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HIS DEAREST FRIEND.

From the New York Times. When Norman Van Elst told people that Frank Garnet was his dearest friend he meant a great deal, for although Van Elst claimed but few friends, he clung to those he had like drowning men clinging to whatever can save them from sinking. He had been more unhappy during his earlier days than boys usually are, for he had lost both parents when he was but a mere child, and had been reared by a childless pair of relatives, who loved him dearly, but knew no better way of showing their affection than by withholding his pennies, so that he might not squander them at a toy-shop, and by delivering to him an endless course of lectures, in the hope of saving his soul from the bottomless pit. He was almost as soon as he reached his majority, and came to New York with the small patrimony to which he was entitled. Garnet was so cheery that Van Elst was a steady stimulant to Van Elst's sober wit, while Garnet found in his new acquaintance an earnestness so unusual in young men that, with New York's appreciation of whatever is worth having, he returned in hearty measure the regard bestowed upon him.

ring right through to the bone, with that terrific grip of yours. Eh?—looking at her picture again! I shall be jealous of you in a moment." "You've no reason to be," said Van Elst, "but I can't help staring at her picture, for I've met the lady, and I admire her almost as much—" "You've met her? For heaven's sake where?" demanded Garnet, springing from his chair. "At Bloomington," replied Van Elst, quietly; "where I spent my vacation." "The little witch!" exclaimed Garnet; "and she allowed me all the while to imagine her at home in Baltimore? I suppose she thought if I knew she was so near New York, I would run out there and see her. Ah, these Baltimore girls are very particular, Van. And you've actually been looking at that angel for a fortnight, and I only thirty miles away and entirely ignorant of what was going on! Why, you blessed old rascal, I'd like to choke you right here and now. How did she look—what did she say? Did she ever mention my name?" "No," said Van Elst, "but I did to her for the attentive manner in which she always listened."

wealthy newsboys. Three or Four Who Have Made Fortunes in Cincinnati. Cincinnati Commercial-Journal. "That big tall newsboy over there at the postoffice steps is worth \$20,000 in his own rights." It was another newsboy who gave this rather startling bit of information to the writer. "Yes, sir," continued the talking newsboy, "that's Alf—Alf Shattler, and he does the biggest trade of any boy in this city. Why, maybe you don't believe, but it's true, he makes more money a day than any of the Fourth street clerks do. All averages six and seven dollars a day." "But he has to work for it!" "Well, I should say so. How long do you suppose he has sold papers on that corner? Nineteen years, sir. Alf has never given it up. Now he has the boss business of all the boys."

After the friendship of the two had grown for a year, however, Van Elst began to feel almost guilty over the fact that Garnet was so much in his mind as he had been. For Van Elst had fallen in love. During the fortnight's vacation granted him by the firm with whom he was reading law, he had several times met Miss Florence Ashmore, and in a manner and conversation she was far superior to any one he had known in the country town in which he was reared, as well as any young lady he had met in New York, he did not wait a moment to analyze his feelings, but pronounced himself irrevocably in love. As she was very beautiful and Miss Ashmore was quite sprightly and brilliantly sarcastic on the subject of young men who imagined themselves in love, he did not declare his passion. The lady was unable, however, to prevent her merry face sobering a little and her honest eyes ceasing to laugh whenever Van Elst quoted poetry or talked of music, or rhapsodized over beautiful scenery, and although he never made love to her in the conventional manner, he talked of the tender passion in a way that made the young lady not only unable to laugh at him, but constrained her to listen as if she longed to hear more; and what pleased him more than anything else was that Miss Ashmore was kind enough to hear, without showingsigns of weariness, all of Van Elst's praise of Garnet. She even was so good a listener that she asked questions about Van Elst's dear friend.

"Oh, Van, you're too modest," protested Garnet sarcastically; "why don't you advise me to buy a railroad or a gold mine? It would be no harder to a man without a dollar behind the demands of a week." "I've about \$10,000 drawing interest," said Van Elst, "you're welcome to it." "Van!" exclaimed Garnet, "you're almost as much of an angel as Floy. But I'm not going to use your money; some day you'll find yourself as deep in love as I am, and then you, too, will have a business-like father to face. At that time you'll need the money to make your own position good."

