Marble Hill Press

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MARBLE HILL, - - MISSOURI

An Ohio clergyman was arrested just after marrying his thirteenth wife. Thirteen always was an unlucky number.

Theodore P. Shonts, who is presently to reform the street cars of New York, generally rides in a cab himself.

Every now and then Europe demands certain assurances that the kaiser has really lived down his past as a war lord.

British women are going back to nightcaps. No, it is not the kind grandfather used to drink, but the kind grandmother used to wear.

Secretary Wilson of the department of agriculture is the nestor of the cabinet and is the only member who was one of the original group at the beginning of Mr. McKinley's administration.

King Edward himself may have been much surprised when he discovered in his speech a few knocks for the house of lords. Doubtless he will speak to the man who wrote it and tell him to be more careful next time.

President Baer of the Reading railroad doesn't pay to haul passengers at the present rates. A good many people will insist, on the other hand, that it doesn't pay to travel at the present rates. So we may regard it as a stand-off.

Miss Lillian Tyson, proprietor and manager of the Bon Ton theater, in Philadelphia, has inaugurated the custom of giving free tickets for matinee performances to the orphans in the city institutions, the messenger boys and the school children.

Mrs. Britania W. Kennon, great-granddaughter of Martha Washington and a descendant of the last Lord Baltimore, celebrated her ninety-second birthday a few days ago at her home, in Georgetown, D. C. She was born there and has lived in the same place all her life.

The order of Knight of Jerusalem has been bestowed by the kaiser on Dr. George Post, an American missionary, of Beirut, who is now in Berlin. The Kaiser sent Count von Wedel to the American church on Sunday to represent him when the Rev. Dr. Post preached.

The library of Yale university has received from Miss Maria E. Peck, of Pittsfield, Mass., four volumes once the property of Israel Dickinson, of the class of 1755. The books were used by him during his college course. Each volume contains his book plate and one his autograph.

Arthur F. Stater, recently sworn in as assistant secretary of the treasury, was born in Carlisle, England, in the early eighties. He was brought to America when one year old, and has lived all his life until recently in Iowa. Three months ago he became editor of the Walla Walla Daily Union.

At Christiana, a little town in the Transvaal, about 70 miles above Kimberley, an alluvial deposit has been discovered bearing diamonds, and the entire area has been staked out in claims, which are granted by the government, each 50 yards square. The "digging" for diamonds, which are found in the surface deposits, is somewhat similar to placer gold-mining. There some 3,000 diamond-miners, representing every nationality, are living in huts and tents with their families.

The official figures showing the trade between the United States and non-contiguous territories — Alaska, Hawaii, the Philippines and Porto Rico—are worth studying. The total in 1906 was $131,000,000, against less than $100,000,000 in 1904. This is rightly regarded as indicating extraordinary growth. And that Uncle Sam is a generous patron of his "dependents" is apparent from the returns which prove that the United States buys much more of them than they buy of Americans. However, all of the territories are making bigger and bigger purchases of this country.

London dearly loves court gayety and display, of which the British capital had little during the later years of the successful but rather quiet reign of the good Queen Victoria. King Edward, tactful and kindly, gives his people their wish, and the court glitter is all they could desire. It makes a pleasing setting or background for the sessions of Parliament and does no harm to anyone, for while all enjoy the spectacle they also know that the real power rests with the house of commons, which speaks the deciding opinion of England on all great questions.

Queen Alexandra owns several fine chinchilla and Persian cats. Princess Alexander of Teck and Prince Maurice of Battenburg also possess valuable specimens, but the real cat fancier among the royal family of Great Britain is Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, and the only royal cattery is the one now established at Cumberland Lodge. This has been arranged on the most up-to-date principles, and has curtained windows and a front door, with a knocker and letter box. The portals are surmounted by a crown and the initials "V. S. H."

The year 1906 was notable for the largest addition to the British mercantile marine in effective tonnage and in size and power ever recorded in any one year, reports the London Financial Times. The total addition to the register was 1,550,000 tons. The merchant steamers turned out of the shipyards represent 1,800,000 tons gross, an advance of 12½ per cent of the production of 1905. Sailing ships are no longer a factor of importance in considering tonnage afloat, and a further 200,000 tons was removed from the British register during the year.

