empty stables and warehouses. The keeper of a coffee stall, touched one night by his woe-begone appearance, give him some halfdried coffee grounds in a paper, together with a handful of crusts.

"Put-'arf that in a pint of water he said, looking critically at the sod dened mess of coffee, "an when comes to bile let it settle. It'll surprise you to find 'ow grateful an' comfortin' it tastes on a cold night. for the crusts, if you bake 'em over the fire, they're just as good as the rusks you buy in tins."

This good Samaritan had repeated his gift on two occasions, and Philip had a fairly large supply of small coal sent to his mother by the colliery company, so his position, desperate enough, was yet bearable had he but sought to accustom himself to the new conditions of life. There was a chance that his wild broodings would have yielded to the necessity to earn a living, and that when next a situation was offered to him he would keep it, but the occurrences of this stormy night had utterly shaken him for the hour. He was on the verge of lun-

As he passed through the dark archway leading to his abode, the desolate stable yard was fitfully lit by lightning, and in the distance he heard the

them and soon had a light. On oth- | yard. er occasions his next task was to the strength left to carry out his his mother's confidence in him,

He sprang erect with a mocking lit- hitherto seemed impossible. tle laugh, picked up the candle and the piece of rope, and climbed the whistling as he bent over the hearth stairs. He paused irresolutely at the and resumed the laying of the fire absire, went on and stood at the side of such sudden soul-weariness. come on her lips.

bled violently.

murmured. "You told me to trust in quently quite unapproachable. God, but I think God has forgotten will remember me."

hook which he had been driven to the than was ever given in later days to ceiling during the harness-room per- the most costly dishes of famous resiod of the room beneath. With equal taurants yet unbuilt. deliberation he knotted the other end several inches above the floor.

tled fixity of purpose far beyond his an hour elapsed before he thought of preparations. At last they were com- ascertain the progress of external stood erect

back from the brink of death.

thunder comes, then I will jump."

Were not the surrounding walls con-structed of stone and brick there must result of the water poured onto it. He gathered thirty thir-sized pebbles fully that when at last he paused at hand clinched on the tiny parcel in Philip ate steadily, and the bill am-

dows cracked, and the woodwork began to scorch. In the same instant a dreadful roll of thunder swent over the boy was absolutely a stranger to a dreadful roll of thunder swent over the boy was absolutely a stranger to the boy was abs the locality, and a deluge of rain, without any further warning dos without any further warning, des- mop and produced the meteor with and did not notice the packet of let- of a shop-walker.

The surface felt hard and brittle. and did not notice the packet of let- of a shop-walker.

ing. In reality it occupied but very the heat still stored below when the key in his pocket before he missed contrast between Philip, a social the seconds. People in the distant the heat still stored below when the few seconds. People in the distant street could not distinguish the crash panying thunder, and the downpour up the window, replenished the fire, mighty gust of wind swept through bars. What, indeed, did this outcast of rain came in the very nick of time to prevent the wood in the house and the neighboring factories from blazing forth in a disastrous fire.

mize the strange light shooting up er's death. from the cavity. There was a loud crackling as the rain poured over the meteor and gradually dulled its that curiously secluded nook. Amazed and cowed-not by the nat-

but by the interpretation he placed on it—the boy unfastened the rope from his neck.

"Very well, mother," he whispered, aloud. "If it is your wish I will live. I suppose that God speaks in this wav."

CHAPTER III.

What the Meteor Contained.

faint rumble of thunder. The elemen- was almost choked now from another with many others, were represented by tary strife was beginning again. This cause than strangulation. The steam a number of pawn tickets stuffed into was the second and more disastrous pouring in from the fractured window one of the envelopes of his mother's outbreak of the evening of March 19th. panes was stifling. He took off his packet of letters. But the exeperience Although wet to the skin he was coat, first removing from an inner of even a few weeks had taught him warm now on account of his long and pocket the bundle of letters found roughly how to estimate time by the rapid walk. When he unlocked the under Mrs. Anson's pillow, and care- sun, and he guessed the hour to be door another flash of lightning reveal- fully stuffed the worn garment into eight o'clock, or thereabouts. ed the dismal interior. He closed and the largest cavities. By this means locked the door behind him. On the he succeeded somewhat in shutting teor. His toilet was that of primeva mantlepiece were a farthing candle out the vapor as well as the lurid man, being a mere matter of rising and some matches. He groped for light that still flared red in the back and stretching his stiff limbs. While