Down at the corner of Fourth and Walnut is another newsboy, whose familiar face has been a landmark at that point for ten years past. His name is John Finn. Fourth and Walnut is his peculiar field, and no other newsboy ever attempts to invade it. Though not so wealthy as Shattler, Johnny can draw his check for \$5,000 and have it honored. He has had his home at the Union Bethel for years, where he regularly pays a fixed sum for board and lodging.

"Why, half an hour ago I was sure you were as far gone as I. I think I know the signs." "You don't know anything; men in love never do—they are utter fools," replied Van Elst with such savage emphasis that Garnet clapped his hands and shouted: "Gaspitally acted! By Jove, old boy, you ought to go upon the stage. But say, let me read you her letter—she'll forgive me, I guess, for letting so dear a friend know its contents. Here it is; she says—"

"Don't, please, Garnet," said Van Elst; "a woman's heart shouldn't be opened to more than one man—not even to the man who most dearly loves her lover." And the end was that Garnet married Florence Ashmore, and Van Elst is the dearest friend of both husband and wife, and although he fondles his little namesake as tenderly as if it were his own, no one has ever suspected what he endured for the sake of his dearest friend.

Recruiting Party. Edwin Freeman, of Norton, Mass., says: "I have suffered the most excruciating pain in my kidneys for years, and physicians or medicine could not relieve me until about three years ago I commenced taking Hunt's Remedy. I purchased a bottle at a leading drug store in Providence, and I took the first dose, and after using one bottle I was free from all pain, and although this was three years ago I have seen no trace of disease and have had to take any medicine. I believe Hunt's Remedy to be the best kidney and liver medicine ever known, and I cheerfully recommend it to all sufferers from this terrible disease." Trial size, 75 cents. Hunt's Remedy is a purely vegetable preparation, scientifically prepared by a skillful Pharmacist—Cox.

"Go on, old fellow," said Garnet, encouragingly; "you couldn't have a more sympathetic listener, for I'm in the same condition as you."

Encouraging Him. He had been with the establishment five years without an increase of salary and without getting higher than the basement. The day after New Year's old Fogg came down stairs for a look around, and by and by he said: "James, you keep things in pretty good shape down here."

"I try to, sir."

"How long have you been here?" "Five years, sir."

"All right," said Garnet, gaily; "it may be selfish of me to speak first, but I've given you the chance and you've neglected to avail yourself of it. Well, old boy, the long and short of it is this: I'm not in love, but an accepted lover, and there's the picture of my darling—right there on the mantel. Why, I believe you're looking at it now."

"I think I'll send you up stairs."

"What is her name?" asked Van Elst, hardly able to believe what he had heard.

"I'll send you up stairs to ask Mr. K. If we can't afford to give you all your evenings, so that you can arrange to clerk for some grocer from 7 to 10 o'clock. In that way you can probably earn \$2 or \$3 a week and pin up your salary. Yes, I think we'll let you do that. This house has always made it a point to reward energy and honesty, and I take pleasure in advancing you a step. There—no thanks—run along."

"Garnet," said Van Elst, turning slowly and displaying a very white face, "I congratulate you on your whole heart and soul and strength."

Money for the Unmarried. One of the most solid and substantial institutions in this country is the Marriage Fund Mutual Trust Association of Cedar Rapids, Ia. During their first year, ending January 1st, 1883, they paid over \$30,000.00 in benefits to their members, and the greatest satisfaction prevails among their certificate holders. They are organized under the laws of Iowa, and their officers and directors are among the leading and most prominent business men of Cedar Rapids. Every unmarried person should have a certificate in this association. It is a splendid investment, as a safe secure sure as a government bond. You can just as well have a good sum of money to commence married life on as not. Over 200 members have been paid off, receiving over 300 per cent. on their investment. Send a postal card for free

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