Before he relinquishes command of the Asiatic station to become chief of the bureau of navigation in Washington, Rear Admiral Brownson will have the honor of commanding the entire new Pacific fleet, just as Rear Admiral Evans now commands the Atlantic fleet.

A Milwaukee man testified under oath that he was 61 years old and had never kissed a woman in his life. He has missed a great deal of fun since the Houston Post, and at the time has probably sidestepped a collection of danger.

Missouri Legislature

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

The grain weighing bill, which was a special order in the senate for Thursday, was crowded out of place by appropriation bills, the senate working until after 5 o'clock Thursday night to clear its docket of matter of that kind. Something like $6,000,000 was disposed of in the bills acted upon.

The Pemberton dramshop bill is dead. Thursday night's caucus revelations necessitated another pow-wow, which was held Friday morning, and one of the results was the sounding of the Pemberton's bill requiem. A resolution offered by Representative Biggs, of Schuyler, that all bills on the calendar for engrossment be laid on the table, prevailed.

Gov. Folk Thursday afternoon returned to the house, with his approval, the following appropriation bills: For the payment of interest on school certificates of indebtedness; for the support of the public schools; for the assessment and collection of the revenue; for the pay of the civil officers; for the pay of the general assembly and its contingent expenses.

Gov. Folk and Mrs. Folk gave a reception at the mansion Thursday to the officers and members of the general assembly, which was quite generally attended by them and by the citizens of the town. The function was more or less informal, and was a thoroughly enjoyable affair.

The senate Thursday afternoon passed bills appropriating $2,000 each for the widows of John Clay, E. B. Allison and John Woods, prison officials murdered in the discharge of their duty by convicts. Clay and Allison were killed in the riot of November, 1905. Senator Kammerer Thursday succeeded in attaching as a part of the general appropriation bill the appropriation carrying $100,000 for the erection of a monument to the Missouri troops on both sides on the battlefield of Vicksburg.

Representative Barker's bill in relation to coal mines passed the house. It makes it unlawful for mines which have been worked on the room and pillar plan, and which have been abandoned, to be left open for a period exceeding one month, and requires such abandoned mines to be so sealed as to prevent escape of gases calculated to vitiate the ventilative current of a mine.

It was stated Monday on fairly good authority that the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Co. is quietly preparing to enjoin the enforcement of the 2-cent rate law passed by this general assembly, which has been signed by the governor, and which will go into effect as a part of the statutory law of Missouri on the expiration of ninety days after the sine die adjournment of the general assembly.

HOUSE.

The thirsty wayfarer must imbibe before 1 o'clock a. m., because the legislature has declared that all saloons throughout the state must close at that hour every morning and remain closed until 5 o'clock. Representative Houston, of Cass county, has secured the passage of a bill, simple in form, and containing less than 100 words, which places the lid on all night saloons throughout the state. The measure is now in the hands of Gov. Folk, and doubtless will be signed. The bill was introduced early in the session, and was one of the first passed by the house. It has remained on the calendar in the senate for some time, and, taking its regular form, was passed by that body. In its original form it provided that all saloons should close at midnight, but the senators though that 1 o'clock was a more desirable hour to end the round of pleasure, and amended the bill. The house concurred in the amendment Thursday morning, and the Houston bill will be the first, if not the only, liquor law passed for the Forty-fourth general assembly.

The house devoted Thursday afternoon to the passage of senate bills. They were taken up in groups, as many as ten, in some instances, being taken at a time. The question was raised as to whether this would invalidate any of these measures so passed. The speaker held that that would be a question, if it were raised, for the courts to pass upon. It rested with the house whether the bills should be passed in groups. Representative Johnston, of Charlton, stated that the journal would show a separate roll call on each bill, no matter what number was contained in the group, and that the journal would be the record, behind which no one could get. The bills were taken up in bunches, and these were passed: Permitting county clerk to act as circuit clerk in any cause in which the circuit clerk is a party; requiring students of osteopathy to attend such a school three years; fixing the salary of the prosecuting attorney of Pettis, Macon, Saline and Nodaway counties at $2,000 and denying them fees; fixing the salary of the road and bridge commissioner in St. Louis county; amending the negotiable instrument law relating to the registration of municipal bonds; authorizing the construction and acquiring of subways in certain cities; giving the right of eminent domain to electric interurban railways; compulsory school attendance (applicable to St. Louis only); applying the parole law to boys sentenced to the training school and to girls sentenced to the industrial home; providing for changes of venue from justices of the pace; changing term of Hannibal city officers from one to two years; fixing freight charges on fruit shipments; private burial grounds not exempt from taxation for street paving; fixing salary of secretary of state at $3,000.

