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is it?'

'Oh no. Nothing like an amputation. You open intelligently and you are on the job at once.'

'Well, in that case it would be very kind of you, I am sure.'

Stephen carried on ~~the~~ [to] the military headquarters, and walking in he found Miller already there, not to his surprise ~~although~~ [because] it was an almost daily occurrence, but surprising in the way the bunches of flowers had increased and in Christine's marked unfavourable expression.

'Oh Captain Miller,' he said, accompanying him to the door. 'I happened to tell the Admiral that I will probably [perform an] operation upon a favorable hernia tomorrow. Should you like to attend?'

'Is it a bloody operation?'

'Oh no, not what one should ~~really~~ [call] really bloody. If your first incision is badly mistaken it can be somewhat distressing, but we do not usually mistake.'

'I am sure you do not. But if I may I will excuse myself for this occasion though with many thanks for your polite attention.'

'Good day to you, sir.'

'Stephen, my dear,' said Christine. I am afraid I must beg you to tell that man not to call unless he is invited. He is becoming quite a nuisance - a wonderfully confident nuisance. He spent a long time talking to me through all these flowers and telling me that when he had taken up his appointed position at the Cape and when he had married to [a] woman he had chosen, there would be virtually nobody in the colony to compete with him in wealth and influence. I have met with some fools in my life even some god-damned fools, and a good many of them; but I have never met with such a *confident* ass as Miller: I suppose he