

# Our New Tenant.

"Now, Mary, I have spoken!" Mr. Peet threw himself back in his chair as if that settled the matter once for all.

"I heard you dear," sweetly responded Mrs. Peet; "and now, listen to me. I have accepted Herr Schmidt's offer, and he will enter the adjoining house as tenant to-morrow."

"Not if I know it, madam!" shouted Phineas, jumping from his chair and bringing his fist down on the table. "Do you think I am to have Rhyd cottage turned into a menagerie, and my garden into a howling wilderness? The house may remain tenantless forever, but Herr Schmidt and his monstrosities shall not enter there."

"Herr Schmidt, my dear, is merely a naturalist."

"I know it!" stormed Phineas. "I've heard of these plaguey naturalists before. I've no desire to come down stairs some fine morning to find a ring-tailed monkey sitting on the window-sill, acting as referee while the kangaroos and crocodiles play leapfrog over the flower beds. No, madam! No naturalists for Phineas Peel!"

Pretty Mrs. Peet never allowed her temper to get the better of her. She laughed softly at her husband's fears and did not alter her determination in the least.

"Has it slipped your memory, Phineas," she asked, "that Rhyd cottage is a portion of my property? If I choose to let it to a naturalist—even though he be a foreigner—I am perfectly justified in doing so."

This was true enough, and Phineas calmed down.

"Herr Schmidt's collection of monstrosities, as you call it," went on Mrs. Peet, "probably contains nothing more dangerous than a death's head moth in a bottle. Anyhow, I have no intention to disappoint him."

"But I—"

"You will treat him with the respect due from one gentleman to another, Phineas," broke in Mrs. Peet. "And now, dear, we'll dismiss the subject."

Phineas was—though at times he doubted it—a lucky fellow. He had carried off a young and handsome woman from a host of suitors.

Why Mary Marsden had chosen to bestow her hand and fortune on such a plain, every-day sort of fellow as the diminutive Phineas Peel was always a mystery to her acquaintances. The wedding was an accomplished fact before her relatives had recovered from the shock caused by the announcement of her engagement.

Mary appeared to be happy enough, too. Phineas, taken as a whole, was not a bad sort of a fellow. He was jealous, that was true, but his wife came to regard that as an extra proof of his devotion.

Had the proposed tenant of Rhyd cottage been an aged, decrepit, broken-down old man, Phineas would have stretched out the right hand of fellowship. But alas! Herr Schmidt was young and handsome—far too handsome, Phineas thought.

"Very well, Mary," said Phineas, taking his hat from the peg and making for the door; "you have overruled me as usual, and must be prepared for the consequences. In less than a week we shall have the house and garden overrun with every variety of reptile—from the beastly lizard to the boa constrictor."

And Phineas stalked indignantly forth with the merry laughter of his wife ringing in his ears.

A month or more had passed, and so far the fears of Phineas had proved to be groundless. Herr Schmidt's "monstrosities" had been kept well within bounds, and as yet Mr. Peet had not seen so much as a strange caterpillar in his garden, which never looked better.

However, he was not happy. He had taken an aversion to the new tenant from the first, and would never be satisfied until he had got rid of him.

"Confound the fellow," muttered Phineas, one evening, as he sat on an upturned bucket behind the peasticks, "he's prowling about on the other side of the hedge again. Hope he won't catch sight of me, for I'm about tired of his oily tongue, and eternal smile. Hullo! what the deuce is the meaning of this?"

Down the garden path tripped Mrs. Peet. The naturalist was evidently expecting her, and greeted her with a smile that almost brought tears into the eyes of the furious Phineas.

"Good-evening," he said. "You've just a little late!"

It was soon evident that this was not the first chat indulged in over the boundary hedge. Though Phineas strained his ears, he could not catch the drift of the conversation. Like a flash, he remembered that Mary had often of late taken a stroll in the garden at dusk. Was this the explanation?