SENATE.

There is little likelihood of an extra session of the legislature being called. The governor will be so overjoyed at getting the legislature off his hands that he will not call an extra session, except the direst emergency arises. The governor's views on the pending excise bill have materially altered. Three days ago the bill would not do at all in its present shape. No later that Thursday afternoon has the governor urged members of the senate to pass it just as it stands, on the theory that any kind of an excise measure is better than no excise bill at all. It will not pass without material amendment, the chief of which will be making the office of state excise commissioner elective. Enough is known of the determination of the senators to indicate the demise of the measure in some shape or another.

The house passed the subway bill Thursday afternoon by a vote of 93 to 1. It permits the construction or purchasing of subways in St. Louis and Kansas City.

The senate Thursday morning laid over informally all senate bills on the engrossment and third reading calendars. This means that no more bills originating in that body will be considered at this session. Only appropriation bills and house measures will be considered. After Thursday there will be but little time for much else than the final reading and signing of matter that has passed both houses, and the adoption of the customary resolutions.

The senate was enlivened Thursday evening by a warm contest between the friends of State Printer Hugh Stevens and those of State Superintendent of Insurance Vandiver. It developed that the latter is very desirous to say where and by whom his public printing shall be done. At one of its recent meetings the senate committee on appropriations added a section to the general appropriation bill which provides that all the printing of the state departments must go to the state printer. Most of it does under the law, but this does not apply to the insurance department, in view of a test case recently decided by the supreme court. When it was urged that the printing could be secured more cheaply than through the state printer, Senator McDavid submitted a certified statement showing that the printing involved in the test case before the supreme court cost 78 per cent more that the contract price between the state and the state printer. This satisfied the senate and the section was retained, only one vote on division, that of Senator Dorris, being cast against it.

The report of the senate and house conference committee on Senator Kinney's child labor bill was adopted in the senate Thursday and in the house Thursday evening. The bill now goes to Gov. Folk for his approval. On one occasion the house passed this bill as it came from the senate and then recalled it and attached some amendments that, in the opinion of the senate, rendered it absolutely valueless. The senate rejected them unanimously and the house refused to recede. Then conference committees were appointed and the house was induced to recede from its drastic amendments. The senate gave ground enough to admit one of the house amendments, which exempts cities of less than 10,000 inhabitants from its scope. In this shape the bill was passed.

After an exceedingly warm debate in the senate Thursday afternoon, a section was adopted to the general appropriation bill allowing $215,605.75 for completion of the new supreme court building. The section was so amended, however, as to provide that before any of the money is paid out a joint committee of three senators and three members of the house must carefully examine all accounts submitted and certify their approval of them to the state auditor.

The house took up the senate's resolution fixing March 15 as the date for the sine die adjournment of the legislature and amended it so as to fix the date for March 16, at noon.

Senator Gardner got a rider attached to the general appropriation bill Thursday afternoon providing for the appropriation of $215,605.75 for paying for the completion of the new state supreme court building. It was ignored entirely by the appropriation committees of the two houses and was not adopted in the senate until a proviso was attached that no payments should be made out of the appropriation until a committee of three senators and three representatives has examined and investigated the matter thoroughly.

The bill providing for a special charter for Joplin and Springfield received scarcely votes enough in the house to have it said that it was recognized. Seventy-two votes were required to pass it. It received thirty-five.

The senate bill, providing for the machinery to put into operation the pure food bill, passed the house Monday, receiving 86 votes.

An effort was made in the house to secure a reconsideration of the vote by which the conference report extending the fellow-servant bill to all underground miners failed of passage. It was unsuccessful.

Representative Porth's bills appropriating $2,000 each to the families of the late John A. Clay, James Wood and Ephraim Allison, penitentiary guards, who were killed in the sensational riot at the big prison in November, 1905, when four convicts attempted to escape by blowing the prison with nitro-glycerin, passed the house Monday.

The house Monday passed the bill jointly introduced by Representatives Martin and Briers appropriating $1,000,000 from the state revenue fund for the ensuing biennial period of 1907-08 for good roads.

