

SPRING FLOWERS.

Oh! dainty baby foresters,
That hide in silent nooks,
That linger by the cow-paths,
And peep into the brooks:

ROBERT'S WIFE.

"I am so sorry about Uncle James!"
There was real sorrow in Robert
Franklin's voice and eyes as he spoke,

"Because, you see," continued Robert,
"he fancies because you have twenty
thousand dollars that you are a fine lady,

"We must show him his mistake,"
was the reply. "But he will not see
you. He positively forbids your coming

"Does—does he know we are married?"

"I have not dared to tell him. Cowardly,
is it not? But he is my only relative,
and I love him dearly. It is not because

"Hush, love, I know," Daisy answered,
putting a soft, white hand over her
husband's lips.

"I have had no other father, or mother
either, for that matter, in all my life,"
continued Robert, "and if the farm is

"And you do not like to be banished!
Well, if you will keep your promise,
and send Jane over to see me, you shall

But Robert Franklin had undertaken
to go in person to see about some Western
lands in which his uncle had invested,

Robert Franklin had been gone from
the farm three days when his uncle
James yielded reluctantly to the pangs

"If you are going to be laid up, Mr.
Franklin, I must have some help. I'm
getting old, too, sir, and trotting up and

"But who will come, Jane? Girls are
not plenty here, as you know."

"I've a niece, sir, would come to me,
though she's never lived out."

"Send for her, then, and—oh!—rub
my leg, will you?"

Late in the afternoon a little bustle
below stairs told the invalid of the arrival
of the niece.

She came with one trunk, in a wagon,
from the railway station, and, standing
in the wide, dreary looking kitchen,

"Will you go up-stairs, Miss—?"
Jane hesitated.

"Margaret!" said the new-comer;
"don't call your niece Miss whatever
you do. My name is Margaret. Has

"Not yet. There's his dinner, you
see, scarcely tasted."

Margaret looked at the big tray, the
blue plate with food heaped upon it, the
two-pronged fork and half-soiled napkin,

and did not wonder at the neglected
food.

"Show me where things are and I will
get the stipper," she said.

Jane led her from closet to closet. In
one was a set of gilt-edged china, some
fine table linen, table silver and glass.

"Those were bought thirty years ago,"
Jane whispered, "when Mr. Franklin
expected to be married. She died and

With her pretty face saddened by the
hidden tragedy of those few words,
Margaret took a small tray from the shelf,

James Franklin, weary with the effort
to hold a book in his aching hands, was
now sitting in a deep arm-chair musing

"Come in!"
But he started as she obeyed. Such a
sweet, bright face was new in the dismal

"I have brought your supper," she
said, drawing a little table near to the
arm-chair and covering it with a white
cloth. Then, going to the door, she

"You must not scold if I have a
little wrong," said a clear, sweet voice,
"because Aunt Jane is too busy to look

Grimly wondering, the old man
suffered himself to be fed, finding appetite
as the well-prepared food was eaten, and

"Jane," Margaret said, setting down
the tray in the kitchen again, "I don't
wonder he is sick. No carpet, no curtains,

"It's all clean," said Jane.
"Clean as wax, but oh! so doleful.
Can't we fix up a cosy room?"

"There's rooms enough. Six on that
floor," said Jane, "and none used but
the one Mr. Franklin's in, and Mr. Robert's,

"Well, we'll see to-morrow. Can I
have a man to send to town if I want
anything?"

"There's men enough. Will you
sleep down here to-night, or in one of
the rooms up-stairs?"

"Down here, in the room next yours."

"It's all ready. I'll go up now and
make Mr. Franklin comfortable for the
night."

"Comfortable!" Margaret said, shivering.

But the next morning, after putting a
tempting breakfast before the invalid,
Margaret selected the vacant bed-room
she meant to beautify for his use. It

"Mr. Franklin, the room across the
hall has a southern exposure, and I think
you will find it more comfortable than

"I'm very well here."

"But you will be better there. Please
come."

So he yielded, but once fairly in the
room, could not repress a cry of amazement.
Softly-carpeted, white-curtained, a

The fishermen at the first moment took
hold of their guns, which they had at
their side, and were about to shoot the
animal. But the form and resemblance

It is said that three years ago, more or
less, in the same place, the same animal
had been seen by other individuals; and

The communication came through respectable
channels, yet the paper which first
published the account appeared to doubt.

