

A SET OF ROGUES.

BY FRANK BARRETT AUTHOR OF 'THE GREAT HESPER' 'A RECOILING VENGEANCE' 'OUT OF THE JAWS OF DEATH' ETC. ETC.

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would have gone away unknown rather than profit by his claim as Sir Thomas Godwin's kinsman, even though Moll should be no better than old Simon would have him believe, upon which he cries: "Lord love him for it, say I again! Let us drink to their health. Drink deep, Kit, for I've a fancy that no man shall put his lips to this mug after us."

while under was a-dressing. So we slip on our hats and cloaks and set forth, talking of indifferent matters till we had come into a fair open glade, which sort of place the prudent don did ever prefer to holes and corners for secret conference, and then he told me how Moll and Mr. Godwin had already decided they would be married in three weeks.



He made no reply to this, but bending forward he gazed into the fire.

Spaniard had hinted at this business as much for his own ends as for our assurance. "I will have it ready against we meet in the morning," says I. "You are so certain of her sanction?" he asks in delight as if he could not too much assure himself of his cousin's devotion.

CHAPTER XXIV.

I got together \$600, out of the sum left us after paying Don Sanchez his \$10,000, and delivered 'em to Mr. Godwin against his note of hand, telling him at the same time that, having slept upon his proposal, I was resolved to be his steward for three months, with freedom on both sides to alter our position, according to our convenience, at the end of that time, and would serve him and his lady to the best of my power.

"Not reading rightly the cause of her petulance, I was at first disposed to resent it, but reflecting that a maiden is no more responsible for her tongue than a donkey for his heels in this season of life, but both must be forever a-flying out at some one when parted from the object of their affections, I held my peace, and so we walked on in sullen silence for a space; then, turning suddenly upon me, she cries in a trembling voice: "Won't you say something to me? Can't you see that I am unhappy?"

"Where are your keys?" demands Moll in a very hard, merciless voice. Perceiving how the land lay and finding himself thus beset old Simon falls to his usual artifices, turning this way and that, like a rat in a pit, to find some hole for escape. First he feigns to misunderstand; then, clapping his hands in his pockets, he knows not where he can have laid them, and after that fancies he must have given them to his man Peter, who is gone out of an errand, etc., until Moll, losing patience, cut him short by declaring the loss of the keys unimportant, as doubtless a locksmith could be found to open his boxes and drawers without 'em.

With this weight on my mind I resolved to be very watchful and careful of my safety, and before I fell asleep that night I had devised a dozen schemes for making good my escape as soon as I perceived danger. Nevertheless I could dream of nothing but prisons, scourgings, etc., and in every vision I perceived old Simon in his leather skullcap sitting on the top of Tyburn tree, with his handkercher a-hanging down ready to strangle me.

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"Where are your keys?" demands Moll, that a just God doth dispose of his creatures. Thee hast might on thyside, woman, but whether thee hast right as well shall yet be proven, not by the laws of man, which are an invention of