Phineas had been glaring at the couple from behind the peasticks for ten minutes or so, when he saw his wife take a rosebud from his favorite tree and hand it over the hedge with a charming smile to the delighted Herr Schmidt. Then with a pleasant "Good-night," Mrs. Peet tripped lightly into the house.

"You villain!" hissed Phineas, savagely jumping from his seat and shaking his fist after the retreating figure in the next garden. "I'll pay you out for this."

The face of Mr. Peet was something to be remembered. Nothing but blood, he vowed, would obliterate his wrongs. But he would be cautious. He would smile and smile and murder while he smiled. Seizing a peastick he tragically buried it in the heart of an un-

offending cabbage, and played havoc with a stately row of sunflowers. Half an hour later Mary saw him take down a huge old-fashioned duck gun from the hook in the hall.

"There's a German vulture in the neighborhood," he volunteered, impressively, "and I'm going to bag him at the first opportunity."

However, as nothing short of an earthquake would have induced the old gun to go off in any circumstances—and Phineas had made assurance doubly sure by dropping in the shot first and powder afterward—the "vulture" in question was not likely to be seriously damaged, and Mary contented herself with expressing a hope that her husband would not hurt himself.

On the following evening Phineas took up his old position in the garden, with murder in his heart. Herr Schmidt, however, did not put in an appearance. After waiting some time, Phineas re-entered the house and reared his duck gun up in the hall in a conspicuous position.

He had almost decided to run up to town and consult his brother John, the detective, with a view to having the movements of Herr Schmidt watched, when he was started by the click of the letter box.

A scrap of paper lay on the mat. Picking it up Phineas glanced at it, turned deadly pale, then hurried into the garden. Scribbled in lead pencil on dirty paper was the following:

"Peel has discovered everything. We have not a moment to lose, and must clear out to-night. The front door is unsafe. Will meet you at the back—10.30 sharp."

There was no signature.

"Good gracious!" ejaculated Phineas after reading the note for the third time. "I'd no idea matters had gone so far. Oh, yes, Mr. Schmidt," he added, grimly, "I'll meet you at 10.30 sharp."

III.

It was about 10.45 and raining heavily. Phineas Peel, seated on a wall overlooking the Rhyd cottage, with his duck gun laid across his knees, was beginning to feel uncomfortable.

"The note said 10.30," he muttered. "It must be after that time now. What's that?"

Phineas had caught the sound of heavy feet moving cautiously over the gravel. He grasped his gun and peered into the gloom, but could distinguish nothing.

Suddenly he heard voices, evidently at the front of the house. He was about to quit his position under the impression that Herr Schmidt was leaving by the front door after all, when one of the back windows was cautiously raised, and the lithe form of the naturalist dropped lightly to the ground.

Creeping along the side of the wall on which Phineas lay, he presented an excellent mark. Mr. Peel, however, could not bring himself to shoot a man down in cold blood. He would give him a chance.

"Stop, you scoundrel!" he shouted. The effect of the challenge was scarcely what Phineas had anticipated. Herr Schmidt darted forward and seized the barrel of the gun. He was much the stronger of the two, and Phineas was pulled from the wall in a twinkling. Lying on the broad of his back on the gravel, in a half-dazed condition, he saw the tall form of Schmidt standing over him with the gun raised.

"Keep your tongue still, you fool," he hissed, "or I'll brain you. Now, quick, help me over the wall."

Phineas hesitated, but the threatening attitude of the other induced him to rise. However, he had no intention of giving in.

Bracing himself for the effort, he exerted all his strength, and pulled Schmidt bodily from the wall. He fell flat on his face, and before he could recover himself, Phineas jumped on his back and seized him round the throat, emitting a yell that would have done infinite credit to a Sioux Indian.

The next moment Phineas found himself in the clutches of a burly member of the local police force.

Four or five others seized Schmidt, who struggled in vain to free himself. "What am I arrested for?" gasped Phineas. "There's your man!"

Phineas would no doubt have been led off with the other prisoner but for the timely arrival on the scene of the last person in the world he had expected to see—his brother John!

