Face to Face

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OR, GERVASE RICKMAN'S AMBITION.

CHAPTER IV.

On the day following this memorable evening, Mrs. Annesley's party had decided to make the excursion into the Jura Mountains, where Gervase assured Alice she would find some new and delightful subjects for her sketch-book. He had but a brief time to spare for holidaymaking, and not being very good at real mountain climbing, made a great point of their going into those green solitudes while he was still with them, thus leaving them to take the snow mountains after his departure. Alice, who was now quite at her case with him, having assured herself that he had completely subdued his passing fancy for her, was loath to disappoint him, else she would have found an excuse for returning to England and thus saving herself and Paul the embarrassment of frequent meetings.

Mrs. Annesley, loo, sought a prelext for breaking up the party, the harmony of which had been so fatally marred by her nephew's appearance; she feared that a crisis had been reached during Paul's row with Alice on the afternoon of Edward's arrival, but had no certain knowledge to act upon; she reflected, however, that Edward could as easily see Alice at home as upon this excursion, if he were minded to see her, and therefore came to the conclusion that things had better take their course. Edward went, partly for the pleasure of being with Alice, and partly because he was too proud to accept the part of a disappointed suitor, and wished to cultivate friendly relations with Paul and his affianced wife. But he wondered that the engagement was not made public, and decided to put the question point-blank to Paul, considering that he had a right by know how matters stood.

Paul, however, held him at arm'slength, and there was no opportunity of coming to an explanation before they started upon that ill-fated tour. Paul had taken a fancy to have some old family jewels reset for his mother in Switzerland in remembrance of this his

their return to England. carrying such valuables about; but at hatred. last, in the presence of the whole party, consented to take them back, and tossed now; he could not be in the same room leved and honored, especially by him, heart of the Jura, and the journey was a more complicated lot of notes.

breast-pocket. the family curse is attached to the land with passionate love, and of the other her, large-eyed, round-faced-would they rushing streams and shadowy pine "Is'nt he a wonder?" said Miss Gimalone."

the purpose, as every one supposed, of setting out for the Jura, he watched them placing the packet in safety at the jew- both with burning glances, equally at- He stirred uneasily; something slipped eller's. When he returned to the hotel tracted by both, his imagination lending from Alice's pocket to the ground as she he fell in with Gervase, who was silting intense meaning to the few casual re- took out her handkerchief. He picked up under the plane-trees by the water-side, marks they exchanged in the course of her purse, and restored it with a laughstudying some papers intently, and mak- the meal, and supplying words to the ing comment on her carelessness, and ing rapid notes upon them.

Rickman, who could see things with his | parly. notes.

work!

"but I like a little play too."

joined us?"

Arden. "Why then did he not communicate reached a terrible pi'ch. with her all this time?" he continued in | He recalled the day of Edward's arhis impeluous way.

replied Gervase, innocently; "why own expansion of heart and the unusual should you suppose that?"

ster in Paul's jealous heart. Why, in- poverty and his purposed marriage. meed, should be suppose that? He .eap- How changed his life was since that day, moving train with the intention of boardat once to the conclusion that Edward what strange and unexpected good for- ing. had written. "He was on the gallery tune had befallen him! and yet what such tragic accents as befitted one mak- as he was then, the struggling, unsucing an accusation of mortal sin.

singularly opportune," returned Gervase, possessing the one golden hope of one who feebly attempted to detain him, and, as if struck by a new idea. "On the gal- day winning Alice! On that day he had gaining the foot-board, made for his own lery in the moonlight-ah! One can see heard of the first in the chain of deaths carriage, followed by official execrations that your cousin means business."

"Yet they never met till the spring, wealth and standing.

rapidly in the sunshine. studying Paul's tortured face from under come to the concrete of individual cases, eyes; he saw the man he hated actually ring occassionally."

interested air at a vessel discharging its cargo a little distance off. "Boy and girl constantly together under the most prosaic circumstances, and let them get a who used to live-"

"I confess that I keep my eyes open in I think your cousin has about as good a chance of success as anybody ever had. It's rather a pity. She ought to make a better match. Besides that, I doubt if he cares for her-I think I know whom he would have chosen but for the golden reasons on the other side. Though, to be sure, these military men flirt right and left without the smallest regard to con-

sequences. "We thought Sibyl was the attraclion---

"So she was," replied Gervase, abruptly. And he moved away, compressing his lips with annoyance, and calling Paul's attention to a quaintly rigged vessel passing by.