At a recent Paris auction, the autograph
of Byron brought 70f.; Calvin, 91f.;
Bacon, 106f.; Franklin, 80f.; Galileo,
460f.; Sir Isaac Newton, 500f.;

"Now let me read the rest of our book
to you. I have some new periodicals in
my trunk if you will look at them."

The days flew by, cold weather
strengthening, till Robert wrote he was
coming home one chill January day.
Margaret had been busy for a fortnight

"I can never tell you, Robert," he
said then, "what Margaret has been to
me. No daughter could have tended

"I am glad you have been well cared
for," Robert said, turning his head to
hide a merry twinkle in his eyes; "you

But when he carefully led the old man
to the sitting-room, both stood amazed.
Was the handsomely carpeted, cheerfully
furnished room the dreary old place

Throwing open a door to disclose a
beautifully furnished parlor, Robert saw
also a little figure on the piano stool,

"Margaret!" Uncle James cried.
But Robert said softly:
"Margaret Franklin, Uncle James,

Then she came forward with shining
eyes.
"I wanted to make you love me," she

"And for your own," he answered;
"but I am bewildered, my dear. Where

"From my old home. They are all
mine, and you will let them stay here,

"I don't want to take Robert from
you, Uncle James, when he is all
about you to love, but if you will give

"Give you a place here!" the old man
cried; "I think no greater grief could
come to me now, Margaret, than the

"Thank you," she whispered, touching
her lips to his for the first time;
"you have made me very happy."

And as she presided over the carefully
appointed table in a cozily furnished
dining-room Uncle James had used for
spare harness and bags of grain, but

AN AQUATIC MAN.

Among the most fertile freaks of the
imagination have been the fancies relative
to the existence and appearance of
mermaids, but here we have a serious

In the month of January, various
persons went to fish in the lake not
very far from the settlement of Santa

Suddenly they saw rise from the water
a hairy animal, in human form, who
looked at them as if astonished.

The fishermen at the first moment took
hold of their guns, which they had at
their side, and were about to shoot the
animal. But the form and resemblance

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IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

In olden days, dining in England must
have been a distressingly sloppy process,
when the rude feaster grabbed the
choicest bits from dishes brimming with
thick gravy, and the nicest feeder, after

A SPELLING TEST.

A person who can write the following
sentences without missing a word is a
good speller: "The most skillful gangster
I ever knew was a maligned cobbler, who

SOLID MEN OF ANTIQUITY.

There were the great scripture giants,
Goliath and Og. The former was six
cubits and a span (I. Samuel, xxii. 4),
variously estimated to be from nine feet

RATS.—An innkeeper lately complain-

ing to a gentleman that his house was
greatly infested with rats, and that he
would willingly give a considerable sum
to get rid of them, was on the following

A SCIENTIST'S STRANGE DEATH.

The death of Prof. Walker, of Brooklyn,
who, with a different motive, drank like
Socrates a fatal draught of hemlock, has
already been mentioned by telegraph,
but it is a case so curious that it will

"At ten minutes past 4 p. m. fifty minims
Squibb's extract of conium. Twenty minutes
to 5 p. m. effect very decided—dizziness and
relaxation of the muscles and limbs; fifty

On this frenzied appeal his wife hurriedly
left him to procure some coffee.
Returning in all haste she found him
dead from paralysis of the spinal marrow.

In the ordinary course of business two
telegrams were recently sent from New
York to London, and answers received
to one in thirty, and to the other in thirty-

A VIRGINIA distiller lately converted a
cave and a hollow tree growing over it
to his purpose of defrauding the revenue,

MODERN MEDICAL DISCOVERY.—It is
claimed that disease, with a few exceptions,
has been conquered by the research
and intellect of enlightened men; and

THEODORE THOMAS, of Thomas' orchestra,
than whom there is no higher musical
authority in the world, says there are
no other cabinet or parlor organs equal

ELECTRICITY IS LIFE.—All nervous disorders,
chronic diseases of the chest, head, liver,
stomach, kidneys and blood, aches and pains,

ALL invalids should write to R. H.
Paris, Waukegan, Ill., for Glen Flora Mineral
Springs circulars. Sure cure for Dyspepsia.

Get the best. The best Elastic Truss
is Pomeroy's, 741 Broadway, N.Y. Write for it.