Among the other bills passed was the deficiencies appropriations, carrying $164,234.48; the bill for the support of the government, carrying $3,484,397.72, and another carrying $4,000 for the payment of wolf bounties from 1895 to 1909. Besides these there is the $1,000,000 appropriated for good roads, and several relief bills, aggregating $6,173.35.

The house Monday passed a bill repealing the statute creating the office of supervisor of roads and road overseers in counties containing 120,000 and less than 175,000 inhabitants.

One of the most drastic of laws proposed by the present general assembly passed Monday morning by the senate. It seeks to curb unfair commercial discriminations between different sections of the state, or unfair competition, and provides that if, for the purpose of destroying the business of a competitor in any locality any person, firm or corporation, shall sell any commodity at a lower rate in one section of the state then in another, after making due allowance for difference in quality and cost of transportation, shall be deemed guilty of unfair discrimination, declared unlawful.

The house Monday refused third reading to the Lucks bill, which provided that grocers, in cities of 400,000 population or over, be permitted to sell liquor in original packages of not less than one quart, though the liquor was not to be consumed upon the premises where sold or in an adjoining building.

Under a resolution offered by Senator McDavid Monday afternoon Senators Fields, Kinney and Anderson were appointed a conference committee to adjust the differences between the two bodies on the house amendments to the Kinney child labor bill.

THE DELUGE

By DAVID GRAHAM PHILLIPS, Author of "THE COST," etc.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY F. C. YOHN

CHAPTER VIII.—Continued.

I had been at his house once before; I knew he occupied the left side—the whole of the second floor, so shut off that it not only had a separate entrance, but also could not be reached by those in the right side of the house without descending to the entrance hall and ascending the left stairway.

"Just take my card to his private secretary, to Mr. Rathburn," said I. "Mr. Langdon has doubtless left a message for me."

The butler hesitated, yielded, showed me into the reception room off the entrance hall. I waited a few seconds, then adventured the stairway to the left, up which he had disappeared. I entered the small salon in which Langdon had received me on my other visit. From the direction of an open door, I heard his voice—he was saying: "I am not at home. There's no message."

And still I did not realize that it was I he was avoiding!

"It's no use now, Langdon," I called cheerfully. "Beg pardon for seeming to intrude. I misunderstood—or didn't hear where the servant said I was to wait. However, no harm done. So long! I'm off" But I made no move toward the door by which I had entered; instead, I advanced a few feet nearer the door from which his voice had come.

After a brief—a very brief—pause, there came in Langdon's voice—laughing, not a trace of annoyance: "I might have known! Come in, Matt!"

IX.
LANGDON AT HOME.

I entered, with an amused glance at the butler, who was giving over his heavy countenance to a delightful exhibition of disgust and discomfiture. It was Langdon's sitting room. He had had the carved antique oak interior of a room in an old French palace torn out and transported to New York and set up for him. I had made a study of that sort of thing, and at Dawn Hill had done something toward realizing my own ideas of the splendid. But a glance showed me that I was far surpassed. What I had done seemed in comparison like the composition of a school boy beside an essay by Goldsmith or Hazlitt.

And in the midst of this quiet splendor sat, or rather lounged, Langdon, reading the newspapers. He was dressed in a dark blue velvet house suit with facings and cords of blue silk a shade or so lighter than the suit. I had always thought him handsome; he looked now like a god. He was smoking a cigarette in an oriental holder nearly a foot long; but the air of the room, so perfect was the ventilation, instead of being scented with tobacco, had the odor of some fresh, clean, slightly saline perfume.

I think what was in my mind must have shown in my face, must have subtly flattered him, for, when I looked at him, he was giving me a look of genuine friendly kindliness. "This is—perfect, Langdon," said I. And I think I'm a judge."

"Glad you like it," said he, trying to dissemble his satisfaction in so strongly impressing me.

"You must take me through your house sometime," I went on. "I'm going to build soon. No—don't be afraid I'll imitate. I'm too vain for that. But I want suggestions. I'm not ashamed to go to school to a master—to anybody, for that matter."

"Why do you build?" said he. "A town house is a nuisance. If I could induce my wife to take the children to the country to live, I'd dispose of this."

"That's it—the wife," said I.

"But you have no wife. At least——"

"No," I replied with a laugh. "Not yet. But I'm going to have."