changed the subject. He saw that Edward's suit was as distasteful to vervase were. as to himself, though for different reasons. Gervase evidently thought that Sibyl had been trifled with, and in spile his feet. He was thinking, as Paul surof what had passed between himself and mised, of her, picturing her at Gledes- him a situation with Mrs. Reginald Anhis cousin in their interview in his gar- worth, the head o a great household, den at Medington, he began to wonder if the latter had indeed preferred Sibyl until he discovered the slenderness of her the local notables, honored by those bedower. It was improbable, but there is neath her, cheering and blessing the no improbability at which jealousy will sorrowful and the poor; charming all. not grasp.

ley saw them, she was so dismayed at the with his sister. Paul looked on his and small; he saw them alone with in- ted her, and meant to do so till the end. like a pile driver on the bass notes at the idea of travelling about with gems of cousin's handsome face, and heard his timate friends-himself, he hoped among such value in her possession that she light-hearted laughter at some passing them-by the winter hearth, or beneath bitter of Paul's success. The stations begged him to take them back to the jest, and a deadly feeling look posses- the great elms and mighty oaks of their passed too quickly by; the great white jeweller, and let him keep them until sion of him; the bright young face drew lovely demesne in the summer sunlight. He was a little vexed that she would in its gayety an evidence of triumph, an sure and dignity, he wondered that he

Just as Alice's mere presence had been the morocco case carelessly into his with cither of them without an intense and would she perhaps have a kind place coming to an end with its sweet compan- "The first thing I knew he seemed to said; "you take the Annesley jewels for most casual word of each. following nature fall across her home? Would her the Nibelungen Hoard. You forget that every syllable and gesture of the one children-he saw them clinging about with an equally passionate hate.

the intention of not disturbing him, that air assumed or felt by the rest of the and taken too daintily for that.

eyes shul, and perceived that Paul wish- | Once Alice looked up and arrested one ed to disburden his mind of something, of Paul's hery looks. A shade of vexathrew his papers aside in pure charity. Ition crossed her face, and she bit her saying that he had finished making his lips as she turned her head and addressed some remark to Mrs. Annesley,

"What a feliow you are," Paul said, In the railway carriage there was a admiringly; "even in your holiday-lime general tendency to consult books and you get through haif a dozen men's newspapers, and Mrs. Annesley composed herself in an attitude of dignified "I am no drone," replied Gervase; repose. By some chance or mischance, Paul found himself in the inner corner "Look here, Rickman," continued Paul, of the carriage with Eleanor, while Ed-"you are very keen at detecting motives. ward was at the other end by the open Do you know why Edward Annesley | door, sitting next to Alice, and immedialely opposite Mrs. Annesley. From "Yes," replied Gervase, calmly, "he behind his unread newspaper the jealous time went on; the engine panted impacame to pay his aduresses to Miss Lin- | man continued to watch the objects of gard. He made up his mind to do o at his different passions, brooding upon the pain which lore him inwardly until it

rival at Medington, and wished that day "Did he not communicate with her?" | had never dawned. He remembered his confidences he had made to his cousin The suggestion was as sparke to tin- concerning his domestic misery, his mione with her last night," he added, in | would be not have given to be once more cessful parish doctor, harrassed with

"These things are soon done. Besides, nicety the percentage of deaths at this situation," continued Gervase, furtively you leave the abstract of masses and ble wish was being fulfilled before his fair one?" "Because Saturn gets a new clear to me that Ive got to cultivate at