light a fire. By sheer force of habit and the improvised blind plunged the white specks, the largest of which was he gathered together some sticks and room into impenetrable darkness. He not bigger than a grain of bird seed. bits of paper and arranged them in felt his way to the stairs and found These were the particles which shot the grate. But the task was irksome the candle, which he relighted. The through the broken window during to him. It was absurd to seek any rain beating on the roofs and on the the previous night. He picked up a degree of comfort for the few minutes outer pavements combined with the few and examined them. They were he had to live. Better end it at once. weird sounds in the inclosed yard to hard, angular, cold to the touch, and Moreover, the storm was sweeping up make a terrifying racket, but it was a dull white in color. over the West End with such marvel- not ilkely that a youth who attributed On entering the yard he saw hunlous speed that the lightning now his escape from a loathsome death, dreds of these queer little rough pebplayed through the tiny room with a self-inflicted, to the direct interposibles, many of them as large as peas, dazzling brilliancy. and the wretch- tion of Providence in his behalf, ed candle burned with blue and ghost- would yield to any sentimental ears like feebleness. The cold of the house, on that account. Indeed, although too, began to strike chilly. He was quite weak from hunger, he felt an so exhausted from hunger that if he unaccountable elation of spirits, a did not eat soon he would not have new-born desire to live and justify sense of power to achieve that which

He even broke into a desultory top, but yielded to overwhelming de- andoned five minutes earlier with his mother's bed, where she had died. candle, too, burned with cheery glim-He fancied he could see her lying mer, as if pleased with the disappearthere still, with a smile on her wan ance of its formidable competitor. face face and unspoken words of wel- Fortunately he had some coal in the house—his chief supply was stored in A flood of tears came and he trem- a small bin at the other side of the vard, beyond the burial place of the "I am coming to you mother," he raging, steaming meteor, and conse-

Soon the fire burned merrily, and me. I don't want to live. I want to the coffee-stall keeper's recipe for us- fal on my head," he said aloud, forjoin you, and then ,perhaps, God ing coffee grounds was put into practice. Philip had neither sugar nor He stooped and kissed the pillow, milk, but the hot liquid smelled well, nestling his face against it, as he was and he was now so cold and stiff, and wont to fondle the dear face that rest- he had such an empty sened there so many weary days. Then sation where he might have worn a he resolutely turned away, descended | belt, that some crusts of bread, softfour steps, of the ladder-like stairs, ened by immersion in the dark comand tied the clothesline firmly to a pound, earned keener appreciation

After he had eaten, he dried hi of the cord around his neck, and he damp garments and changed his soakcalcualted that by springing from the ed boots for a pair so worn that they stairs he would receive sufficient scarcely held together. But their shock to become -insensible very dryness was comforting. An odd feelquick, while his feet would dangle ing of contentment, largely induced by the grateful heat of the fire, ren-There was a terrible coolness, a set- dered his actions leisurely. Quite half years, in the manner of these final peeping through the back window to pleted. He blew out the candle and events. The rain was not now pelting down with abnormal fury. At that instant the room became ab- was still falling, but with the quiet solutely flooded with lightning, not persistence that marks-in London in a single flash, but in a trembling, parlance-"a genuine wet day." The continuous glare, that suggested the steam had almost vanished. When effect of some luminous constellation, he removed his coat from the broken fierce with electric energy. Before panes he saw with surprise that the his eyes was exhibited a startling flagstones in the yard were dry within of the familiar objects of his a circle of two feet around the hole lonely abode. The brightness, so made by the meteor. Such drops as sustained and tremulous, startled him fell within that area were instantly obliterated, and tiny jets of vapor "I will wait," he said. "When the from the hole itself betrayed the presence of the fiery object beneath. His Even as the thought formed in his boyish curiosity being thoroughly armind, a ball of fire,-so glowing, so oused, he drew an old sack over his iridescent in its flaming heat that it head and shoulders, unlocked a door dominated the electric waves flutter- which led into the yard from a tiny ing in the over-burdened air-darted scullery, and cautiously approached past the little window that looked out the place where the meteor had placover the tiny yard in the rear of the ed its way into the ground. The house, and crashed through the flag- stones were littered with debris, but stones with the din of a ten-inch shell. | the velocity of the heavy mass had

wood burst into sudden flame. of the fire. The warmth within and lip ran after his headgear, and so was no less by its complete obviousness, without the house made him intoler-The torrent of water caused a dense ably drowsy, and he fell asleep while volume of steam to generate in the murmuring his prayers, a practice abback yard, and this helped to mini- andoned since the hour of his moth-