Suddenly my mind reverted to my business. "How do you account for the steadiness of textile, Langdon?" I asked, returning to the carved sitting-room and trying to put those surroundings out of my mind.

"I don't account for it," was his languid, uninterested reply.

"Any of your people under the market?"

"It isn't to my interest to have it supported, is it?" he replied.

"I know that," I admitted. "But why doesn't it drop?"

"Those letters of yours may have overeducated the public in confidence," suggested he. "Your followers have the habit of believing implicitly whatever you say."

"Yes, but I haven't written a line about textile for nearly a month now," I pretended to object, my vanity fairly purring with pleasure.

"That's the only reason I can give," said he.

"You are sure none of your people is supporting the stock?" I asked, as a form and not for information; for I thought I knew they weren't—I trusted him to have seen to that.

"I'd like to get my holdings back," said he. "I can't buy until it's down. And I know none of my people would dare support it."

"Well, then, the price must break," said I. "It won't be many days before the public begins to realize that there isn't anybody under textile."

"No sharp break!" he said carelessly. "No panic!"

"I'll see to that," replied I, with not a shadow of a notion of the subtlety behind his warning.

I hope it will break soon," he then said, adding in his friendliest voice with what I now know was malignant treachery: "You owe it to me to bring it down." That meant that he wished me to increase my already far too heavy and dangerous line of shorts.

Just then a voice—a woman's voice—came from the salon. "May I come in? Do I interrupt?" it said, and its tone struck me as having in it something of plaintive appeal.

"Excuse me a minute Blacklock," said he, rising with what was for him haste.

But he was too late. The woman entered, searching the room with a piercing, suspicious gaze. At once I saw, behind that look, a jealousy that pounced on every subject that came into its view, and studied it with a hope that feared and a fear that hoped. When her eyes had toured the room, they paused upon him, seemed to be saying: "You've baffled me again, but I'm not discouraged. I shall catch you yet."

"Well, my dear?" said Langdon, whom she seemed faintly to amuse. "It's only Mr. Blacklock. Mr. Blacklock, my wife."

I bowed; she looked coldly at me, and her slight nod was more than a hint that she wished to be left alone with her husband.

I said to him: "Well, I'll be off. Thank you for——"

"One moment," he interrupted. Then to his wife: "Anything special?"

She flushed. "No—nothing special. I just came to see you. But if I am disturbing you—as usual——"

"Not at all," said he. "When Blacklock and I have finished, I'll come to you. It won't be longer than an hour—or so."

When we were seated again, Langdon, after a few reflective puffs at his cigarette, said: "So you're about to marry?"

"I hope so," said I. "But as I haven't asked her yet, I can't be sure." For obvious reasons I wasn't so enamored of the idea of matrimony as I had been a few moments before.

"I trust you're making a sensible marriage," said he. "If the part that may be glamour should by chance rub clean away, there ought to be something to make one feel he wasn't wholly an ass."

"Very sensible," I replied with emphasis. "I want the woman. I need her."

He inspected the coal of his cigarette, lifting his eyebrows at it. Presently he said: "And she?"

"I don't know how she feels about it—as I told you," I replied curtly. In spite of myself, my eyes shifted and my skin began to burn. "By the way, Langdon, what's the name of your architect?"

"Wilder and Marcy," said he. "They're fairly satisfactory, if you tell 'em exactly what you want and watch 'em all the time. They're perfectly conventional and so can't distinguish between originality that's artistic and originality that's only bizarre. They're like most people—they keep to the beaten track and fight tooth and nail against being drawn out of it and against those who do so out of it."

"I'll have a talk with Marcy this very day," said I.

"Oh, you're in a hurry!" He laughed. "And you haven't asked her. You remind me of that Greek philosopher who was in love with Lais. They asked him: 'But does she love you?' And he said: 'One does not inquire of the fish one likes whether it likes one.'"

I flushed. "You'll pardon me Langdon," said I, "but I don't like that. It isn't my attitude at all toward—the right sort of women."

He looked half quizzical, half apologetic. "Ah, to be sure," said he. "I forgot you weren't a married man."

And so I left him, with a look in his eyes that came back to me long afterward when I realized the full meaning of that apparently almost commonplace interview.