"Here, what on earth is the meaning of all this?" he demanded, when, as the result of John Peel's interference, he found himself free.

John stayed behind a minute or two to explain that Herr Schmidt, the "naturalist," and Edward Harper—the notorious forger, who had defied New Scotland Yard for the past six weeks—were one and the same.

"It was a smart dodge of Harper's," said John Peel, "and he might have got clear away but for that clever wife of yours, Phineas. Mary suspected the man from the first, and supplied me from time to time with valuable information. It is to her entirely that the credit of the capture is due. Tell her I'll call round and thank her myself to-morrow. By the by, the gang of which he was the head got wind of our intentions, and a man was despatched with a warning. Harper doesn't appear to have received it."

Then Phineas began to understand things a little more clearly.

"I suppose this will be it," he remarked, producing the note and handing it to his brother. "You see, the messenger left it at the wrong door, and I—er—I thought I might as well see the fun."

For some time after Phineas was of the opinion that he had made a fool of himself. Lately, however, he has taken a different view of the matter, and is never tired of relating how he literally "dropped on" Harper, the forger, alias Schmidt, the naturalist next door.

## HARDENED BY ELECTRICITY.

A process of hardening steel by means of an electric current traversing the red-hot metal has been invented in France. Experiments made with tools thus hardened are said to have given surprising results. A sharpened table knife cut a one-eighth-inch iron wire as if it had been a string. Iron bars were easily cut with a circular saw. Drills pierced cast-steel plates with twice the speed and ease of ordinary drills, and in all the experiments the tools showed no injury.

## WOODEN LATHING DOOMED.

A Growing Demand From Nearly All Architects for Iron or Steel Devices.

One industry which is declining in the United States is the manufacture of wooden laths. It is not owing to any general decrease of building, nor to business depression, but to the growing demand from nearly all architects for metallic lathing in the construction of the partitions of modern buildings. Metallic lathing is used less with a view to making the buildings fire-proof than to making the walls and partitions stronger and less likely to crack. Ordinary wooden laths are nailed to the studs while still green or wet from exposure to the weather. It would make no difference if they were perfectly dry, for the mortar would quickly moisten them. Then comes the drying out process. As the laths dry they twist and turn, cracking the mortar and weakening the wall. The wooden lath is doomed except for the construction of the cheapest kind of buildings. The advantages of any form of metal laths are so great that architects have no difficulty in persuading prospective builders to use them to the exclusion of wood.

The evolution of the lath is rather interesting. In the early days, just after the log cabin era in this country, a plastered wall was looked upon as a luxury. Studings were hewn from hard wood, and the laths were riven by hand from the straightest grained timber obtainable, and occasionally dressed with the drawknife or spokeshave when too thick for use. They were fastened to the studding with hand-made nails costing two or three shillings a pound, and before the rough coat of mortar and hair was put on, the lathed wall presented a ragged appearance, having

## NO STRAIGHT LINES

anywhere, and showing chinks varying from a mere crack up to fully an inch when a crooked lath came in juxtaposition to a moderately straight one. The crooked laths, each one ripped from the edge of an inch and a quarter plank with a hand saw. Next came the laths, made one at a time with circular saws, and then came the gang-saw machine, which made scores of laths at one cut. These laths were cut from the log with a shaving knife and chopped into widths as toothpicks and cigar lighters are.

The next innovation was a metal lath made of thin sheet-iron strips, ribbed or having the edges turned over to give strength. Perforated sheet iron with ragged punctures, in which the mortar would clunch, succeeded the strips; and wire netting lathing was introduced. It was generally strengthened with the ribs of coarser wire, and is still extensively used, not only for partitions, but for concrete floors as well.

