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LER'S

MISS BEE.

BY GEORGE MANVILLE FENN.

CHAPTER I. TWO OLD FRIENDS

'My dear Jack !'

'My dear Tom !'

and again.

grip of your fist,' said Dr. Banks.

lsis; and I begin thinking of pair-cars at Rugby-at Oxford-of what had taken and tubs, and-oh, dear me! It's thirty place since. years ago !' cried Mr. Thomas Hessledy, of Serieants' Inn.

docter. 'I'm beginning to think Nature's you, old fellow.' an imposter. She don't give fair measure, I'll swear. Thirty years? Don't dreamily, 'in every way save one.' seem like ten. Only I say, Tom, what a very wide parting you've got'.

his shiny bald head wifh a rueful look, have been my dear wife's sister. Strange, which changed to a smile as he retorted 'Rather frosty up atop of your mountain, to bear the same sorrow the same year. though, Jack.'

'Eh ? frosty ? By George ! ves,' replied the doctor, giving his shaggy grisly hair together these thirty years.'

'Rumph, no !' said the old solicitor, shaking his head. 'No,' And he lookfrom sooty London dust by curtains of of the dead. visitor, the hearty, florid man with a breezy aspect of the country about him,

'Humph, no !' repeated the lawyer, doctor said aloudshaking his head, and for the moment 'Yes; we live again in our children. growing more yellow and grim and legal- Tom. Now then, what sort of a chap is looking. Then his eyes fell upon the your Fred? flower in his old friend's hutton hole. They rose to his ruddy face, then to his Thorough English gentleman. Took bright, clear eyes, and the effect was honors at his college; devoted to his prothat a flash came into his own; a wave fession. Getting quite a good practice, of memories of early manhood swept over | young as he is.' him ; the wrinkles in his brow grew less 'Get out! Briefs you've given him.' deeper and were joined by others that sure he could do the clients justice.' raising his hand from the doctor's should- the doctor, warmly. er, he slapped it down again.

we dined at the Winecellar.'

Princess's afterwards, said the doctor, times. 'Wrong, you dog!' cried the lawyer. 'It was the Adelphi-Wright and Paul Bedford, and Madame Celesto and Miss

'Of course it was, Tom ; and we went afterwards to Evans's to supper. Then, You don't tell me anything about her.' look here ; we'll do the same thing again tonight.' 'No,' said the lawyer, shaking his

head. 'Evans's is not.'

'But not Celeste Woolgar ?' 'I'm not sure about Celeste. Miss Woolgar is acting still.'

'Tem, we must be growing old,' said the doctor ; 'but I don't feel it yet.'

God, I have a sen.' 'And, thank God, I have a daughter,'

said the doctor. 'And we live again in our children, said the lawver.

'But I shall die at once if I don't have ver. food, said the doctor. 'Come on. I've had a long railway journey today.' 'Well, I ought not to leave this brief

I'm draughting,' said the lawyer. 'Oh, hang it ! Let it wait.'

'But it is rather particular-Mimby not a bit.' versus Clinks. My sen has taken the

'Has he? To be sure, you said he was getting on. Barrister, of course?'

'A rising man, Sir,' said the o'd law yer, proudly. 'Is he, though? Then come along, and

By George ! yes, Sir. Upright as h

we'll compare notes about the bairns dart, fresh complexion, brown hair, clear over our wine. opera singer.'

CHAPTER II. THE SECOND GENERATION.

'Old gents enjoying themselves, reg'lar,' said Charles, the waiter. Bottle of Chambertin, 'm-to be shown, first, to the fire.'

The 'old gents' were enjoying them-Then a sturdy grip and the warmest selves at the oldfashioned hotel in of hand-shakings, the two afternoony Covent-garden, for Doctor Banks had old fellows each resting his left on his declined to go to his friend's club; but friend's shoulder; and there they stood, it was in a very quet fashion. They steadying themselves with the left hand, had had the dinner they had chosen, and shaking with the right. But they could were sitting sipping their wine and smoknot steady their voices, which were a bit ing their cigars, taking over old times husky and deep; and there was a curi- and growing young in the effort. The ous twinkling look in their eyes, with a hour had arrived for ordering a cab to little moisture that did not belong there, take them to the theatre, but they had as the above words were repeated again ordered a bottle of Chambertin instead, and no lessee was the better for the price 'It's like old times, Tem, to get a good of two stalls that night. There was so much to talk abo , so much to recail of Why, Jack, you make me sniff the the times when they were boys to ether

'Ah, Tom, the time has gone by like a dream, I can't believe I am so old. But 'By George ! it is, old man,' cried the I'm glad the world has prospered so with

'I suppose it has,' said the lawyer,

'Ah, yes,' said the doctor, bending forward to lav his hand upon the other's 'Hah! humph! yes,' said the old knee. 'My trouble, too, lad. God bless solicitor, passing a thin white hand over her! She was a sweet lady. She might Tom, that we should both be called upon Twenty years ago, lad, twenty years ago.