The same day I began to plunge on textile, watching the market closely, that I might go more slowly should there be signs of a dangerous break—for no more than Langdon did I want a sudden panicky slump. The price held steady, however, but I, fool that I was, certain the fall must come, plunged on, digging the pit for my own destruction deeper and deeper.

X.
TWO "PILLARS OF SOCIETY."

I was neither seeing nor hearing from the Ellerslys, father or son, but as I knew why, I was not disquieted. I had made them temporarily easy in their finances just before that dinner, and they, being fatuous, incurable optimists, were probably imagining they would never need me again. I did not disturb them until Monson and I had got my education so well under way that even I, always severe in self-criticism and now merciless, was compelled to admit to myself a distinct change for the better.

When my education seemed far enough advanced, I sent for Sam. He, after his footless fashion, didn't bother to acknowledge my note. His margin account with me was at the moment straight; I turned to his father. I had my cashier send him a formal, type-written letter signed Blacklock & Co., informing him that his account was overdrawn and that we "would be obliged if he would give the matter his immediate attention." The note must have reached him the following morning, but he did not come until, after waiting three days, "we" sent him a sharp demand for a check for the balance due us.

A pleasing, aristocratic-looking figure he made as he entered my office, with his air of the man whose hands have never known the stains of toil, with his manner of having always receive deferential treatment. There was no pretense in my curt greeting, my tone of "despatch your business, sir, and be gone;" for I was both busy and much irritated against him. "I guess you want to see our cashier," said I, after giving him a hasty, absent-minded hand-shake. "My boy out there will take you to him."

The old do-nothing's face lost its confident, condescending expression. His lip quivered, and I think there were tears in his bad, dim, gray-green eyes. I suppose he thought his a profoundly pathetic case; no doubt he hadn't the remotest conception what he really was—and no doubt, also, there are many who would honestly take his view. As if the fact that he was born with all possible advantages did not make him and his plight inexcusable.

"No, my dear Blacklock," said he, cringing now as easily as he had condescended—how to cringe and how to condescend are taught at the same school, the one he had gone to all his life. "It is you I want to talk with. And, first, I owe you my apologies. I know you'll make allowances for one who was never trained to business methods. I've always been like a child in those matters."

"You frighten me," said I. "The last 'gentleman' who came throwing me off my guard with that plea was shrewd enough to get away with a very large sum of my hard-earned money. Besides"—and I was laughing, though not too good-naturedly—"I've noticed that you 'gentlemen' become vague about business only when the balance is against you. When it's in your favor, you manage to get your minds on business long enough to collect to the last fraction of a cent."

He heartily echoed my laugh. "I only wish I were clever," said he. "However, I've come to ask your indulgence. I'd have been here before, but those who owe me have been putting me off. And they're of the sort of people whom it's impossible to press."

"I'd like to accommodate you further," said I, shedding that last little hint as a cliff sheds rain, "but your account has been in an unsatisfactory state for nearly a month now."

"I'm sure you'll give me a few days longer," was his easy reply, as if we were discussing a trifle. "By the way, you haven't been to see us yet. Only this morning my wife was wondering when you'd come. You quite captivated her, Blacklock. Can't you dine with us to-morrow night—no, Sunday—at eight? We're having in a few people I think you'd like to meet."

"Glad to come," said I, wishing to be rid of him, now that my point was gained. "We'll let the account stand open for the present—I rather think your stocks are going up. Give my regards to—the ladies, please, especially to Miss Anita."

He winced, but thanked me graciously; gave me his soft, fine hand to shake and departed, as eager to be off as I to be rid of him. "Sunday next—at eight," were his last words. "Don't fail us"—that in the tone of a king addressing some obscure person whom he had commanded to court. It may be that old Ellersly was wholly unconscious of his superciliousness, fancied he was treating me as if I were almost an equal; but I suspect he rather accentuated his natural manner, with the idea of impressing upon me that in our deal he was giving at least as much as I.

My petty and inevitable success with that helpless creature added amazingly, ludicrously, to that dangerous elation which, as I can now see, had been growing in me ever since the day Roebuck yielded so readily to my demands as to National coal. The whole trouble with me was that up to that time I had won all my victories by the plainest kind of straightaway hard work. I was imagining myself victor in contests of wit against wit, when, in fact, no one with any especial equipment of brains had ever opposed me; all the really strong men had been helping me because they found me useful. But for my self-hypnotism in the case of Roebuck, I find no excuse whatever for myself.

