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BETWEEN LIFE AND DEA

BY FRANK BARRETT,

Author of "Fettened for Life," "THE ADMIRABLE LADY BIDDY FARE," etc., etc.

CHAPTER XIII.

IN THE PARK.

The name of James Redmond had a magic offect upon Nessa, whose mind, despite its youthful elasticity, had nover been able to throw off the dreadand horror impressed upon it by the terrible events of the night at the Towers. This unknown friend's sincerity was marked in his face: his warning was not to be disregarded. She drew vigorously on the rem and the more who, at the touch of her whip, had started forward, freeing ir bridle with a toss of the head from Eric's hand, now answered with a show of temper, rearing on her hind legs, and then backing ath head down, quivering nostrils, and swishing tail. The riding master, who had kept stolidly aloof, watching the proceedings from the tail of his eye in readiness to meet an emergency, now pressing to Nessa's side, asked, in a low tone, if she needed his assist-

"Please leave me for a few minutes," she said; and then turing to Ericsho bent down in her saidle, saying, in a voice treinulous with anxiety, "I do not understand you. Tell me what you mean."

Scautiful she looked with her lithe young fines hat their tells and her north

figure bent thus, her paled check, her pret-tily-enryed lips parted in expectancy, her large dark eyes dilated like a frightened doo's—more beautiful than over she had appeared to Eric. He gazed up in that wenderful face mute for a moment, and then her peril gave him the power to speak which adoration and taken from him.

adoration "d taken from him.
"Your is in danger," he said. "My father told me this morning, and sent me to save you. You have insured your life. The wretch who holds the policy has betrayed you to James Redmond that he may take you away and put you to death. They have no souls—no love. They will kill you to get money. It does not seem true, but it is true—ledieve me."

"I do believe it. I have escaped once." "You may not escape again if you fall in-to that man's hands. Go to my father. See, that is his name, and that is where you will find him." He put a card in her hand. "My sister is with him. She loves you, and my father loves you also. To night we go to our home in Copenhagen. If you will come with us, no one in the world shall take you away—not while I live.

Wonder gave place to gratitude, and with that feeling warming her heart the girl's eyes twinkled, and her face became fushed with rich colour and melted into a guil's eyes twinkled, and her lace became fushed with rich colour and melted into a smile. She was moved to something more then gratitude by this act of unsought friendship, by the devotion in the eyes of this honest, good looking young fellow. She was won by his simplicity and carriestness, which gained by the foreign accent with which he spoke, and certain quaint idiomatic terms which would look ridiculous in writing. "If I were a man," she thought, "I would give him my hand, and show him how I feel this kindiness." He must have read that wish in her eyes, for he instinctively raised his hand as he said—
"Refere ing, we are very true friends."
"You have thown me that," she said, and passing the card to her left hand she dropped her right into his. What he did with it she did hot seek to know, being occupied in reading the card.
"Eric Peierson," He read.
"Eric Peierson," He read.
"Eric Peierson," He read.

nless his rister a name is Lina. You will

here said, coming back to the said to be position. "It is a choice that "the added, "I would not lose I land and your

Line and your

cing tas many per na Ear to

Arthress;

"Mrs. Redmoud will not leave London with us."

"Are you sure?"
"Yes: I have been to the house." "Ah, she told you she would not pa. I remember she dreads the sea."

"No, it is not that," said Erio, after a brief silence. "I must tell you the truth. When Mrs. Redmand goes out of the house she will be taken to prison."

"Prison!" Nessa exclaimed in terror.
Taken to prison! Why?"

Because she is not a good woman." Nessa was silent a moment; then she

"Oh, I am sorry you should say so. It "Oh, I am sorry you should say so. It is so unjust so cruelly untrue. She is the best friend I have in the world. She has saved my life, and she has given up overything for my sake. I might have starved in London alone. She has managed my affairs, and given me all that I have."

Eric looked up at her in joy, wishing his father were there to hear this confirmation of the middle simplicity and improved.

of the girl's simplicity and innocence.
"What wrong has she done?"

asked, angrily.

"She has given you what was not hers to give—bought many things in your name which you cannot hope to pay for."

"Everything was for me, and every far-

thing shall be paid when the man who msured my life pays me what he promited to pay."
"He will never do that. He is pletting

to get Mrs. Redmond sent to prison, an put you into the hands of the man who will destroy you."

"Then he has done the wrong, not my friend. Oh, you must see that she is not in fault.

"I may have done her an injustice."

