ile of benignity and satisfa clp mattering to yourse

very far. On the contrary, you had only to tark to him across the walnuts and the wine to discover that Mr. Flintoff possesses.

be done out of this story, my boy, ch?" said

Joey F: 'suppose you come down ambear it out at diemer;" and the jolly ob

boy pulled himself together and walked of Now, when Mr. Flintoff gaze you an it

vitation of this kind, of course he meant i. Bless your heart would it not have been

ure to him to dine you every day

top of your bent? It was very awkward

such," public opinion generally allowed.

that all intercourse between parent and child had ceased. At any rate, the jolly

itimate business of other people.

old boy never aliaded to the subject of the offspring, and he but seldom reverted to his

ton, I may as well says was a

crib this day next year."
"Never mind," I replied take the gifts the god thankful for the graph property of th provide and be tne slightest dor bt that old Flintoff Wintoff, head partner in the n. It happened to, be a regular old fashioned style of Caristans day. There had been snow for two days beforehand, and now a severe, frost had set in. We had walked down to Clapham, and were not sorry, I promise you, to see the pleasant gleam of the fire outside the windows of the jolly old hov's villa. w'all make us happy as figting cocks.' -hom it did you good merely There was such a jolly twinkle \_1 about the old boy's eye, such a rich smi de ing round his mouth, su h a gurgling note in his voice stoke, that reminded you of a

Jolly old boy's villa.

Mr. Flintoff was engaged when we were shown into his snugly-furnished and brightly-lit drawing-room, but would be with us ng about him, seeme 4 to betoken one of those b assed creatures, in a few minutes.

"Haug you and Master George too! It of the er .rth, utterly care-Yes, those were the words we heard quite distinctly. The drawing-room door was left a little open, and the voice came from the direction of Mr. Flintoff's study, and It was unmistakably the voice of some other than of the jelly old boy himself. and car fal only of an op t do mu & in the way of active did Mr. Joseph Flintoffthan of the jolly old boy himself. "I'll tolerate no begging. I've done all for you I can. Because you were my wife's servant, and nursed my son, that's no reason why I should have you coming here can begging me to forgive him and take pit'y on him, as you call it, and send that stanid in coff" his frierids affection--call him. He had worked ime, and fairly earned his rerepose he enjoyed in the him, as you call it, and send that stapid, penniless wax doll whom he made his wife e as any of the Clapham

aore money. The allowance I make him is enough—quite enough."
"Oh, sit; and he been so ill, and Mrs. ing down by the after-"Oh, sit; and he been so ill, and Mrs. George just had another baby!"

'It people are fools, Mrs. Jones, their folly be on their own heads, that's all I have to say; and it's my son who is a fool; I don't know that he should be any exception to the rule. But I'll have nothing more to say to you; and don't come as George's embassadress again. Tell him it's a fool's errand, and be " atted to give his friends after dinner, Joseph Flintoff, by universal con it's a fool's errand, and be \_\_\_\_\_,

But here the door slammed and the jolly It you wanted to see Mr. Flintoff under his most favorable aspect—not that any o his aspects were unfavorable—you should have dired, with him. He was far from old boy entered.

"A merry Christmas to you both, my boys!" said Mr. Flintoff. "Magnificently seasonable weather! So good of you to take pity on a lonely old chap like me."

We had a capital dinner; nothing could have been better. And after dinner the jolly old bay insisted on having the little table close up to the fire with the nuts and the wire. When we looked at the benignant countenance of Mr. Joseph Flintoff we felt wine to discover that Mr. Fintoff possessed a shrewd head and an uncomponly amusing vein of humor. He was a great hand at a story, was the jolly old boy. He would stop you in the street, and say "Now, then, live got something that will make you laugh; and then Mr. Flintoff would begin, but before he was well in the middle of his anecdote it would occur to him that he had an engagement close by, and that he ountenance of Mr. Joseph Flintoff we felt quite certain it was impossible for such a man to do anything that savored of harshness to a son of his, supposing him to have one. Our ears must have deceived us, there was no doubt about that. The jolly old boy hard-hearted?—why the idea was about simply ridinal are to Andrew he had an evgagement close by, and that he mus. run off to catck it. "But you musn't

boy hard-hearted?—why the idea was absurd; simply ridiculous! And so we went on laughing and chatting and drinking the old boy's wine and cracking his nuts.

"Now," said our host; "I'm an old man and you must pardon me if I do an old-fashioned thing. With you young fellows, drinking healths has gone out; but Christmas is an old-fashioned day and therefore I shall presume upon the period. There's one toget which we ought to drink for the top of your bent 12 was voy that the top of your bent 12 was voy that he ponetimes quite forgot to name a that he ponetimes quite forgot to name a date, and not likely to take him by surprise, you thought, probably, that you would not wait till you met him again in the course of your city reunds, when he the course of your city reunds, when he by way of acknowledging the compliment would be sure to fix day and hour for his

would be sure to fix day and hour for his dinner, and the continuance of his famous story. "Ah, you dog" Mr. Flintoff would playfully observe to you the next time you came across each other, "why didn't you come and dine? I suppose you are afraid to face an old boy's society like mine; but I can promise you a rare bottle of '21 port and we'll broach a magnum'of Lafitte. Will you come?—now, you must."