He sent for me and told me what share in National coal they had decided to give me for my Manasquale mines. "Langdon and Melville," said he, "think me too liberal; far too liberal, my boy. But I insisted—in your case I felt we could afford to be generous as well as just." All this with an air that was a combination of the pastor and the parent.

I can't even offer the excuse of not having seen that he was a hypocrite. I felt his hypocrisy at once, and my first impulse was to jump for my breastworks. But instantly my vanity got behind me, held me in the open, pushed me on toward him. If you will notice, almost all "confidence" games rely for success chiefly upon enlisting a man's vanity to play the traitor to his judgment. So, instead of reading his liberality as plain proof of intended treachery, I read it as plain proof of my own greatness, and of the fear it had inspired in old Roebuck. Laugh with me if you like, but before you laugh at me, think carefully—those of you who have ever put yourselves to the test on the field of action—think carefully whether you have never found that your head decoration which you thought a crown was in reality the peaked and belled cap of the fool.

(To be Continued.)

"AND IN THE MIDST OF THIS QUIET SPLENDOR SAT, OR RATHER, LOUNGED, LANGDON."

Alas! For Good Intentions

Minister Meant Well, but He Made Bad Impression on Lunatic.

A certain minister made a visit to an insane asylum. He got in conversation with one of the patients, and not to ruffle him, agreed with all he said. The following conversation resulted:

"Don't you think it dreadful," said the patient, "that Senator Cameron should have been so murderously sandbagged by that insane division worker just as he was about to vote on election day?"

"Yes," replied the clergyman; "it was indeed regrettable."

"And ex-President Cleveland, have they found the crazy anarchist who stabbed him at the chamber of commerce banquet the other night?"

"I believe they have," replied the now somewhat startled minister.

"And Steel King Schwab, has he recovered from the injuries he sustained from being thrown from the top of Mont Blanc by that demented guide?"

At last accounts I believe he was progressing favorably toward recovery," answered the divine meekly. The lunatic stopped and eyed the minister. "You're a minister, aren't you?" he asked.

"I am," answered the minister.

"And know the Bible through and through?"

The minister nodded.

"Well," said the lunatic with a grin, "all I've got to say is that you've got Ananias beat 160 times. You're about the worst liar in this country."—Buffalo Times.

Faults of Modern Dinners.

A medical journal complains that the modern dinner has become an extremely depressing affair, and that so far from being a feast of reason and a flow of soul the conversation is a mere interchange of symptoms, details of operations or the advantages of this or that cure. Such topics, evidently, are not provocative of remarks that set the table in a roar, nor do they tend to promote the good digestion which should wait on appetite. Indeed, there is little appetite for digestion to wait upon. The daintiest of menus is disregarded when the diners are under a regime, and courses pass untouched while powders are openly stirred into wine glasses.

Wisdom.

"That man is so wise he can tell by the hour."

"Yes," answered Miss Cayenne. "But he isn't wise enough to keep still five minutes."—Washington Star.

Means Money For Somebody

Mrs. Blinxly's One Objection to Link Sleeve Buttons and the Moral.

"Mrs. Blinxly tells me," said Mr. Blinxly, "that she wishes they'd wear the old style of sleeve buttons, not links.

"The old style buttons, going through the button holes in such a manner as to make the ends of the cuff lap, made the cuff round when worn and so made it present a uniform wearing surface; whereas link buttons, tending as they do to flatten the cuff, tend to break the cuff at the bend in the back, made sharper as it is by the flattening of the cuff, while sticking out there as it does and so brought to strong contrast with the inner side of the coat sleeve the cuff wears out sooner than a uniformly rounded cuff would do.

"That's what troubles Mrs. Blinxly. She doesn't object to the link button as such, but because it makes it cost us more for shirts. I tell her not to worry, we can't expect to have everything come our way. The link button may be bad for us, but anyway it's good for the jeweler and the shirt-maker."

His Definition.

"Papa, what is a work of art?" "Oh, almost anything in the way of a picture or piece of statuary without clothing."—Houston Post.

New York city has to bear about one-third of the entire fire loss of the United States and Canada.

Life is like sea water; it never gets quite sweet until it is drawn up into heaven.—Richter.