There was silence in that room for some time. The place looked dim and a rub which seemed to make it start up selemn too, lit as it was only by four wax all over in silver flames. 'It wasn't grey candles in old fashioned plated candleyears ago, Tom. But here I am. sticks, which were reflected in a weird Thought I'd give you a look-up. Rout fashion from the polished mahogany you out of your pounce-box for a bit. table, while it needed no very active Left my patients to Bee, and I'm going imagination to suggest that the massive to have a week's raking along with you, old sideboard was the entrance to a you dog. We haven't had a bit of fun family vault, and the bronze tea urn upon the corner table only devoted to the preservation of cinerary remains.

The silence was broken by the trickled very stern and uncomprising as his ing sound of wine poured from the ceb eyes wandered round his dingy room, webbed bettle, and then, as if moved over ancient volumes bound in law calf, by one impulse, the old friends rose, and supposed to be sheltered on their shelves in silence drank a toast-to the memory

tea-leaf green ; over battered tin boxes As they let down their empty glasses with people's flames in dirty white paint, and resumed their seats, the lawyer blew and here and there the word "Exors,"; his nose loudly, while Dr. Banks, a fine, and, altogether, Mr. Thomas Hessleby hearty, florid specimen of a simple counseemed the very last person in the world try gentleman, made no pretence, but to go raking, as his visitor called it-his wiped his eyes slowly, and said humbly, 'God knows best.

There was another silence, and then as he stood glowing, and brightening the candles seemed to burn up rore one of the dingiest chambers in the old brightly-perhaps it was only the illusion of the old friends' eyes-and then the

deep, the crow's-feet at the corners of 'Well of course-of course, Jack, Why his eyes were stretched flat, and the not? But, hang it all, Sir, I wouldn't creases on either side of his mouth grew have given them to him if I hadn't been seemed to improve his countenance : and 'I'm sure you would not, Tem,' said

'He has such a head, Jack. Cool as Why, it was boat-race day, Jack; and a cucumber. I tell you what it is, Sir; with his calm, argumentative reasoning 'To be sure we did; and went to the ways, I get quite afraid of him some

'Glad of it.

'Eh ?' 'I mean that he has turned out so

well. 'Ah, of course. And Miss Belinda

'My Bee ?' 'Bee ?' 'Well, yes; Belinda. Her old aunt's

name, Don't like it. We never use it. 'I'd forgotten,' cried the doctor. 'Well I used to call her little busy Bee when never mind. We'll go to the Adelphi she was quite a baby, and the name has stuck to her, All the country people for 'The Green Bushes,' Jack? No, my miles round call her Miss Bee, and she lad; the green bushes are leaves of the would be startled if anyone said Belinda. past, Wright and Paul Bedford are Sounds like a name in an old noveldead ; so are Buckstone and Ben Web- Gretna Green, and that sort of thing.'

'Yes,' said the lawyer, laughing. 'You'd expect the gentleman who came wooing would wear a long cloak, and be called Trevanion, eh?'

'To be sure. Of coursr. Pass the Trevanion, eh? Ha-ha-ha! Ha-ha-ha-'Jack, we are growing old,' said the ha! I wonder-Ha-ha-ha-ha!' and the lawyer: 'and I do feel it; but, thanh old room rang to the doctor's cheery laugh.

> "Well, what do you wonder at ?" 'I was thinking what my girl would say to a Treyanion. Ha-ha-ha!' 'Not engaged, then, eh?' said the law-

'Engaged? Good heavens !-- no. She never thinks of that sort of thing.' 'Humph! indeed. Not like most mod

ern young ladies, then.' 'What, my Beel My dear boy, no

'Oh !' said the lawyer. 'What, a girl who thinks of nothing but fashion plates, and hasn't two ideas in her head? Oh dear me, no, Tom. 1 say, though, she's a splendid girl.'

'Is she?'

grey eyes, straight nose, ruddy lips, with never seen one another.' the top curled up, and a voice like an

'Quite a belle, I wonder she is not engaged,' said the lawyer, smiling.

'Might have been half a dozen times, but she laughs at it all. Tom. Our last curate went away on purpose to hang himself. 'And did he?'