stored to his proper shape, as the most sick with horror. He was too far off to capricious as well as most terrible of help him, but he moved down loward the tyrants, striking at random, missing door in the instinctive attempt to save where his shaft is apparently aimed, him, scarcely knowing what he did, and NARROW ESCAPE OF MAN WHO and sending his dart home in unexpected in the meantime Gervase, reaching over quarters. Had it been otherwise, had it Alice, had caught Edward by the collar, been he instead of Reginald Annesley and dragged him in before he had time who was struck down in the flower of even to know that Alice's hands were youth, it had been far better, he would attempting the same kind office with But have had rest from this bitter torment. Gervase's. Or why not Edward? Edward who, as a soldier, was equally liable with Regi- composedly taking his seat. "I am afraid nald to be sent to savage places, and in I steped on your dress. Miss Lingard. indulge in savage sports. His heart Nothing but these mulberries to be had, leaped at the thought of Edward's death; Miss Rickman." he was certain that but for his appearance at Arden he would have won Alice, Edward," said Mrs. Annesley, severely, He began thinking of the possibilities which still existed. They had been talk- presence." ing at luncheon of some recent difficult his eyelashes, and then looking with an mountain ascents. Edward had waxed thing fellow!" sobbed Eleanor. "I wish enthusiastic, and spoken about guides you had been killed-it would have and ropes, and calculated what time he served you right, that it would!" affairs seldom come to anything. The should have after the Jura excursion for Sorry to have frightened you, my dear way to prevent two young people taking attempting some of the yet unscaled aunt. It was the door sticking that upa lancy to each other is to throw them summits; and Mrs. Annesley had talked set me. But it was not far to fall," he melody in 'em. I like he 'Old Kentucky in Cassandra strain of the fatalities apologized. "Nell, if you make such an Home' and 'Way Down Upon the which marked the conquest of peak after | idiot of yourself-I'll-I don't know what thorough knowledge of each other's peak, trying to cool his ardor. If he I won't do to you. weaknesses. No man is a hero to his would but carry out his intention, a "Give her some mulberries," suggested sort of thing. valet. Do you remember old Robinson, slight momentary giddiness, a flaw in a the practical Gervase; upon which Elearope, an instant's failure of nerve, the nor began to dry her eyes, and console I don't think my taste can be so dread-"Oh, I know that story,!" Paul inter- loosening of a stone, one false step on herself with the dearly purchased fruit; fully awful, because I've heard plenty of rapted, impatiently. "You are a keen the part of one of the travellers, not to tranquility was restored, and the con- things that I want to cry over, and observer, Rickman, and when, may I mention the thousand chances and versation fell upon the merits of the things that made me all creepy and ask, did you first observe that Edward, changes of weather, or the many possi- mulberries. as you say, meant business, and what bilities of lesing the way or mistaking | Paul was very thankful when he saw out of myself and filled me with pure dedo you suppose are his chances of suc- the ever-changing landmarks-what a his cousin hauled in scathless. In those light, and that's the sort of music I like difference this might make!

English paper, and taking a melancholy pleasure in being at least near her, while she perused her book with an under-

Presently the newspaper was laid aside; Edward folded his arms and gazed downward in silent thought. Gervase was writing with a rapid pencil. Sibyl looked up from the Tasso she carried with her, and said something to Eleanor, who was deep in a novel. Eleanor laughed, and pointed warningly to her aunt, whose slumbers were now two girls; Paul continued to gaze as if Paul at once fell in with his humor and [ascinated at Edward, who had not

Edward's downward glance rested on moving through the long suites of stately rooms with a gentle grace, courted by He saw her at the head of Paul's table, at least enjoy these few days with her! inherit the only authentic family curse? Then he went out into the form for | All through the meal they took before | Or would the wholesome sweetness of her nature prevail over the fiercer strain?

> "Why did we not bring some fruit?" sighed Sibyl, petulantly. "I am so congratulate them and withdraw from thirsty this hot afternoon!"

change so that their hands might touch;

"I will get you some at the next halt Edward replied, and, despite a warning from Gervase that there was no time, he ped, and made for the buffet, leaving his friends to speculate on the extreme improbability of his return before they

moved on. The blue-bloused porters leisurely remade observations with the aid of his fingers and shoulders to a friend; the tiently. It suddenly occurred to the guard that it was getting late; he exchanged one last remark with his friend, laughing, gave the signal to start with a who lounged, wide-trousered and majestic, across the platform; and then only expedition, and dash madly after the

de gare, roused to a slight interest in railway matters by this glaring infraction of rules. But Edward dashed over "Was he? I thought that accident domestic troubles and money cares, but the rails, upsetting a blue-bloused porter, by which he had become a man of on the English and all their mad ways. of the world was changin' every day, of our being compelled to wait a while In the meantime the speed had in- and I thought I'd wait a few years till for a part of the things, as we had been They know so little of each other," said Death, he mused, is a thing upon creased, they were approaching a tunnel, things get settled." Paul, looking gloomily at the sparkling which no one can reckon; framers of the door stuck, and, on opening with a water over which boats were flitting statistics may draw up imposing col- burst at last, detached Edward from his umns of figures, they may tell you to a foothold, so that he fell, clutching at the lorn youth. "And what would you call about it, and fortunately she was willing rail with one hand and hanging thus for me?" asked the beautiful girl. "Venus to listen to reason. one dreadful moment, during which Paul |-bewitching, entrancing Venus," "But | each other heightens the romance of the from this cause and that; and yet when endured a lifetime of emotion. His terri- I would rather be Saturn." "Why, my right again for a time, anyway; but it's

all these calculations fail; Death is re- burled off to destruction, and turned NEARLY

