

future; if so be that we may still find favour in your eyes."

12 But the men of the city were wroth with the rulers, and, moreover, some of them cried aloud "Shut up."

13 But one of the citizens stood up, boldly, and spake unto them, saying, "Wherefore is it that ye squander the money which belongeth to our brethren, and our wives, and our families.

14 "Our taxes bore heavily upon us, yet still did you increase them, and unto them which had much ye gave more, and from us who had little did ye even take that which we had.

15 "Did ye not give fifty talents to him that had already seven times fifty talents? and ye regarded not our prayer or petition, but cast it out from you; therefore will we also cast you out."

16 And the rulers answered and said, "We did only what seemed right to our eyes; but we pray you, brethren, to give unto us the power again to rule over you, and we will take heed in the days that are to come."

17 But the people would not hear them, but cried, "Away with them, away with them we will not have these men to rule over us."

18 And the rulers' anger

was kindled against the people, and they went each man to their tents, full of wrath.

19 But the people returned to their homes, well pleased one with another, and they chuckled each man to his neighbour, saying

20 "We have set them on hackles to-night, but they shall yet behold stranger things"

CHAP. II.

NOW when the day of election was nigh, the citizens communed together, and they called on men whom they wanted to rule over them.

2 And against Beveridge, the skilled apothecary, did they set a man named Cook, who had once been a ruler of the people before.

3 And he found favour in the eyes of the people, for his tongue was oily, withal; and he had found them speedy horses, and great riders, and betting men who made books.

4 And the men of the Foot-of-the-Dee said "This is the correct card, he shall rule over us."

5 The men of Greyfriars also chose a man named Wallace, one who was cunning in herbs and dealt in sweets; for they said "He will be a thorn in their flesh all the days of their life;