

In a month's time that goose might be worth six shillings. This he said aside to his better half, who examined the bird carefully, to see if it was genuine, and then pushed her way masterfully through the group of bibulous "boys" who surrounded her, opened the back door, and, going across the yard, unloosed the door of a large unused poultry yard, shoved the bird in, closed the door,

rest, and came into active requisition. But this time it was not Mrs. Bargle, but her guiding star, who did the job. Dan was getting into his Saturday night state, and was more fit to put geese into a poultry yard, than to pull beer, and give the right change.

Mrs. Bargle did not care to trust him in charge of the bar alone, in case he might



HE FOUND AN ACQUAINTANCE WHO WAS ONCE A BANK MANAGER.

and returned to her spouse much satisfied with the result of their bargain.

CHAPTER III.

THE evening was getting hotter, the thirst was increasing, the boss was perspiring with his labours. He had lit his fourth cigar.

"Want any more geese?"

"How much?"

"Three bob."

"Half-a-crown."

"Right!"

Again the goose merchant pocketed his fee, again the back door creaked, and the poultry yard was awakened from its long

"shout for the crowd," an expensive amusement she only allowed when the "crowd" was a very small one, and consisted of at least one individual of importance. This she called "diplomacy," and she was very proud of her possession of a quality unknown to "poor, weak, simple-minded Dan," as she was in the habit of calling her husband.

Two geese in their childhood were reposing in the yard. Two half-crowns make five bob, twice six bob makes twelve bob—so reasoned Dan and Mrs. Dan, and after all they were not far wrong. It was worldly wisdom, but it was true this time, unlike much of its kind, and the two worldlings hugged themselves instead of each other, an