Piterary Miscellany.

MIRK ABBEY.

CHAPTER XXXIII-(Continued)

THE RECONCILIATION.

The day after a great festivity in a great barras her own affairs." house as generally a dull one. It begins late; for both servants and guests are wearted, and there is nothing about it which is not inferior to other days except the luncheon, which is in the way of "sweets," captain hoarsely. at all events, is always exceptionally good. Sir Richard, however, who went through life as nearly as could be to a automaton, was up at his usual time; and descending to the empty breakfast-room beheld, seated in an arm-chair which he had wheeled to the window, a little wizzened old man, in brightest Hessian boots, drab breeches, and a cut-away coat with flap-pockets of the faction a half a century ago.

"Dr. Haldane !" exclaimed the young man in extreme amazement. "God bless my soul and body."

"I hope he will, sir," rejoined the visitor drily, extending three fingers somewhat stiffly.

"No, sir: surely your whole hand !" cried the baronet warmly. "Your face is the pleasantes: sight-save that of my dear 'mother's- that I could hope to set was in Mirk Abbey; and I am not going to be tobbed off with such a salution as that."

"You get nothing more from me. Sir Richard, unless the business I come aboutwery much against the grain, I can tell you gets satisfactorily accomplished."

" Does it relate to my dear mother, sir ?' "Ot course it does, young man. What else do you think would have had power to break my resolution- to bring me hitherno this room, in which I have not set foot these twenty years, and where I last sat side by with — But what is that to you? I suppose a man is not very likely to be moved by the memories of a dead father, who pays no respect to the teelings of his Sliving mother." and if it were, you are not the Czar."

I know that, sir," broke in the other im-Dr. Haldane.' tishness-you and that scampish brother of yours-that neither of you have any thought except for your own miserable quarrels. You were not aware. I dare say, that their constant repetition is driving your mother into her grave, as they have already driven her from her once because the second arrived ar her from her once happy home; and it is because you don't know it—hecause you "My God but this is very horrible!" cried Sir Richard striking his forehead "I had no idea—I never dreamed that mat won't see it-that I am come hither, once for all, to inform you of the fact. But perhaps such a little matter has no interest in your eyes; in which case, I assure you, since it is entirely tor her sake, and not at all for yours that I come. I shall be exceedingly glad to go away again." for the first time in their lives.

"Have you any message to deliver, Dr. Haldane," asked the baronet with angry flush, "direct from my mother, or are merely stating your own doubtless valuable, eves.

But quite unasked-for opinions ?' that she will be greatly comforted. May tell her that this is not a mere impulse of "I have a message from ner to define a you, and to the rest of you; young man; and if you think it worth while to send for the moment, but that you are resolved from this time forth to be brothers indeed?" "I have a message from her to deliver to

The young man vang the bell, and gave the necessary orders. Dr. Haldaue took up a book of family prayers that lay beside him, and gratted cynically as he read Sir tkichard's name on the title-page. "What a work for a tellow to write his name in. who drives his mother out of her house ! muttered he, and then affected to be immersed in the contents. The baronet did not reply, but occupied biaself in opening his letters, one of which was from Mudame de Castellan. That lady expressed herself as "desolated" at the news of her old friend's departure from the Abbey, the cause of which she was dying to hear. "If, however," ran the postcript, "the absence

of ny Lady was for any reason likely to continue, might not Mary Forest he des-

to blame with respect to that good mother, ing up the crumpled note : "in that case, who only lives but for her children, and Mary had better go off at once," whose very love for them has compelled her to withdraw herself to imagine how the want of trust in your best friend as well as "There is worse troubles at Belcomb than that," remarked the doctor grately. "That poor fellow Derrick, who, I hear

parent evinced in that has y step must have wounded her loving heart. Nor do I wish --that is to say, your mother requests me ""Why, the man was put in the fete yes "Why, the man was put in the Cage not to bear hardly upon your gambling debts. You know the full extent of them "Yes; but unfortunately for himself. he nerhaps--ves. I was afraid of that--better than she does even yet; but she has paid enough of them already to seriously em-over Mirkland Hill, while drunk, and haff mad, the poor wretch wondered into the mill-yard. " 1 have a solemn promise never to bet

"Through that gap in the wall !" exclaimor gamble more, Dr. Haldane," said the ed the baronet with excitement. "Didn't I say the very last time we went by, that some accident would happen there, through that man Hathaway's neglect?" "I am glad of it, Walter; but what I was about to say was, that in this case, as well as in that of your marringe, it was not

"Well, it has happened now with a yenso much the error itself, as the want of "Well, it has happened now with a ven-frankness evidenced by your concealment of geance," pursued the doctor drily. "I was the matter. To be ashamed of having done sent for this morning at two o'clock, to Belwrong, is a proper feeling enough : but if it be not accompanied by the acknowledg-ied, because it was a better place for him ment of the offence, it only shews one to be a coward not a penitent. However, had as your conduct has been in these two particul energy access the sails were going till near midnight, and the story were going till near midnight, and the story ars, your mother would doubtless have done is that this poor fellow strayed beneath her best to forget, as she bastened in both them, and was absolutiey taken up and car-instances to forgive it But what he could ried around; but, at all events, he lies there,

instances to forgive it But what he could not forget, since it happened every day and every hour, were the quarrels between your-self and your brother." Here the doctor turned sharply round on the young baronet, who has been hitherto listening, not, per-haps, without complacency, to the catalogue of his brother's misdeeds.--"I think, from what I have seen myself, Richaid, that it is user ware most in foult here. It is no