You were on the point of accepting and of you are afraid and you come?—now, you must."

You were on the point of accepting and of of % port and we'll broach a magnum'of Lafitte. Will you come ?—now, you must."
You were on the point of accepting and of even naming a day, when the jolly old boy's attention would suddenly be arrested by a passenger to whom he had to say one

even naming a day, which we have the boy's attention would suddenly be arrested by a passenger to whom he had to say one word. The one word increased to a dozen and minutes flew. "Now," he said, turning to you, "I must finish this business with my friend. Mind you come and dine. I won't take any excuse—no, not a word; I took the old crone so when you come you, must." And the jolly old boy walked off, leaving you as much in ignorance of day, hour, and perhaps even place, as ever.

as ever.

Basing their dictum upon such experiences as these, there were some persons who were profane enough to say that the jolly old boy was little, if at all, better than a jolly old humbug, that his dinners were nothing more substantial than Barmecide's feasts, and that his stories were mere shams. They were wrong; Mr. Flintoff did give dinners, and, as I have already remarked, singularly good ones.

were wrong; Mr. Flintoff did give dinners, and, as I have already remarked, singularly good ones.

"None of your kickshaws for me," said the jolly old boy; "none of your badly-made French dishes. You won't godfern when you come to my crib; sound, simple fare and sound wine. I think I can promise you that, cl.?" and the old boy's lips would go through the imaginary process of tasting an flead winting of Oporto. "Just a plain dinner, you know, a little clear soung—clear turtle suits this time of year, ch."—a nice bit of turbot, just one entree, a well-hung saddle of mutton, and a brown bird." It was a remarkable coincidence, but possibly this happened to be your own ideal of a decent little dinner too. "Then I've got a still hock I should like you to try—jnst laid down twenty dozen of it; and with that and the brown sherry, a bottle or so of the old port, and, if you like it, the Chambertin, I've no doubt we shall get on. And—stay—it's bad for digestion moving after dinner; better sleep the night."

This was a favorite program of the jolly old boy's, and you could not but allow that

This was a favorite program of the jolly old boy's, and you could not but allow that it was arranged upon sound principles. It was surprising how anecdotical Mr. Flintoff would become over the port of the Chambertin. Not that he monopolized the condition would be come over the port of the Chambertin. Not that he monopolized the conditions are supported by the conditions of the co

that—
There's a song that I never could sing,
Though its notes in my memory ring.
And its measures are full of the sweets of the years,
of voices of children and laughter and tears,
And the whir of the summer bird's wing. would become over the port of the con-bertin. Not that he monopolized the con-versation; on the centrary, he liked to hear his friends talk; indeed encouraged them his friends talk; indeed encouraged them to talk, to discuss their present, to canvass their prospects.

Such was Mr. Joseph Flintoff; "a rare, good sort. The world wants a few more such," public opinion generally allowed.

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st life; neither could it be considered the RESTAURANTS &c Christmas day was drawing close, and on Christmas day Jack Rochester and 1 RESTAURANT FRANCAIS, E. CLUB BUILDINGS, KING STREET WEST were to dine with the jolly old boy at his

were to dine with the jolly old boy at his villa near Clapham.

"Very good of you, indeed," Mr. Flintoff had said, when we had accepted his invitation to "cut our turkey with him," as he called it; "very good of you, and very kind to take pity on an old man's solitude; still we'll do what we can to make you snug. Shall we say 6.30, and I'll have rooms ready for the both of you! You can't go back the same night."

"I should like to have gone down to Stretheaster for Christmas day," said Jack afterward to me, thinking of a certain to the strength of the season. The should like to have gone down to Stretheaster for Christmas day," said Jack afterward to me, thinking of a certain the strength of the season. The should like to have gone down to Stretheaster for Christmas day," said Jack afterward to me, thinking of a certain the strength of the season. The should like to have gone down to Stretheaster for Christmas day," said Jack afterward to me, thinking of a certain the strength of the season. The should like to have gone down to Stretheaster for Christmas day," said Jack afterward to me, thinking of a certain the strength of the season. The should like to have gone down to Stretheaster for Christmas day," said Jack afterward to me, thinking of a certain the strength of the season. The should like to have gone down to Stretheaster for Christmas day," said Jack afterward to me, thinking of a certain the strength of the season. The should like to have gone down to stretheaster for Christmas day," said Jack afterward to me, thinking of a certain the strength of the season that the should like to have gone down to stretheaster for Christmas day," said Jack afterward to me, thinking of a certain the strength of the season that the stre

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