In reality, Philip was undergoing a novel sort of Turkish bath, and the perspiration induced thereby probabbrightness. Pandemonium raged in ly saved him from a dangerous cold. He slept long and soundly. Long ere the coal in the gratet was exhausted, ural phenomenon he had witnessed— the presence of the meteor had pen etrated the surrounding ground, and the house was far above its normal temperature when he awoke.

The sun had risen in a cloudless sky. A lovely spring morning had succeeded a night of gloom and disaster, and the first sound that greeted his wondering ears was the twittering of the busy sparrows on the housetops. Of course he owned nei-Philip descended the stairs. He ther clock nor watch. These articles,

His first thought was of the me lacing his boots he noticed that the The lightning had ceased totally, floor was literally covered with tiny

some the size of marbles and a few bigger ones. They had evidently flown on all sides, but, encountering lofty walls, save wheer they forced a way through the thin glass of the window, had fallen back to the ground. terspersed with them he found pieces of broken stone and jagged lumps of material that looked and felt like

By this time the meteor had cooled sufficiently to reveal the nature of the Didn't you get a job." crust. It appeared to be an amalgam of the dark iron-like mineral and the white pebbles. Through one deep fissure he could still see the fiery heat of the thing, and he imagined that when the internal heat had quite exhausted itself the great ball would easily break into pieces, for it was rent in all dir-

His first exclamation was one

thankfulness. "I am jolly glad that thing didn't getting that had its advent been delayed a second or two, the precise locality selected for its impact would not have mattered much to him.

"I wonder what it is," he went on "Is is worth anything? Perhaps I dig it out, I may be able to sell it as a curiosity."

A moments reflection told him, however, that he would not be able to disinter it that day, even if he possessed the requisite implements. On its lower side it was probably still red hot. Through the soles of his boots, broken as they were, he could easily feel the heat of the ground, so the experiment must be deferred for twenty-four hours longer. At any rate, he was sure that his mysterious visitor represented a realizable asset, and the knowledge gave him a sudden distaste for coffee grounds and stale crusts. He resolved to spend his remaining three half pence on a breakfast, and at the same time make some guarded inquiries as to the nature and pos-

sible cash value of the meteor itself. Evidently its fall had attracted no public attention. The fury of the elements and the subsequent heavy rain were effectual safeguards in this res pect, and Johnson's Mews, marked out

Large sections broke away, though ters lying in the chair. Never be- "Now, boy, what do you want here?" This ended his investigations for the back. In another second he would gold and precious stones cut off from set his coat to dry, and dragged his the yard and carried his tattered cap want there? mattress from the bedroom to the front into the passage. That settled it. Phi- Confused by the sudden demand, and

> thought. "In any case, it will be best information, sir," he answered. not to carry them out in future. They get so frayed, and some day I may amazed by the difference between the

> Mews, he found the untidy life of prise. "What information can the Mile End road eddying in restless give you?" confusion through a gale. The gaunt, The wealth of the firm oppressed high walls surrounding his secluded this man. He could only speak in acblustering, March wind that was now concerned. drying the streets and creating much ill-temper in the hearts of carters, stall owners and girls with large hats and

full skirts. In a word, everything ful place, was dealt with accordingly. other considerations. In one instance a heavy tarpaulin was and horses of a passing omnibus. They obeyed silently, and approached great quantity of severe yet cogent remarks by the wagoner and driver, assisted by the 'bus conductor and various passengers.

Philip laughed heartily, for the first time since his mother's death. waited until the driver and the wagoner had exchanged their farewell compliments. Then he made briskly toward an establishment where three halfpence would purchase a cup of coffee and a bun.