'No ; he turned Anglican instead, and has got into trouble about vestments. By George! though, you'd like my Bee. She's a splendid girl, bless her ! but I've quite spoiled her.' 'Yes,' said the doctor, with a sigh.

You see, Tom, when that trouble came upon me, it about drove me wild, and I quite worshipped the poor little child her mother had left to my care. I wouldn't let a soul touch her. I used to always wash and dress ber myself, and take her out with me on my rounds. Why, she couldn't have been four when she used to stop in my gig and the reins perhaps for a couple of hours, when I was seeing some patient out in the marsh, while to see him married to a good woman.' Dick, my old retriever, would sit before the horse's head. She was my companion down in our lonely place; and if it had not been for her I should have gone melancholy mad. She saved me. Tom. from drink, I'm sure she did. Oh. Tom. you can't understand how I've loved that

'I think I can, Jack,' said the lawyer, with his lip quivering a little. 'You forget that I was left much in the same

'Yes ; but you were always such a long headed, clever fellow, Tom; you wouldn't spoil your boy.'

'And I don't believe you've spoiled your girl, Jack. I don't, 'pon my soul.' 'Ah, but I hav shorribly. Fancy what nothing.' life for a tender girl, with no companion but a rough country doctor in a bucolic parish! 'But you've had her well educated ?'

'Oh, yes. Taught her a lot, too, my self. We read together - she reads Greek like an Athenian. 'Humph! But she plays? You used

be strong on the violin. 'And I've kept it up. Lock at the 'Ha!' said the lawyer, beating time to my soul, why, it's half past twelve!'

an imaginary strain; 'piano and violin. Very pretty. 'Yes; they go well. But we like violin and 'celto best.'

'But-es-the young lady-Miss Bee -does not play the viloncello?' 'Don't she though! By George! Sir. she'd bring tears in your eyes in some of class carriage—part of the express to the the fluty bits she brings out of the in- North. the saving of me, and a better, truer- week, Tom?

I've speiled her.' warmly. 'I'd call the man liar who What, come up again? No, not til dared make such a charge against the you've been down to me. When will true English Gentleman, my boyhood's you come?' companion—the man I'm proud to call my friend.'

'Thankye, Tom,' said the doctor, count my spy gives of your Vale of simply. 'Well, there ; I've had the duty Eshcol. Then we'll see,' myself to that duty for my dear wife's on-all going on.' sake, while no thought of another woman has ever come between.'

broken up into little pauses ; and here come? occurred another, which was ended at

last by the doctor saying -would ever marry again,'

'Did you, Jack, old man?' said Mr. way, and seeming wonderfully unlike must not seem to urge it on. the stern family solicitor of Serjeants' Inn, as he sat nursing one sleek black leg, and sending puffs of blue smose Don't say a word to your boy.' into the air.

'Yes. I used to wonder sometimes. 'So used I, about you, Jack; but you

never did ' 'No, I never did. Neither did you.' ever scemed to be quite dead, Jack.' 'I nnderstand,' said the doctor, softly.

into the past. 'Jack.

shouldn't my Fred marry your Bee?

'Why should they not come together? that there has always been perfect con- together! fidence between us; and pray don't imagine he is a milksop. Not a bit of it. He'd make her a good husband.'

'Oh, no! Oh, ne! Impossible!'

slightly. 'I couldn't think of it.

But he would be a good match for fession; and I daresay I shall have a few guineas to leave him, when I see about putting my affairs in order, Jack.'

'Ah, but I couldn't think of it.' 'Why not?' persisted the lawyer, who grew warm over the opposition he was 'Why not, eh?' 'Yes, why not?'

'Oh, I couldn't think of it. They've ! But there is a railway down to your

parts, and an inn.' 'Railway, Tom? Inn? Don't talk stuff. There's a warm welcome for the young dog if he'll come, and I can give him some of the best shooting and fishing in the county. But-oh, no, it wouldn't do.'

'Why not?' 'Hang it all, Tom ! My Bee married! Why, what would become of me?' 'Become of you, you selfish old hum bug? Why, you could attend their children when they had the measles There. I shall send Fred down to see her, and if the young folk like each other,

they shall marry. 'Hang it all, Tom ! gently !' cried the

'My Fred wants a wife.'

'Oh!' said the doctor, sarcastically 'does he?' 'He don't know it, but I do. I thin! he works too hard, and wants change; the change that sweet, pure English home life would give him. I should like 'Should you?'

'Such a one as the daughter of my old friend would be.