"He has everything he requires, or that what I have seen myself. Richard, that it is you who are most in fault here. It is no use your looking proud and cold on me. I never cared three brass farthings for such airs, though they now and then misbecame although good-natured enough—for a airs, though they now and then intercented although good-natured enough-to a two your poor father, who was worth a Frenchwoman-- is quite uncapable of such dozen of you. But this ridiculous assumption a task; so you couldn't do cetter than send tion of superiority-founded upon mere ac-cident of birth-naturally offends a high-spitited young man like Walter, who, if he Mary, as Madame has requested, though little knowing how much she would have need of her; her assistance will be invaluable, and indeed some sort of help must be had at once. I am going over there myself immediately, and will take her was in your place, would certainly not make himselt odious in that way. however he might fail in other matters belonging to your position, which suffers nothing. I readin my gig, if you can spare her, Miss Letty, and will tell her to get ready," ly allow in your able hands. That you have the administrative faculty in a high degree, sin I concede; hut this not Russia, " By all means," cried Letty, hastily leav

ing the room upon that erran " Of cause, all notion of prosecuting this

"No man in Mirk ever called me a tyrant, poor fellow is now put out of the question whateve: happens," observed the doctor. "Perhaps no man ever dared sir; but I "Quite so-quite so," answered the barodare to say that a son whose conduct is such net eagerly. "Poor drunken wretch: I am suie I'm very sorry. And I tell you what, Dr. Haldane, if this man dies there should that his mother can longer bear to witness soune sort of deodand laid upon that Mill, Hath away ought to be punished for wilful neglect."

" That won't bring the poor man to life again, though," observed the doctor. " No of course not ; though, if one may ters were coming to any such pass as this. - Walter- brother, did it seem to you that we were so very like Cain and Abel ?" e allowed to say so, he really led such a sad life, by all accounts, it seems almost as e'il that he should end it It would be a happy release. I mear, if he was to die, The two young men embraced, perhaps

poor fellow ; don't you think so?" "When you tell her what you have seen "Yes, I do. It would be better for him sir, do you think my mother will come back?' self, and better for others," returned the cried Sir Richard, with the tears in his fine icictor very gravely.

"Just so." said Sir Richard ; "better for all concerned." Poor man !" "I cannot say that; I am sure, however,

> CHAPTER XXXIV. RALPH'S APPEAL.

However Dr. Haldane, at my Lady's own "I will do my very best, Walter." equest may have misrepresented to the oung folks at the Abbey the motives which "And I mine, Richard," answered the other. "Don't reproach yourself like that" for the vast frame of his elder brother shook with subs-"it is much more my fault than I

had caused her flight, he told them truth as respected Derrick. That unfortunate man had indeed met with the f.ightful mischance described. When he left Mary Foreston the yours : and you have been very good to me about my depts; Kinder than most fellows in your position would have been—yes, you have, Dick; not since we were at school together. You used to call me Watty then, you know." ou know." "Yes, Watty; yes. I had almost forgot-his exhausted frame, he had staggered up ten it. Let us go to our mother at once. Mirkland Hill almost like one in a dream. lad--as we used to do when we made up The night was pitchy dark, and although lad--as we used to do when we made up The night was pitchy dark, and annough quarrels in the old times- and ask her to come back again, and take her place where we all miss her so much.--Where is she, Dr. Haldane?"

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atched, at all events in the meantime. to Belcomb, where Madame was absolutely without any waiting-maid at all-with the exception of old Rachel-until another could be proceed from France. to supply dim. the place of wieked Annette, departed almost without a word of warning."

"Cunning old wretch !" murmuned Sir Richard, crumpling up the pale then paper, with its scratchly foreign caligraphy, and throwing into the grate. "She thinks of

nothing but herself. "How odd!" exclaimed the little doctor bitterly. "The lady's place must be quite unique."

Not a word more was spoken by either until Letty entered, a little pale, but exquisitely lovely.

"Dear Dr. Haldane, who would have thought of seeing you here ? How pleased I am!

The doctor rose with alacrity from his seat, and ktssed her affectionately on the torehead.

"I am sure," said he with earnest gravity, " that you have brought us news of dear est mamma.

sh pride "

"So you have thought of her, have you, little one?" answered he fondly. Letty was about three i ches tailer than the doctor. "I fancied she would have been no longer missed. Everybody was ao happy here, yesterday, I am told : and everything went on so well without her."