"You have done her an injustice," Nessa said, fiercely, "and you have a ronged me too. Oh, how ill you must think of me—what an ungrateful coward I must seem to believe that I must be out of believe that I would run away to be out of danger, and leave her to face alone the trouble she had brought upon herself for my sake! But I am not a coward; let them do their worst.

Her nostrils dilated. She set her teeth and knitted her brows as she quickly gathered up the rein that had slipped from her

What are you going to do?" Eric cried. in entresty, again putting his hand upon the reur

"I am going to my friend," she answered, resolutely. "Please take your hand from the rein."
"You can do no good."

"You can do no good."
"I can try. I can tell the truth, and no one can convict my friend when the truth is known. I must call for help if you detain

"One moment, I implore you. You are throwing your life away. It is not my opinion, but the assurance of the police themselves. You cannot save your friend; but I can. And I will, though you do not

know how much it costs me."

She had reason to remember those words Inter on with aching regret; at the moment they only inspired hope. Again she held in her mare, and bent down to listen to his scarcely audible voice. He was speaking rather to himself than to her, as he hurried

l, murmured -Surely it can be done. We shall find mear It is your life that has to be saved That is what I have to think of."

"You say you will save her?" said Nessa. "Yes, if you will save yourself."

"What am I to do?"

"Go to some place of safety, and stay there until I bring your friend to you."

"I will go to your father."

"No," said Eric, shaking his head in said

"No," said Eric, shaking his nesser in said ass; "you must not go to him."

Nessa's mind was too occupied with the

thought of her friend's escape to see the sig-

thought of her menus escape were the me giftcance of this prohibition. "I could go to the riding school in Fins bury," she suggested quietly.

**Yor, that is well. That gentleman will

lake core of you. Wait patiently. I will save your friend."

The if you do, I will never forget you."

The if you do, I will never forget you."

The if you do, I will never forget you."

The will never the will never

followed her with his eyes, his heart aching with regret as he renembered the eager joy of watching for her coming day after day, and realised that henceforth he was never more to look for that dear face. By an effort of resolution he turned away that he might concentrate all his thought on the

After a minute's reflection be said to the cabman, putting a sovereign in his hand—
"That is for what you have dean. Now pay attention to what I say, and do as I tell you, and I will give you twice as sunch."

"Right you are, sir," said the cabman, to said the hand.

touching his hat, and bending down to receive instructions.

"First, drive back to the house where you get me down

"The Pines, sir?"

"Yes; but go back by a different way, so that your horse's head is towards Couring Cross.

understand, sir,"

"I shall go into the house. But some one clse will come out and get into the cab. You will be ready to start at any moment: you will not wait for anything; out the instant that person is in the cub you will go.".
"Like a shot."

"That is so. Two men are in front of the house."

"I see 'em sir. One passed the time o' day to me; but I never enter into ne conversation with any one when I've got a gentleman fare."

"Good! Those men may try to stop you;

but you must not let them."
"I'll give 'em a doing if they try. Of course, ir, if they gets hold of the animal's head."

"They won't do that, I think; but they'll probably run after you, and call out to you

"Well, they'll have to run like steam to catch me; and as for hollering they'll screech themselves hourse force ever they'll make me hear. No fear, sir, as long as they're not lianging on to the horse."

When they are quite out of sight, you "When they are quite out of signs, you will open the trap, and take your directions from the perso, inside. When you have set down that person, you will take this card to the Charing Cross Hotel. If I am not there, my father will give you payment."

He gave the card on which he had written a few words to his father while con-

ten a few words to his father while concluding his instructions, and sprang into the hauson. The driver started off at a speed that showed his determination to earn his

The labourers were still waiting at the corner of the street. There were two gates to the drive that formed a semicircle before the house: the first stood open. Eric entered by the next, which he flung back in pasang. The can drew up before that one, as being the furthest removed from the corner

Eric sent his card to Mrs. Merrivale, with the words, "on a matter of importance," written under his name. He was shown into a sitting room. Mrs. Merrivale came down in a couple of minutes with the card in her hand and a look of surprise on her face, which was not lessened when she recog-

msed her visitor.

In a few words Eric laid the whole case before her, dwelling only on Nessa's generous refusal to save herself while her friend was in danger. That seemed to interest was in danger. That seemed to interest Mrs. Merrivale far less than the question of

her own escape.

"You say those wrelches are waiting outside to take me: how am I to get away?" she asked, shaking with fear.
"Will you follow my direction?"

"Certainly."

"You have a carriage?"

"Can you depend on the driver"
"If it's to his interest"

I will make it to his interest. Have you any female servant you can trust to help us?" You can trust any one if you make it

worth her while to help you. They'll do anything for money."
"Do you know if there is one more

"Do you know if there is one more anxious than the rest to get money?"