In ten miutes he felt much refresh ed, and his busy mind reverted to the mysterious package he carried. Think ing it best to seek the counsel of an older head, he went to O'Brien's shop. The old man was taking down the shutters, and found the task none too easy. Without a word, Philip helped him, and soon the pensioner was wiping his spectacles in the shelter of the

"I dunno what the weather is comin' to at all," he grumbled. night was like takin' uv the Redan, an' this mornin' reminds me uv crossin' the Bay o' Biscay." "It certainly was a fearful thun-

derstorm," said Phillip. "Faix, boy, that't a thrue word.

was like old times in the hills in Injia where the divli himsel holds coort a pause. some nights. But what's the matter?

Philip laughed again. "I am not sure yet," he replied. "I really want you what this is."

With his hand in his pocket, he had untwisted the paper and taken out handed to O'Brien.

The old man took it, smelt it and

amination.

"It ain't alum," he announced. "No. I think not."

"An it ain't glass."

"Probably not."

"Where did yer get it?" "I found it lying on the pavement."

"O'Brien scratched his head. a quare lookin objec', anyhow. What good is it?"

possibly it might have some value."

tell me what it is made of." sical geography, knew that meteors its possession before he could dispose were articles of sufficient rarity to at of it. So his tone was not unkindly as ip blushed. tract attention. And he was tenacious he replied:

the best man to judge. He must un- go to a Hatton Garden merchant, derstand about stones," he went on. and, he, probably, would make you a The stout person's feelings were too

use. 'Tis a sheer waste of time. These | ished, you know, before it becomes | er words. German Jews round here are omad- saleable, and I must inform you that hauns. They don't know a watch from most rigid inquiry will be made as to boy. "You don't think I mean a clock, an' if they did they'd chate how it came into your hands."

you; I will go into the city."

He took the pebble, which he placfor demolition a fortnight later, were ed in his waistcoat pocket. Walking believe you, or you would be in cus- something to eat.' practically deserted now day and briskly, he traversed some part of the tody at this moment. Take it to night. Phillip did not then know that sorrowful journey of barely twelve Messrs. Isaacstein & Co., Hatton Gar- ly sort of a kid to get it, too. In you London had already much to talk hour earlier. What had happened to den. Say I sent you-Mr. Wilson is go. I'll pas the bill. Lord lumme, about in the recorded incidents of two change his mood he did not know, and my name—and make your best terms it'll do me good to see you." storms. The morning newspapers were scarcely troubled to inquire. Last with Mr. Isaacstein. He will treat hysterical with headlines announcing night he hurried through these streets you quite fairly. But, again, be sure ed his neighbor, whose breath had refires, collapse of buildings, street ac in a frezied quest of death. Now he and tell the truth, as he'll investigate turned to him. cidents, and lamentable loss of life in strode along ful lo fhope, joyous in your story fully before he is satisfied all parts of the metropolis. As the the confidence of ilfe and youth. His as to its accuracy." day wore, and full details came to one dominant thought was that his bursts himself. Ere, I'll bet you two Mr. Issactein, when Philip is band, the list of mishers would be mother had protected him had taken quitted the shop. He minded with hand, the list of mishaps would be mother had protected him, had taken quitted the shop. He mingled with bobs 'e pays up." doubled, while scientific observers him from the dark gate of eternity. the jostling crowd and drifted into would begin a nine days' wrangle in Oddly enough, he laid far more stress Faringdon Road. the effort to determine the precise on his escape from the meteor than on "A diamond-worth hundreds distinctly saw the molten splash that clean cut was made through the pave- reason why the electrical disturbance the accident that prevented his con- pounds!" he repeated ,emchanically. accompanied its impact. He saw the mentment. The air was warm, with should have been wholly confined to templated suicide. This latter idea "Then what is the whole meteor worth heavy stones riven asunder as if they the hot breath of an oven, and it was the metropolitan area. Philip Anson, had vanished with the madness that and what am I worth?" were tissue paper, and, from the hole as much as Philip could bear when a ragged boy of fifteen, residing in a induced it. Philip was sane again, caused by the thunderbolt, or meteor he stood on the brink of the hole and desolate nook of the most disheveled morally and mentally. He was keencame a radiance that sent a spreading peeped in. At a good depth, nearly district in the East End, possessed the ly anxious to justify his mother's shaft of light upward like the beam half his own height he estimated, he very genesis of the mystery, yet the trust in him. The blustering wind, shaft of light upward like the beam half his own height he estimated, he very genesis of the highest half his own height he estimated, he very genesis of the highest half his own height he estimated, he very genesis of the highest half his own height he proprietor and lip. "He sent he hugely delighted the proprietor and lip. "He sent he hugely delighted the proprietor and lip. "He sent he hugely delighted the greengrocer, who, of business. It is of a prime of a searchlight. The warmth, too, of saw a round ball firmly imbedded in line a spirit of resistance, of did not hurry toward Hatton Garden. of a searchlight. The warmth, too, of saw a round ball firmly imbedded in the object was almost overpowering. The warmth, too, of saw a round ball firmly imbedded in the search of the object was almost overpowering. The warmth, too, of business. It is out to the control of business. It is out to the search of the object was almost overpowering. The sauntered, rather, with his right. The warmth, too, of business. It is out to the control of business. It is out to the control of business, kept of business. It is out to the control of business in the intervals of business, kept of business, kept of business. It is out to the control of business in the intervals of business, kept of business in the intervals of business, kept of business in the intervals of business. It is out to the control of business in the intervals of business in the intervals of business. It is out to the control of business in the intervals of business in th the object was almost overpowering. the earth. It was dully red, with its spen that would deltay close and fissures as the Were not the surrounding walls consumpted in the surrounding walls consumpted in the surrounding walls consumpted in the surrounding walls constructed in the surrounding wall was a surrounding walls constructed in the surrounding walls constructed in the sur

