The Foster Brother The Orphan of the Wreck.

CHAPTER XVI.

ORGE'S INTRODUCTION TO ARDGOWAN-VERHEARS AN IMPORTANT CONVERS TION, AND FORMS A DELIGRIFUL ACQUAINTANCE.

"I beg your pardon, sir," replied George. "I am Mr. Eglantine. I arrived a few minutes ago, and the servant showed me in this room."
"Oh—ah—the tutor, I presume," said the Captain, with a stiff bow, and in an indifferent—almost a contemptous—tone. "I quite forgot you were expected; but, indeed, it is Mrc. Gibson's affair more than mine. I wished to send the boys to a public school at Aberdeen, but she would have them educated at home. Hence your engagement. I mention this to let you understand that you should have been shown to Mrs. Gibson's presence on your arrival, to receive your instructions. The error must now be remedied."

concein.

deorge followed the servant from the m, the door was closed, and Stephen son and Nathan Garrett were left

Gibson and Nathan Garrett were left alone.

"Why, how scared you were!" said the former, turning to his companion. "I declare you are pale still."

The speaker might well remark on the appearance of Nathan Garrett, for the look of horror had not yet vanished from his face, and he had altogother the appearance of a man who had been petrified.

"Why, how staky your nerves have become," said the Captain, "wheth the unexpected appearance of a young man throws you into such a flurry!"

"Confound it?" ejaculated Nathan.

"Well I am a fool. Yet the resemblance was so great at the moment I caught sight of him, that I'll be hanged if for an instant or two I did not think it was actually himself. It was preposterous, of course, but then it came upon me without warning, and the imagination was helped by the subject of our conversation. Whew! I havn't had such a fright for many a day—not since that day, Captain, when you came bouncing in upon us with the nigger girl Miley.

"But what did frighten you?" asked Stephen.

"Well, Captain, though you will laugh

day, Captain, when you came bouncing in upon us with the nigger girl Milley.

"But what did frighten you."' asked Stephen.

"Well, Captain, though you will laugh when I tell you, I actually thought that young man was George Morrar."

"My cousin—your old master?"

"Yes."

"And him dead for the last twenty years. Ha, ha, that is a good one."

"Laugh away. The thing is ridiculous chough, and it was a cursedly foolish thing of me to imagine what I did. I never knew my eyes play me such a trick before. But, I say, would the young fellow not hear what we were saying?

"I have no doubt he did," said Stephen "but, fortuntely he could make nothing of it. Ha, ha, ha! The idea which occurred to you that he was my cousin George. How silly!"

"Dovlikh silly!" said Garrett, as he poured himself out a glass of wine and drank it off. "Devilish silly! but, egad, it was real enough while it lasted."

Half an hour later, George was walking to and fro in his own apartment, plunged in thought and puzzling conjecture. He had by this time held an interview with Mrs Gibson, and received her "instructions" as to his duties, and the manner in which he was expected to discharge them. He was half-amised, Half-indignant at the footing on which he was to be placed in the household. He had naturally expected that, in virtue of his education and of the office he had come to fill, he would receive tha treatment of a gentleman, and not exactly that of a hired servant. It was, however, already made plain to him that this was pretty much the light in which he was to be regarded. We have now seen how cavalierry by the Captain behaved towards him. He had found Mrs Gibson little less imperious. Sho received him with a distant haughty air, which indicated that she regarded him as quite at inferior being—as one bound to obey what order she gave him as to the management of the boys. Of course, George was too independent a spirit to accept a position of this character, and the impression was pretty deep in his mind that his residence at Ardgow.

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in his mind that his residence at Ardgowan would be of short duration.

This, however, was a secondary considertion to him at present. His mind was
full of the conversation he had overhead
between Captain Gibson and Nathan Garrett. It was a conversation at once significant and explicible—it indicated an
extraordinary mystery; yet it was a mystery, and one which he found himself
unable to fathom.

He had listened to it with eagerness,
unable even to charge himself with actting the eavesdropper. In ordinary circumstances he would have scorned to act
such a part; but the personal interest he
had discovered he possessed in the conduct and doings of Nathan Garret caused
him to feel that he had a right to listen.

And the very first words which were uttered gave him full assurance that the
conversation directly referred to the very
matter in which he was so deeply concerned. With his whole attention absorded, therefore, he caught every syllable
which the two men uttered, and now that
he was in solitude he was doing his utmost to penetrate its meaning and import.

The terms of Mr. Stanley's commission to go in search of Livinstone were, very brief: It was an idea of young Mr. Bennet, at that time staying in Paris. He telegraphed for Mr. Stanley, then resident in Madrid, and he, not knowing what business was in hand, left instantly, arrived at the Grand Hotel, Paris at eleven o'clock at night, and went at once to Mr. Bennet's room. That gottleman was in bed. "Come in, sir! who are you?" "My name is Stanley," answered the young correspondent. "Sit down-glad to see you. Have you any idea where Livingstone is?" "No?" "Well, I think he is living and is to be found, Will you try to find him?" "Yee!" "Good; you can have an unlimited credit. Use your own means, carry out your own plans.

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