TUESDAY EVENING, AUG. 27, 187 The Foster Brother:

The Orphan of the Wreck.

CHAPTER XV.

"Right on to Aberdeen," answered George.

"Ah, how lucky. Once across the ferry, we shall get seated together on the top and chat all the way through Fife. Why, this is fortunate: Come along."

And placing his arm within that of George, the two young men strode down the pier to the ferry boat.

This meeting and brief conversation took place at Granton. When the Aberdeen coach started from the Black Bull, in Leith Street, the glimmering light of dawn had not quite get the mastery of the night's darkness, the passengers on top presented themselves to each other only as dim forms; but when the driver pulled up at Granton for the crossing of the ferry, the morning light had considerably increased, enabling the passengers to see each other's faces, hence the meeting which had taken place, and the glad surprise of the youths on recognising each other, and discovering that they were to journey together for a considerable distance.

The friend which George thus met was Dr. Manby, the medical superintendent of the Galston. Lunatic Asylum, with whom he had lately corresponded on the subject of the manine. They had been very intimate that Manby, Harry Markham and George had been called the three in separables. It may easily be supposed, therefore, that this chance and unexpected meeting produced a mutual pleasure of no ordinary kind.

"So Harry and your sister have got married," said Manby, as they walked to and fro on the deek. "How shabby not send me an invitation—only cards."

"We did not think you would get away, or would come the distance. Besides, the wedding was so quiet as to be almost private; though, of course that did not matter with you, had you been within reasonable distance."

"I should think not. In fact, had I known the day, and could have left my out a store without a for

tation awaits me. By the way, what interest have you in the man you wrote me about?"

"Ah," said George, "I thought you would be surprised by my inquiries. I could not well explain the matter in a letter; but now that we have met I can enlighten you, and you will find it as strange a story as you have heard for many a day."

"Ah. Well, do you know, I could not understand your interest in the man at all, for he is a being of whom nobody knows anything. We call him 'Walley' in the asylum—though how he got the name, or what it means nobody knows,"

"I gave him the name," replied George with a quiet smile.

"You," exclaimed Manby. "Pooh, man, you are dreaming. He has been in the house for twenty years, and has borne that name all the time."

"Nevertheless, I gave him the name," repeated George.

"I and I gave him the name," repeated George.

"The thing is impossible," he rejoined. "I don't know much about his history, but, of course, I am up in his case, and the cause of his madness. He and a child were the only survivors of a wreck which.—""

"I know," interrupted George. "I was

" I know," interrupted George. " I was

that child."

Manby stood still again and caught his breath in astonishment. The look with which he regarded George, made the latter burst-out in laughter.

"You think I am fit to become an inmate of your asylum, I don't doubt," he cried. "But, I assure you, my brain is not a bit touched—it is the sober truth, I speak, though I warn you the story you have to hear is a singular one."

"Singular!" echoed Manby. "If

"Singular!" echoed Manby. "If what you have now said is not a joke, it is inexplicable."

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"To you it is at present, but when my tale is told, you will understand it well enough, though your surprise and interest will not be lessened. We are too near the landing-place for me to begin it now. Wait till we' are in the coach, then you shall have it, and then shall you fully understand what interest I have in this man Walley."

"Well, you may easily imagine how eager I am to hear this strange history. But, I say, who is you man? Do you know him?"

"What man?" asked Georgo.

"The stout, thick-set, red-haired man, with the hooked nose and bushy eyebrows—standing aft."

"Exactly. Who is he?"

"I don't know. I never saw him before."

"Exactly. Who is he?"
"I don't know. I never saw him before."
"Are you sure of that?" asked Manby.
"Perfectly sure," replied George. "If Ind, I should have known him again easily, for his marks are peculiar, and his appearance is not particularly preposessing. Why do you think I should know him?"
"Because he also takes a special interest in Walley."
"He? That man."
"That man," returned the other. "He was at the asylum two or three days ago to see him, and Tellord, the keeper, informs me that he has come at intervals during the last tweaty years—since ever the maniac was confined there."
"Most extraordinary!" ejaculated George. "Has he not explained his connection with Walley, and the reason of his visits?"
"No, he is strangely reserved on these points—seems to me as if he did not wish his identity discovered—but is always intervals to learn yourself, though it struck me that he was more satisfied than disappointed when I gave it as my opinion that there is no prospect of Walley's reason returning to him.

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7 O'CLOCK.

did not matter with you, had you seen within reasonable distance."

"I should think not. In fact, had I known the day, and could have left my post, I should have come without a formal invitation."

"And nothing would have given us greater pleasure. But why didn't you call while in Edinburgh?"

"My dear fellow, I came there only yesterday, and was in consultation till late last night. This morning I had to start for Dundee, where another consultation awaits me. By the way, what interest have you in the man you wrote me about?"

A DELICHAM.

A. O. BUCHAM,

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