All this seemed to the wondering they did not crumble, and he received fore had these documents left his pos they did not crumble, and he received fore had these documents left his pos they did not crumble, and he received fore had these documents left his pos they did not crumble, and he received fore had these documents left his pos they did not crumble, and he received fore had these documents left his pos they did not crumble, and he received fore had these documents left his pos they did not crumble, and he received fore had these documents left his pos they did not crumble, and he received fore had these documents left his pos they did not crumble, and he received fore had these documents left his pos they did not crumble, and he received fore had these documents left his pos they did not crumble, and he received fore had these documents left his pos they did not crumble they did not crumble. boy to be a very long time in passing. In reality it occupied but night. He used the sacking to block have obeyed the impulse, had not a him by panes of thick glass and iron

blown into a strange sea of events. Philip flushed and stammered:

"They are quite safe there," he "I-er-only wished to obtain some Like all others, the shopman was

boy' smanners and his appearance. Emerging from the haven of the "Information," he repeated in sur-

dwelling had sheltered him from the cents of adulation where the shop was Philip produced his white pebble.

"What is this?" he said.

The directness of the query again took his hearer aback. Without a that could be flapped or shaken, or word, he bent and examined the stone. rudely swept anywhere out of its right- Professional instinct mastered all "You must apply to that depart-

lifted clean off a wagon and neatly ment." He majestically waved his lodged over the heads of the driver hand toward a side counter. Philip glance rested on the boy.

Well," he said blankly, wondering why on earth the skilled shop-walker him. Philip was now quite collected with a more detailed statement.

kindly tell me what it is?"

"Where did you get it?" he asked. "I found it where it had fallen on the pavement.'

"Are you sure?" "Quite sure,."

"Strange!" was the muttered com- would close early. It was then nearment, and Philip began to understand ly eleven o'clock and he could not risk hitherto unsuspected.

"But what is it?" he inquired, after

"A meteoric diamond." "A meteoric diamond?"

"Is it worth much?"

dreds on pounds."

hundreds of pounds! Yet in his poc- cer. Phillip, bold in the knowledge of ket he had twenty-nine other spec- his wealth, resolved to try what he adjusted his glasses for a critical ex- imens, many of them larger than the could achieve on credit. one chosen haphazard for inspection, and in the back yard of his tenement lay heaps of them, scattered about the now," he said to the restaurant keeppavement like hail-stones after a show- er, "but if you will let me have some er, while the meteor itself was a com- thing to eat I will gladly come back pact mass of them. He became some- this afternoon and pay you double."

he could say.

