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Lawyer and Money-Lender.

Sir John, however, proved more yielding than Mr. Mocrashi expected. As Charlie had promised reformation, he wished to give him a fair chance. He was willing to pay Mocrashi all the money he had advanced to the young man, with 5 per cent interest. If Mocrashi did not choose to accept these terms he could take what steps he chose.

Mocrashi was furious. He raged and threatened, but it was all no use. Sir John Trumper and his solicitor treated his raving with contempt. They knew he must accept the offer. If he refused it and made Charlie a bankrupt, he would only lose his money, and expose himself. And accept he did. "But great as Sir John is now," he said, as he pocketed the cheque, "I'll make him repent this dirty trick."

"Mr. Mocrashi," replied the solicitor, quietly, "Sir John directed me to warn you that, on no account whatever, will he again repay you a shilling lent to his son."

"Oh, I thought his son had reformed!" answered Mr. Mocrashi, with a sneer. "Sir John can't have much faith in his reformation when he thinks it necessary to send such cautions as that."

Perhaps the money lender was not so far wrong. Within three months after this interview who should come into Mr. Mocrashi's office but Charlie Trumper.

"What back again?" cried the money lender.

"Yes, answered the lad, a bit shame-faced, "I want some money."

"How much?"

"Ten thousand pounds."

The money lender gasped.

"Ten thousand pounds?" he exclaimed. "That's your idea of reformation, is it? Ho, ho. And you think I'm such a blamed fool as to lend it to you after the way I was chiselled last time?"

"I must have the money at once," was all Charlie Trumper replied.

"Oh, you're in a hole, are you? Well look ere. I wouldn't lend you a sixpence on your note of 'and' not a sixpence."

"That's your idea of reformation, is it? Ho, ho. And you think I'm such a blamed fool as to lend it to you after the way I was chiselled last time?"

And this was his revenge. How Mocrashi gnashed his teeth and swore vengeance against all the Trummers, past, present and to come! What a miserable two days those were! Over and over again he resolved to reject the £2,000 and prosecute, and over and over again he reconsidered his resolution. Prosecution would be so sweet; but was it worth £2,000? He had lost £8,000 already; the prospect of losing £2,000 more was more than he could bear.

On the second day after his interview with Sir John he again sought the solicitor-general's chambers. Ah, what a change had come over him since then! Then he was confident and elated at the prospect of wringing money from his adversary. Now he had come to capitulate and ask easier terms.

"Well?" demanded Sir John, "Will you accept my offer?"

"Couldn't you say £4,000, Sir John?" asked Mocrashi, in humble terms.

"Not a shilling more will I give. Now, what's your answer? I have no time to lose."

"Well, I suppose I must accept it, but it's a gross fraud."

"Don't talk to me of fraud, you blood sucker," replied Sir John contemptuously, as he took out his cheque book and drew a cheque for £2,000.

A minute later the note was handed to Sir John, who gave Mocrashi the cheque. Mocrashi then rose to go.

"By the way, Mocrashi," said Sir John, "you remember how you defrauded me out of £4,000 over an affair like this?"

"Oh, yes, you, like your son, were a forger in your time," replied the money lender, angrily.

"Now, it strikes me that this £2,000 you have lost over this affair is just about covers that £4,000 with 4 per cent interest, since you extorted it."

"Eh?" said the money lender, with a curious look on his face.

"Ay, isn't it funny?" the solicitor-general went on. "I told you at the time that I'd be even with you. And so I am. I haven't lost in the end over that transaction."

"What do you mean?" I don't understand you," cried Mocrashi, excitedly. He felt he had been tricked in some way or other.

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