eventful history," as the grand old hero of the stage always says when he begins to reel off his story. "If I haven't told you already, it is because I have too much regard for you; cause I would tell it to you in almost any words."

"That would have the merit of candor at any rate," said Sen. "Yes, and I should say 'Clear up these debts for me and give me enough to start in the diamond fields, or pay my passage out to the Cape, where I can join the mounted police, or—'"

"Well, you'll see me back in St. James' street before long, Sen," he said. "Don't worry too hard, and—be bent down in the saddle and lowered his voice—'don't carry those Republican ideas of yours into effect and cut off poor Lady Florence's head.'"

"I think you'd better forget all that," he said, in as low a voice. "Good luck with your uncle. By the way, it is going to rain. I believe you'd better borrow a mackintosh."

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