"There is no harm in asking, is sionally, and he believed the boy's sant smile. there? Some one should be able to story. And the thing was of such rar- The fat man grew apopletic and ity and of such value that the hold- turned his eyes to the sky. Philip, from his small store of phy- er must be fully able to account for

"It is quite true, but if you want to his downright manner and direct "I suppose that a jeweler would be ascertain its exact value you should stare. "Maybee; but I don't see what's the fair offer. It has to be cut and pol- much for him. He could find no oth- quietly. "It fell from heaven," was the whol-

"I never thought of that, yet I ly unexpected answer, for Philip was ought to know by this time. Thank shaken and hardly master of his fa-

"Yes, yes, I know. Personally, I

## CHAPTER IV.

have been an immediate outbreak of Much larger than a football, it seem- and a few jagged lumps of the iron- the door of a great jewelry establish- his pocket, the parcel which had sud- paid cheerfully paid cheerfully paid cheerfully the door of a great jewelry establish- his pocket, the parcel which had sud- paid cheerfully paid cheerfully paid cheerfully the door of a great jewelry establish- his pocket, the parcel which had sud- paid cheerfully paid cheerfully paid cheerfully the door of a great jewelry establish- his pocket, the parcel which had sud- paid cheerfully paid cheerfully paid cheerfully the door of a great jewelry establish- his pocket, the parcel which had sud- paid cheerfully paid cheerfully paid cheerfully the door of a great jewelry establish- his pocket, the parcel which had sud- paid cheerfully pai fire. As it was, the glass in the windows cracked, and the woodwork began to soweh. The society of the society

> really possible that he ,Philip Anson, ment." orphaned, beggared, practically a Then he walked off tostarving tramp, should have the rich- duct steps, and Mr. Juda es of Golconda showered upon him in ter him. that mad fashion. If the small stone "Talks like a little he had shown to the jeweller was does. If my little Jimmie worth hundreds, then some of those would ha' been just about in the paper were worth thousands, Lord lumme, I 'ope the lad while as for the stone in the back again, an' not for the sale yard of his house-well, imagination bloomin' ninepence, either boggled at the effort to appraise it. oes, mum : Yes'm. Fred The thought led to a sense of caution, mornin:" of reserve, of well-reasoned determin- After crossing Holborn Vision ation not to reveal his secret to any- lip stood for a little while body. Perhaps, it would not be best the showroom of a motor to take Messrs. Isaacstein & Co. in- was not that he was interested to his confidence wholly. He would har or De Dion cars-then simply show them the stone he had known to the general noise found and exhibited to Mr. Wilson, land-but rather he wished and take the best price they offered. carefully the program to be Then, with the money in his posses- with Mr. Isaacstein. With. sion, he could effect a much needed unlooked for in one of his change in his appearance, visit them decided that the meteor sh

spend during many years. Above all else was it necessary that ly pedigree. Philip resolut his meteor should be removed to safer place than Johnson's Mews was his own property. Philip had no scruples about approp- reasonable inquiry might be riating it. Lords of the Manor and all quarters where meteories Crown rights he had never heard of. were obtainable as to whether His mother, watching his every ac- such a stone was missing was

were not extricated from its close em- small, elderly personage, a man with tion from some Elysian height, had he would obtain from Mr. Is brace without some difficulty and a clever, kindly eyes, who was submit- sent the diamond-loaded messenger a receipt acknowledging its ing to microscopical examinations a as a token of her love and care. It and a small advance of money number of tiny stones spread out on was his, and no man should rob him low its real worth, leaving s a chamois leather folding case. He of it. It behooved him to be sparing tion of the transaction unit quietly removed the case when his of explanations and sturdy in defence date. The question of giving of his property. A good deal depended on the forth- for it was a difficult one to

coming interview, and he wished he had sent such a direputable urchin to could convert a small fraction in his would permit him to hep l pocket into a few honest pennies with Mews altogether out of the rein his wits. He held out the pebble the king's head on them. The excite- a more reputable habitation ment and exercise had made him hun- provided once he had the "I found this," he said. "I thought gry again. His breakfast was not of funds. it might be valuable, and a friend ad- ample proportions, and his meals of Thinking he had successfully vised me to bring it here. Will you yesterday had been of the scantiest. It would be well to face the diamond The man behind the counter stared merchants with the easy confidence He entered Hatton Garden, at him for a moment, but he reached that springs from a satisfied appetite. over for the stone. Without a word Yet, how to manage it? He was sorhe placed it beneath the microscope ry, now he had not borrowed a six- bearing the legend, "Isamste and gave it a very brief examination. pence from O'Brien. The old soldier Diamond Merchants, Kimbel Then he pressed it against his cheek. would certainly have lent it to him. He even thought of returning to the Mile End Road to secure the loan, bue he happened to remembre that the youth, who surveyed him in day was Saturday, and it was prob- grille with an arched opening