'Thank you, Tom,' said the doctor changing his tone. 'But I say, though, said, rather warmly, old man,' he added, laughing and bantering again; 'suppose we should not ike your Admirable Crichton ?'

'No fear of that. You'd be sure to like the lad. Jack. 'I swear you'd fall in love with my girl, Tom,' cried the doctor, excitedly. 'Then he shall come down and see her,

Jack; and I hope it will be a match. They won't be poor.' 'No, that they wont,' s id the doctor. 'I haven't worked all these years for

'Well, I'm very glad, Jack,' said the lawyer, rubbing his hands. 'I don't know that I am,' responded the doctor. 'I came up to town for a bit

of fun, and I'm beginning to regret it.' 'No, you are not, Sir. You want to make out that you are eaten up with selfishness, and I'm the last man to believe that of Jack Banks. But we'll talk of it again, old fellow; and now corns on the tips of my fingers. We suppose we run into the Adelphi-just have plenty of duets. Good music, too, time to see a couple of acts, and-Bless

CHAPTER III

KEEPING A PROMISE It was just a week later that Doctor cross with his hand in that of his old ly at heart.' friend, the other on the door of the first-

strument. God bless her! she's been 'Then we shall see him in about a hearted girl never lived ; but I'm afraid 'Or ton days, old feilow, God bless All women are affke to me ; very nice to you! good-bye! Come up again soon, talk to in society, but I am not a marry 'Rubbish! Jack,' said the lawyer, Jack. It has done me no end of good.' ing man.'

> 'Oh, wait a bit,' said the lawyer, laughing, 'Let me hear what sort of an ac-

'But you must come, Tom. have a regular good talk of old days. Somehow that meeting seemed to be It'll do you no end of good. You will

Jack, I wouldn't say anything to Miss deserved to be sus. per call. 'I used to wonder, Tom, whether you Bee. Let Fred come down to see his father's old friend, and it a mutual attachment springs up, well and good. Hessleby, lapsing into his old boyish I've been thinking that we old boys

'The very thing I was about to say you, Tom, only I kept it to the last.

'Jump in, please, Sir.' Bang!

The train had aiready started as leaped in, and then leaned out of the see the son of her father's dear old leaped in, and then leaned out of the window to wave his hand till he could no longer see the figure on the platform, her husband, she should never think of a respectable stopping place.

A limited number of boarders will be accorded. 'No,' said the lawyer. 'My wife has window to wave his hand till he could friend; but as to her thinking of him as which began to stoop and grow older- marrying, for she was too happy with And he sat gazing straight before him looking as its soul took it back to a cab her home pursuits and her dear old fathand into the busy city.

'We live again in our children. Why and he sat back thoughtfully in his cab. castle is all down; but we shall be de-'Much better for it to happen accidentin the flying carriage. How this week we are to expect you,

tleman. He has never had any wild to be at home again once more. How oats to sow, for he has always been too rusty Tom has grown; but how the dear said the old lawyer. 'The young lady upright and manly. I'm proud to say old boy bloomed up again when we were seems to be of the robust order. I think That night, as Mr. Hossleby, of Serjeants' Inn, was sitting sipping his port after partaking of his modest chop at country too, Fred, my boy,' he said.

home, in Great Guildford-street, Russell-'Why?' said the lawyer, coloring square, a rap stopped at the door, and a young barrister; 'I'm sure it will do you minute latter, a tall, gentlemanly- good. looking personage, with keen dark eyes, rather well-cut features, pale face, and speaking as if he had had permission your girl. He is safe to rise in his pre- carefully shaven upper lip and chin, given him for a holiday. 'When shall entered the dining room.

'Ah! Fred, my boy; glad to see you back. I see you won your case. 'Yes, father ; we came off with flying colors. My client was delighted,'

'Of course he would be-of course.' see you-Doctor Banks, eh?'.

'Yes. Fred, and I've had a tearfully You didn't take me when you wen dissipated week-hardly done a stroke courting.'

'Glad of it, dad. You work much too hard.'

'So do you, sir ; and I've made an endays at the doctor's.' 'But I don't know him, father.'

'Not know him? Well, but I do. Pish! He's my oldest friend-a true gentleman. Why, Fred, he'll look upon you as if you were his son.

'Well, it's very kind of him. I'm sure. 'You like the country, and will be delighted with the place. Charming part, and—er—er—there; I'll be perfectly bad blood? If so you will find a certain cure in Burdock Blood Bitters, frank with you, my boy, John Banks has a daughter.'