Mrs. Merrivale reflected a moment, and

decided that the housemaid was the greediest of gain.
"Let her dress at once in your clothes

the best you have - the things you would car if you were going to get things at shops. Let her wear a thick veil that cannot be

seen through, and fasten it so that it cannot be raised casely." "III sew it. "Do not forget to let her wear gloves.

"She shall keep her hands in my muff if she can't get my gloves on."
"At the same time you will does your sell for going out, as simply as a sible, not to attract attention. Conceal your hair if

"Lasts of the I—tolety?"

"Let another servant pack a valice with "Let another servant pack a value with a complete change of clothes for Miss Grahame. Hat, gloves—do not forget anything. Her safety—"

"All right; all right," interrupted Mrs. Merrivale, impatiently. "And when we're dreased as you suggest, what then?"

"Where is your concluman?"

"Down stairs."

"How long shall you be packing the valise and dressing?"

valise and dressing?"
"Twenty minutes."
"Then tell your man to be at the front door with the carriage by that time—the horse's head to the west, so that the carriage will go out by the gatentarest the corner of the street."
"Yes—what then?"
"I shall get into the carries."

"I shall get into the carriage with your servant. If they are detectives at the cor-ner of the street they will stop the carriage before it has gone a dozen yards. The moment you see them occupied in arresting your servant, you will slip out by the other gate, and jump into the cab I have left there. The driver has orders to start off at once in the other direction, and as soon as he finds he is out of danger, he will ask you where he is to drive to. You will tell him to take you to Radford's in Finsbury, where your friend is waiting in dreadful

"Not I," said Mrs. Merrivale emphatically. "I'm not going to Radford's. I shall make for Victoria, and take the first train that leaves there. I'll wire Nessa where she can find me."

Eric concealed his disgust under a stiff inclination of the head. Perhaps he did not wholly dislike a decision which gave him an opportunity of befriending Nassa a little

The carriage drove up to the door as Mrs Merrivale and the housemaid were coming downstairs—the latter thickly veiled and wearing a scalskin mantle and muff, which her mistress had taken the precaution to pad to her own proportions. She was skilled in this sort of work, and had even added to the disguise a knot of false hair, which shone out below the black veil on the back of the girl's head.

"Where is the valise with Miss Grahame's

dress!" Eric asked.

"Oh, I've torgetten all about that. There's no time to get it now."
"But I will not go without it," said Eric,

With a stamp of her foot and a coarse word, Mrs. Merrivale turned and ran upstairs. When she came down with the portmanteau Rrie opened it. He was not areless about the least thing that concerned

"I do not see any hat," he said.

With another remonstrance Mrs. Merrivale returned to the room above and brought down a toque and a fur jacket as well, forsecing that she might be sent up again if she omitted that.

She stood back as Eric opened the door. A round hat and a pair of eyes were visible over the wall between the two gates. Eric gave his arm to the housemaid and led her down to the carriage, taking the portman-teau in his right hand. Raising his hat he opened the door, and when the girl was scated, he put the portmanteau at the coachman's feet, saying, in a low voice—
"Radford's riding school in Finsbury
You shall have a pound if you get there in

half an hour.

He took the seat braide the housemaid. "My girl," said he, "I will give you five pounds if you prevent any one seeing your face for five minutes. A man will try to see your face directly; do not let him sue ceed."

Anxious to secure his sovereign the coach-man swept down the drive and out into the road in fine style. The labourers made a dart at the horses head, but the carriage had gone twenty yards before it was brought to a stand. One of the men stepped up and

to a stand. One of the med stepped up some scated himself beside the driver; the other came to the side of the carriage.

"We don't want to make it unpleasant, sir," said he, "but this lady's got to go to the rolicestation with us. You can get out if, and he, "but this half is got to go to the relicostation with us. You can get out if you like, and I will take your place."

"You will do nothing of the kind. I refuse to let you take this lady anywhere ratif you show me your substitute."

"I can pretty soon do that. I've got the warrent in my pocket, and I know Mrs. Merrivale there better than she knows me." "Charlie," said the man on the box in a

sharp tone of alarm as he turned round, "there's a female booking it in that cab. Have you got the right one there!" Charlie glanced at the cab, and then plucked at the housemaid's veil; but she was

prepand for this, and met the attack so well that two valuable minutes were lost before her veil was removed and then only with her bonnet and the knot of false hair.

"Bilked!" he cried, aghast.
"I thought as much," said his mate