"Thank you, Rickman," Edward said,

"The next time you commit suicide. "have the goodness not to do it in my

"Or mine, you liresome, good-for-no-

few moments of peril he had some ink- | - things that are soft and Unconscious of these terrible thoughts, ling of what it might be to have a felgoing through the world. Annesley. And Edward sat silent by Alice, reading his low-creature's life upon one's conscience. Then he looked at Alice, and saw that she was very pale, and made no contribution to the conversation. At that sight current, memory of the romantic mo- the fierce tide of hate surged back into ments passed on the balcony the night his heart, and he wished that Edward were lying dead in the dark tunnel through which they had glided immediately on his rescue.

Edward, too, observed Alice's pallor. and reproahced himself for having given her a shock by his fool-hardiness. The thought came to him like balm, that if might have shed a kindly tear over him. deep. Alice looked up and smiled at the he remembered her trouble about the consideration.

the folds of Alice's dress, which swept replied. "But I am quite happy about Reuben now. Your cousin has procured nesley, who is to winter in Algeria. Reuben will be with her there."

come- Well, I am a fool! but I will was nothing here to worry this pianist...

It was very pleasant, in spite of the left, peaks were left behind, the country between the green mountain-walls, by the ed, and all the people applauded. would be better so. The enchantment which was just what I thought. was too strong; it ought to be broken. "Then the wonder played on through their relations really were, he would monotonous like and soothing. hardened him against it.

Paul, too, was purposing to withdraw after one day more, one day in which in sprung out the moment the train stop- despair he would try a last apeal-not to Alice this time, but to Edward. All that was manly, and all that was in the best sense gentle in him rose up against his own behavior in remaining with Alice after what had passed in the boat; moved a trunk or two; the guards shut but something stronger than the inthe doors with a nonchalant air, and stincts of a gentleman held him, to his own shame and inward contempt.

The bitter-sweet journey came to an end at last. The train slackened and the golden evening and handed Alice knew well enough. preoccupied air, and the train steamed down. Mrs. Annesley drew in her skirts "'Lorenzo Dwillingby,' she said, 'I slowly out of the little station, followed and waited till the others were out and never could marry a man who would go by a parling jest from the chef de gare, her maid had arrived for orders; and, to sleep when Schocklehausen was playthen, the luggage having been claimed, ing Beethoven's magnus opus in X flat ! they wound slowly down through the I will return your presents in the morndid Edward return from his foraging echoing, empty street, to the vast bar- ing.' rack of a hotel, which seemed to Ed-"Hi! hola!" cried the indignant chel though he could never have seen it un- and finally I managed to pacify her. less in dreams.

(To be continued).

Teacher-"Johnny, i don't believe you've studi d your geography." Johnny

SLEPT AT A CONCERT.

Mr. Dwillginby's Diplomacy Smoothed Everything Out to Her Satisfaction.

"I have just had," said Mr. Dwillginby, "I suppose, about the narrowest escape that any man ever had. I came within the breadth of a very narrow hair of losing the loveliest girl that ever lived, Lucretia Gimply, and all through my going to sleep at a classical concert.

"I love music as much as Miss Gimply does, but I think perhaps our tastes in this way are somewhat different. I love pretty tunes and things that have got S'wanee River,' and what the music publishers call mother songs, and that

"I like any music that's beautiful; and tingly and dreamy; that lifted me right

SWEEPING AND MELODIOUS.

"But, now, Lucretia doesn't go in for that sort of thing at all. What she likes is the classical; the old masters and the new ones that are great on technique. and that show their mastery chiefly by doing complicated and difficult stunts.