'And you two have settled that I am to go and fall in love with her.'

it's the best thing you can do.' Here Mr. Hessleby leaned back in his chair with a sigh of content, and said to of the hair and promotes its growth. It himself, 'Thank goodness, I've got over imparts an attractive appearance, a de that.' But he leoked at his son with lightful and lasting perfume. While it

'Absurd? What, to find you a lovely

wife? this without consulting me. Hang it all, father, a man don't take a wife as if she were a brief!

'Oh yes, he does, my boy, often,' said the lawyer-brief endorsed so many

guineas. 'I'm not going to,' said Fred Hessleby. 'Now don't be rash, my dear boy, there's nothing settled. I only saw John Banks off this morning, and our parting words were that we would say nothing to the young people, but that you should just go down and see the young lady, and if a mutual liking sprang up, well and good-and if it did not'-

'Why, well and good, too,' said the young man. 'But, my dear father. this is very absurd. I don't want a wife. 'Oh yes, you do, my boy.'

Excuse me for contradicting you, father. I do not.'

'But I say you do, Sir, and that it is every man's duty to marry. Now, my dear Fred, it is my earnest wish that you should go down and see the Bankses. Banks stood on the platform at King's- You know I have your welfare thorough-

'My dear father, yes.' 'Then you'll go ?

'If you put it like that, father, of course I will go; but, I must tell you plainly, that it will come to nothing. 'Ah. well : we'll see.

Two days later there was a letter from Doctor Banks to his old friend, saying that he had got home all right, that no one had been ill in his absence, but all his poor patients had turned very bad as laid on me to bring her up, and devoted 'Take your seats, please. All going back. Then there were thanks about the visit and the cordial treatment, and there was a postscript after the fine hold signature-for Doctor Banks wrote a good hand, and any dispenser who had made a blunder over one of his prescript-Well, perhaps, some day. And I say, ions and poisoned a patient would have

The postscript followed a big P. S., that looked very much like a doctor's R. for Recipt, and it was as follows :-

'By-the-way, old man, I can never keep anything from my Bee, so I was obliged to let the cat out of the bag about The public are hereby informed that the subyour Fred coming to ask her to be his wife. Well, to be honest with you, she kicked up a rumpus, and said it was all I have extensive sheds and stabling in connection, and will guarantee first-class attention stuff. Then she smoothed down a bit, at regular rates. Doctor Banks, active as a man of thirty, and said, of course she should be glad to er, who-there, pray excuse my modes-'Yes,' said the lawyer, 'it would be ty, Tom-was the only man in the world better for it to be naturally evolved; for her. So there, you see, our splendid lighted to see your Fred, and I'll give ally, said Doctor Banks, as he sat back him some splendid fishing. Say when

He's a splendid fellow -a thorough gen- has slipped away! But I shall be glad 'P.P.S.-Come along with your boy. 'Humph !-kicked up a rumpus, eh?' I will go down with Fred.'

He told his son. 'I think I should like a trip into the 'Go, by all means, father,' replied the

'Thankye, Fred,' said the lawyer we start ?'

'Yes, of course ; I'm going with you. 'Oh! dear me, no, my dear dad,' cried the young barrister. 'If I am to conduct this matrimonial case, I'll do it my 'And so you've had an old friend to self on my own brief. In this case, I'm not going to have my solicitor at my elbow.

'We?' said Fred.

'Hem! No,' said his father, and the

matter, as they say in the House of Commons gallery, 'dropped ;' Fred going down alone to Bellethorpe, and walking gagement for you to go and spend a few in three miles from the station, to where the doctor's house was pointed out, and nodding his satisfaction at the aspect of the place, with its trim lawns, enormous yew-hedges, and glass-houses full of flowers and fruit.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Does This Refer to You? Are you troubled with biliousness,

San Francisco Argonaut: Stage grammar-'I must be gittin' along.' 'She learned me this last week.' 'I fear neither you nor he.' 'I never doubted to go and fall in love with her.'

'Yes, and marry her, Fred. We are very old friends, and it would be most agreeable to us both if such an alliance were formed. She's a charming girl, too Fred; and really, my dear boy, I think it's the best thing you can do!

dismay the next minute, as a slight flush stimulates the roots, cleanses the scalp, came into the young man's cheek, and he effects are enduring; and thus it proves aid, rather warmly, itself to be the best and cheapest article for toilet use.

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of n. C. P. Binterian writes from Kirby, O.,

n'y 3, 1882; "Last fall my hair commenced
aring out, and in a short time? December

ourly baid. I used part of a bottle of

tyul's Hairs Vison, which stopped the fail
ge of this hair, and started a new growth. I

are now a stall head of hair growing vigor
asis, and an "constructed that but for the

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