



*Illustrated by J. Kilgour.*

**J**IMMY McANDREW belonged to Dunedin, but something had happened down there which was to him more deplorable than the silting up of the channel, and he came up to Wellington in search of an off-shoot from the waters of Lethe, so that he might drink and forget. Consolation he knew there was none. He was but twenty-two, then, and probably had not heard of the wonderful cures effected by a physician named Time. These things put into more prosaic language mean that Jimmy had fallen in love with a married lady, who was given to flirting with young men of immature notions. Jimmy was of her last gathering, and had taken himself and his emotions with much seriousness, this being his first experience of the kind. At a certain stage of things McAndrew, senior, observing the folly of his son, casually offered him an advanced position in the Wellington branch of his business, but with considerable tact did not press the lad to accept. Bob Graham, a friend of Jimmy's, was told off to advise a removal from the scene of disaster. Graham and McAndrew, senior, smoked

many pipes and drank many whiskies while arranging the plot, all of which was unknown to Jimmy, who worked right into their hands by accepting his father's offer. So it came about that a boat from the South landed him in Wellington one day, and a hansom took him to the house of a certain Mrs. Russell in Thorndon. Mrs. Russell was an old friend of his mother's, who from stress of circumstances was pleased to receive and chaperon well-referenced young men or maidens in the sanctity of her home for a monetary consideration. The McAndrews knew their son would be safe from the wiles of married Delilahs in that atmosphere when they arranged for him to board at Mrs. Russell's.

On the morning after his arrival Jimmy walked along the Tinakori Road with the intention of getting down town to wire his mother of his safe landing. Mrs. Russell had given him several directions about the way, but each one being more obscure than the other, he left the house knowing he must discover a way for himself. This he eventually did by crossing the earthquake-