

It was from such a fair beginning that Mr. Brereton had formed his scheme for his son's manhood and future greatness, but his hopes, well founded as they seemed, were destined to be blighted. One day the post brought him a letter from Mr. Morgan, Frank's tutor at Oxford. It ran thus :

" W. COLLEGE,

" December 19th, 186 .

" DEAR SIR,—Will you be so good as to inform me, how many cheques you have sent your son during the course of the last three months ; what was the date, and what was the amount of each ?

" Yours truly,

" R. F. MORGAN.

" JOHN BRERETON, ESQ.,

" Brereton House."

To which note, Mr. Brereton returned the following reply.

" BRERETON HOUSE.

" December 20th, 186 .

" DEAR SIR,—During the last three months I have given and sent my son three cheques, dated respectively October 20th, November 27th, December 17th. The value of the first was £100 ; of the second £70 ; of the third £100. The last I gave him to pay for his travelling expenses during this vacation.

" Yours truly,

" JOHN BRERETON."

" REV. R. F. MORGAN.

" W. COLLEGE.

" Oxford."

Then he dismissed the affair without giving it another thought. His surprise, therefore, was great when, two days afterwards, while he was breakfasting with his daughter,—his wife was already an invalid,—he was summoned into his library. " A gentleman wished to speak with him on urgent business," the servant said.

Having always a keen eye to pecuniary prospects, Mr. Brereton at once obeyed the summons. What was his surprise, however, when on opening the door of the room, he saw before him the Rev. R. F. Morgan of W. College.

" Very glad to see you, Mr. Morgan ; my son will greatly regret that he has missed the pleasure of your visit," he began.

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