" It did not, indeed." returned Letty inyou. " Nothing seemed to go right, dignantly. in her absence, notwithstanding all I could do; and as for being happy, I can answer for myself and my brothers, that not five minutes elapsed all day without our thinkoh, dear Di. Haldane, do you know why she has left us in that sad manner, and when we shall see her back again ?''

"I have her own explanation of why she has left Mirk Abbey." replied the ductor; "but as for return, that will depend upon yourselves — I mean Sir Richard and Cap-tain Lisgard. For you, Letty, she bids ne say have been at all times what a loving child should be to a parent. -- Master Wal-she, 'how happy I should be if you were tter, your servant, sir -- No; I will not shake but with us ?' hands with a man who ruins his mether by gambling debts, and breaks her heart with

hatred of his own brother." "That is not true, at least, I do hope,

Walter?" said Sir Richard quickly.

"No; false. upon my honor," returned the captain. "My mother never told you to say that, sir." "how terrible it must be for her to be all alone. If you know where she is, can you not at least send Forest to be with her? " Not quite that -- no, she did not." ad-

mitted the little old man, whose eves had begun to lose their harsh and inexorable exmitted the little old man, whose eves had

pression, activithstanding his harsh words from the mome. I has so difficult even for a social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would the social may be sent to Belcomb, where Madame de Let those who would be the social may be sent to Belcomb and the soci philosopher to be severe and stern with that Castellan is just now in need of her.

"Yet I am bound to say, young man Walter, that it is you who have been most her French maid," said Sir Richard, pick- very singular.

"I don't know-that is, I may not tell. was less obscure than the way he had already my box." returned the old gentleman hesi-taingly, whe, with Letty's had fast clasp-could scarcely have come to harm; but as it ed in his, was staring out of the window as was, stumbling blindly on with his head hard as he could, but his eyes were very low, he entered the mill-vard through that

m. "Have you nothing more to tell us, sir ?" he had left the high-road. The very roaring of the sails, which revolved dangero asked Sir Richard humbly, the ground, might have warned him, but "Well, no, boys. The letter" --that his ears were already occupied with the seething and tumult of his own brain; and

"The letter I" ejaculated Letty: "I re-member that now dear mamma told me herwhen the terrible thing struck him, before which he went down upon the instant as the ox falls before the poleaxe, he never so much as knew from what he had received his hurt.

There he lay for more than an hour, under "It is not there now : she put it into my neath the whirling sails, which one after anhands and I---I tore it up." observed the doctor. "I have told you faithfully all face, gashed with that frightful wound. The that it contained, with one exception. I do that it contained, with one exception. not choose to speak of that, dear Letty, and pened, being engaged in the top story watchhave your mother's permission uot to do a,"

scending with his lantern, its rays by chance "Let me speak of it then," cried Sir "Let me speak of it then," cried Sir Richard, stealing his arm round his sister's waist, and kissing her very tenderly. "The message the doctor will not give respects yourself dear, and his son Arthur. My foolross the road to the lodge at Belcom! (there being no sort of accommodation for

"Pride, indeed !" broke in the little old one in his condition at the mill,) and from man impetuously; "your confounded im-pertinence, I call it," thence to Madame de Castellan's little cottage.

" Very well doctor," continned the bare-The lady was for the time, as she had net smiling; "let it be so. if you will. I had the audacity to suppose, Letty, that Mr. I stated in her letter to Sir Richard, the sole inhabitant of Belcomb; but with the in-Arthur Haldane was not good enough for jured man, old Rachel and her husband the

gate-keeper of course arrived, and the former did what she could as sick-nurse un-" Nor is he," contested the little doctor with irritation. "Nobody's good enough for til the arrival of Dr. Haldare, for whom a Letty Lisgard, But he is as good as can be messenger was at once despatched. The found anywhere, that I will say, though the old Frenchwoman, who was aroused with young man is my own son. And if he does difficulty, and characteristically kept them int make you a pattern husband, I will cut waiting at the door while she made herself him off with a shilling." him off with a shilling.'

"I shall be glad to give yon away to such shocked and terrified by what had happened in honest fellow. Letty," said the baronet that she w s at first of no use at all. She an honest fellow. Letty," said the baronet warmly; "so let that matter be considered settled." had expressed herself in broken English as being very glad to be of any service to the

poor sufferer while they were bearing him within, and had even busied herself in prohot water and bandages; but no sooner did she catch the sight of his ghastly face, seamed with that cruel gash, than all her resolution appeared to desert her, and

"Well, well, that will be soon, I hope, my dear," said the doctor, patting bis silken bead. "I will do all I can on my part to persuade her; I am sure I will make her haven my the bine my and although he had described her as incapable of doing much "Well, well. that will be soon, I hops,

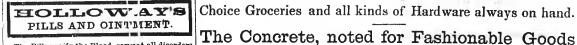
persuade her; I am sure I will make her happy with this news." in the way of attendance, she was at least

The seeds of repentance are sown in youth by pleasure, but the harvest is

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"Ay, she writes to me that she has lost virtuous, and they will be sure to be

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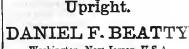


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Yes; but in the meantime." said Letty, doing her best.

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