"So, you see, I judge a man by the way he plays some beautiful thing that is familiar to me. If he can put new heart and soul into it and make it lovelier than ever to me, why, I love him and I think he had been killed there and then she he's great; while the player that Miss Gimply thinks is great is the man that She had a heart full of pity, he knew; performs some classical piece in a manner that appeals to her as being a little | consumptive Reuben Gale, and bethought | better than she had ever heard it done him to ask her if they had given his before; and naturally it's the classical stirred, and to wonder what his thoughts plan of entering the army any further concerts that we go to, mostly; and it was at one of these, a piano recital this "That would never have done," Alice | was, that the incident happened that almost left me sidetracked.

"There was a programme made up of about eleven numbers, of andantes and concertos, and nocturnes and allegrettos and such things, a regular barbed wire "Of course," he thought within himself, fence of a classical programme, bristling "Paul does everything for her now. She all over with hard and difficult pieces. wants no other friend. But the day may But it was clear from the start that there

"He sat down and tinkled a few of the Just then, as they were strolling back Paul sitting opposite, malching her win- And he went on talking about the Gales, high notes up at the right hand end of was busy that morning in getting them to the house, they fell in with Edward, ning grace with his courtly ease; he and heard that Ellen did not like to see the piano with his right hand, soft and from the jeweller's. When Mrs. Annes- who was going in the same direction saw them surrounded with guests great the new doctor, and that Paul still visi- gentle, and then he let his left hand fall

AND THEN HE WAS OFF.

And he pranced and pirouetted and him with an intense fascination; he saw She was made for a life so full of lei- came greener and greener, the vine- flung one hand over the other and skyyards had vanished, great solemn pine- recketed and pinwheeled, and somenot wear the brooch and ear-rings, at easy triumph which scarcely stirred a could ever have dreamed of asking her woods brooded darkly upon the hill times he'd bound off me piano and then least in the evenings, and fought against sense of endeavor; its beauty maddened to share his lowlier lot-how well she slopes, the farmsteads and villages had come back at it again and jump and; her declaration that she would imperil him, a hot passion surged uncontrol- would fill every place her wealth and steeper roofs and straighter outlines; dance around on it some more, skipping neither her maid's life nor her own by lably within him, the passion of a bitter station would assign her, whether tillage became scarcer, the cow-bells and cavorting from one end to ...e other, charming great people in brilliant assem- | tinkled musically in the distance, the | gerzoop and kerflump, and tum tumty blies, or dispensing kindness in poor tunnels were fewer, and the country tunn turn, until it didn't seem as if any cottages !- everywhere she must be more thinly populated; they were in the man alive could ever strike on a piano

consciousness of their existence, with- in her heart for Paul's cousin and friend? | ionship. Edward would have liked to | be hitting all the keys at once; and he "I believe it is ail superstition," he out marking the slightest movement or Would the shadow of his aunt's fiery travel on thus by Alice's side, silent him- pounded em that way for a minute and

He had his life to live, and its duties to other things, all with more or less fingers fulfill. Some day, no doubt, he would and frills and explosions in 'em, till he find a wife for himself-and here some came to number 7, and in that piece vague thought of Sibyl flitted through his there was quite a stretch that was easy brain-and all the usual home-ties; but and pleasant, a place up in the high silences which fell upon the unconscious Paul thought they linger d over the ex- it would not do to go on dreaming over notes where he twittered and tweedled what was now another's right. One day along for quite a spell, playing the same though ful face, before he withdrew in were in tune with the cheerful holiday but it was not so—the purse was given hore, only one, and then, having heard thing over and over again with varia-

"I'd been up late at the office the night the perilous fascination till time had before and what with this and all I fell asleep as he played and dreamed there was a meteor crashing down through the roof and woke with a start to find that what had startled me was the sound of the professor beating the box, though even that wasn't so startling as something that happened to me a minute later, when I turned quietly toward Miss Gimply and found that young lady not listening to the music but coldly staring

FOR GOING TO SLEEP!

"She was chilly to me when I left her drew up by a little way-side station after taking her home and chilly just the above a bleak, steep-roofed village. Ed- same when I called the next evening, ward stepped out into the sunshine of and when I asked her why she said L

"Really, it looked for a time as if everyward's troubled imagination to claim thing was all over. But I wasn't going previous acquainlance with him, to give up like that if I could help it

"I explained to her why it was, just why I happened to go to sleep, this being due entirely to my loss of sleep the night before and that being due to an extra effort I was making to get together money enough to furnish our house com--"No, mum. I heard pa say the map pletely when we were married instead expecting to do.

"I set all this out to her clearly, so "Star of my life," whispered the love- that there couldn't be any mistake

"So now, happily, everything is all