WILLING TO LET HIM B

Stinging Message Sent by F Worsted in Business Deal

In the old colony town of Ke Mass., once lived Deacon J— had a yoke of oxen he desi sell. The news reached the e Farmer T——, who lived in a portion of the town, who was in of a pair. So he visited the d who met him with a gracious and led him to the oxen, which chewing their cuds and to all ances ready for any amount o

After some bargaining a dis of five dollars remained. Flash deacon said: "I am old and and shall not live long, and fi lars will be of no account," bargain was made. Farmer T the oxen home.

They proved worthless, con work, and had been heated. provoked at being sold, and, a person the next day who was to the part of the town whe deacon lived, said: "You tell J—— he need not live anothe minute longer on my account."

THREE BOYS HAD ECZE

Were Treated at Dispensary—D Improve—Suffered Five Mo —Perfect Cure by Cuticu

"My three children had ecze five months. A little sore wo pear on the head and seemed itchy, increasing day after day baby had had it about a wee the second boy took the disea a few sores developed, then th boy took it. For the first three I took them to the N— Dispe but they did not seem to im Then I used Cuticura Soap and cura Ointment and in a few they had improved, and when heads were well you could see of the sores. Mrs. Kate Kelle West 29th St., New York, N. Y. 1, 5 and 7, 1906."

Triumph of American Duch

Helen, duchess of Manches now lady-in-waiting to Queen dra, and the first American to that honor. So much for ma the only son of the most duchess at the court of Edwa Other American duchesses may and say they wouldn't be a l waiting on any account; but do believe them. It is a royal dist tremendously valued by Eng bility, and the next step is the ical plum to be made mistress robes.—Boston Herald.

Oats—Heads 2 Foot Lo

The John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Wis., are bringing out a new o year with heads 2 foot long! T wonder. Their catalog tells! Spelt—the greatest cereal in America ever saw! Catalog tells!

FREE

Our mammoth 148-page Seed a Catalog is mailed free to all in buyers, or send 5c in stamps and Free samples of new Two Foot Lo and other cereals and big catalog t John A. Salzer Seed Co., Box Crosse, Wis.

Record Mountain Climbin

The redoubtable enterpri climbing Mont Blanc in midwin recently been successfully carri The climber is an artist-photog of Chamounix—M. Max Wil The climb took two days and With M. Willmann were two During all three days the weat arctic in point of cold, but oth splendid.

Stood the Test.

Allcock's Plasters have succe stood the test of sixty years' the public; their virtues have been equaled by the unscrupulo itators who have sought to trad their reputation by making p with holes in them, and claimin to be "just as good as Allcock Allcock's plasters stand to dorsed by not only the highest authorities, but by millions of p patients who have proved the cacy as a household remedy.

On Deserved Vacation.

After 16 years of continuous during which he has never t vacation, Prof. John Sterling ley, of Tufts college has been a year's leave of absence, wh will pass in scientific resea Italy. He is one of the most known authorities on zoology country.

Starch, like everything else, ing constantly improved, the Starches put on the market ago are very different and inf those of the present day. In t est discovery—Defiance Starch- furious chemicals are omitted the addition of another ingredi vented by us, gives to the St strength and smoothness nev proached by other brands.

Be not discouraged with yo neither with your life. No wor fully done has ever been wast no life truly lived has ever C. Simmons.

SCIATIC TORTURE

A Locomotive Engineer Tell He Was Cured by Dr. Will Pink Pills.

Pain that seems almost unb is a characteristic of sciatic tism. In some cases the knife-like, sharp or shooting; ers it is dull and aching. is stubborn in resisting treatm the patient frequently suff years. This was the case w Herbert E. Spaulding, a loc engineer on the Cincinnati, H leans & Texas Pacific Railway home is at Longview, Texas "While running an engin years ago," he says, "I fell hurt my knee and spine and always considered this to be th of my illness. The sciatica to of me from my heel to the my head. The pain was th I ever suffered in my life and and back were twisted out o I was under a physician's c several months and for six could not get out of bed. I s to Hot Springs but came ba worse condition than when I "It was when I was down that I heard of the case o Allison, a much older man t self, who had been cured of by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. taking the pills and soon was get out of bed. When I ha six boxes I was able to wa the house and yard. I ke on with the pills until I w and I have never had any t the trouble. I have been ra engine ever since."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are all druggists, or sent postpa cript of price, 50 cents per box or $2.50 for the full boxes by the Dr. Williams Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y.