that his meteor possessed attributes the delay of the long, double journey. At that instant a savory smell was wafted to him. He was passing a ilttle restaurant, where sausages and onions sizzled gratefuly in large, tin trays, and pork chops lay in inviting prodigality amid rich, brown gravy. The proprietor, a portly and greasy "A great deal. Probably some hun- man, with a bald head and whiskers, was standing at the door ex-Philip felt his face growing pale. changing views as to business with the white pebbles, which he now That dirty white, small stone worth his next door neighbor, a green gro-

> He walked up to the pair. "I have not got any money just

what faint, and leaned against the Neither man spoke at first. Philip "Tis case that surmounted the counter. | was always unconscious of the quaint "Is that really true?" was all that discrepancy between his style of speech and his attire. He used to resent "I cannot tell you. I thought that The expert valuer of diamonds smil- bitterly the astonishment exhibited ed. His first impulse was to send for by strangers, but to-day he was far re-"What! A scrap of white shtone like the police, but he knew that meteoric moved above these considerations, and that. Arrah, what's come over ye?" diamonds did fall to earth occa- he backed up his requst with a plea-

"Well. I'm-" he spluttered.

The greengrocer laughed, and Phil-"Do you refuse?" he said, with

"Well, of all the cool cheek-"

"It is a fair offer," persisted swindle you, surely ?" "Well, there! I never did!"

But the greengrocer intervened. "You're a sharp lad," he guffawed. "D'ye want a job?" "No," was the short reply. "I want

"Mr. Judd, are you mad?" demand-

"Not a bit. The bloomin' kid can't get through a bob's worth if he Mr. Wilson's messenger,

"Done! Walk in, sir. Wot'll you be ment, filled with glass pleased to 'ave, sir ?" Philip's indignation at the restaur- seated. ant keeper's sarcasm yielded to his wish to see him annihilated later in checked himself. What does the day. Moreover, the sausages real son want?' he went ly smelt excellently, and he was now his Ludgate Hill acquait ravenous. He entered the shop, and useful to Philip: gave his orders with a quiet dignity "He wants nothing, sit, The keen, strong, March wind soon that astounded the proprietor and lip. "He wants not be to you of a print

THURSDAY, NO "Thank you, Mr. Judd"

for me, but some day I may

again, and gradually increase his sup- mentioned at all. Of comply of diamonds until he had obtain- mon discrehant would inc ed more money than he could possibly ognize the stone as a me here to the simple stateme

solution, Philip wasted no me

able that the Hatton Garden offices admit letters and small parts "Is Mr. Isaactein in?" sail "Oah, yess." grinned the

"Will you kindly tell him! see him?" "Oah, yess." There was a in ing somewhere in the atmost the young Hebrew had not a drift yet. The gaunt and visitor was evidently burley

accent of such gentle people to the office on business. Philip waited a few seco terval by copying an address stamp book.

"Why do you not tell Mt. h I am here : he said at last

"I had better warn you Wilson, of Messrs. Grant & gate Hill, sent me here Issacstein. Wilson and say that the refuses to admit me ?." There was a sting in the d

coming from such a speak "Look 'ere." was the and "Go avay and blay, vil pizzy." Then Philip reached quick

the little arch, grabbed s 1 shirt, tie and waistcoat, and the big nose and thick lips against the wires of the ga "Will you do what I ask

But the boy's ready yell in clerks running, and a door m open. Phil released his op instantly explained his & of the clerks, an elderly a little deeper than the bo garments, and the mention son's name procured him Moreover, he had previous of the youthful janitor's With a cuff on the ear, "Dash my buttons, an you're a like-

personage was bidden to F and say that Mr. Wilson had boy to see Mr. Issactein. insult came when he was co ibly astonished by the appear ed before him in a space

(To be continued

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