Within a few years scores of patents have been granted for metallic lathing, and in almost every instance they have been for making sheet steel plates provided with slits of perforations, to hold the mortar. Several varieties are designed to get more surface out of the metal sheet than by mere perforating, and are known as expanded metal lathing. One company has had almost a monopoly of expanding the metal in this manner by the use of an ingenious machine upon which it has patents here and abroad. The sales run up to considerably more than one million dollars a year in the United States, it is said. This lath is said to fully double the width of the original plate from which it is cut. Recently another company has produced a machine by which even more expansion is gained by an ingenious form of cutting and corrugating. All this is clear gain, and the effort is being directed to getting the greatest stiffness with the lightest metal, which means more gain to the makers.

## FACIAL EXPRESSION.

Character of Disease as It is Indicated on the Face.

Facial expression can and does to a very considerable extent indicate the character of disease from a diagnostic and prognostic point of view. First of all, pain is invariably clearly written on the face. Contraction of the brow indicates pain in the head; sharpness and contraction about the nostrils, pain in the chest, and a drawing of the upper lip, pain in the abdomen as a rule (especially in children). The upper third of the face is modified in expression in affections of the brain, the middle third in diseases of the chest, and the lower third in those of the abdominal organs. Heart disease is indicated by blue lips, high-colored mottled cheeks, paleness about the nose and mouth and puffiness of the face generally. Kidney disease by puffiness of the lower eyelids and pale face. Again we have the Pisu Sardonic, a drawing of the muscles of the mouth as if the patient were laughing in a sardonic way, in tetanus or lockjaw, and intense expression of mingled fear and anxiety in hydrophobia, and of deep anxiety in asphyxia. Then there are the flushed face and bright eyes of typhus and pneumonia; the bright cheek and pale face of consumption and the dull, heavy, stupid expression, in the faces of children suffering from swollen tonsils or growths at the back of the nose. The subject is of enormous importance, especially in children. A well-known physician, lately deceased, could, by long experience and close observation, diagnose with remarkable accuracy almost all the common diseases by the facial expression.

## TO FIT THE CRIME.

You don't look like a hard citizen, but you plead guilty to the charge of being found in a gambling resort. I ought to inflict a fine at least \$5. But, your Honor, I was intoxicated, or I wouldn't have—

"Drunk, too, were you? The fine will be \$10 and costs. Call the next case!"

## WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH SALT?

The Many Ways in Which It Can Be Used to Advantage.

Salt cleanses the palate and furred tongue, and a gargle of salt and water is often efficacious. A pinch of salt on the tongue, followed ten minutes afterward by a drink of cold water, often cures a sick headache. Salt hardens gums, makes teeth white and sweetens the breath. Cut flowers may be kept fresh by adding salt to the water. Weak ankles should be rubbed with solution of salt, water and alcohol. Rose colds, hay fever and kindred affections may be much relieved by using fine salt, like snuff. Dyspepsia, heartburn and indigestion are relieved by a cup of hot water in which a small spoonful of salt has been melted. Salt and water will sometimes revive an unconscious person when hurt, if brandy or other remedies are not at hand. Hemorrhage from tooth pulling is stopped by filling the mouth with salt and water. Weak and tired eyes are refreshed by bathing with warm water and salt. Public speakers and many noted singers use a wash of salt and water before and after using the voice, as it strengthens the organs of the throat. Salt rubbed into the scalp or occasionally added to the water in washing prevents the hair falling out. Feathers uncurled by damp weather are quickly dried by shaking over a fire in which salt has been thrown. Salt always should be

## EATEN WITH NUTS.

and a dessert fruit salt used should be specially made.

If twenty pounds of salt and ten pounds of nitrate of ammonia be dissolved in several gallons of water and bottled, many fires may be prevented. By spashing and spraying the burning articles the fire is soon extinguished. An incombustible coating is immediately formed. Add salt to the water in which black and white cotton goods are washed. Flatirons may be made smooth if rubbed over salt. Copper and glass may be quickly cleaned by dipping in salt and lemon in fine salt, then rubbing it over stained objects. Lemons and salt also remove stains from the fingers. Do not use soap afterward. If a small teaspoonful of salt be added to a quart of milk it will be preserved sweet and pure for several days. A pinch of salt added to mustard prevents it souring. A smouldering or dull fire may be cleared for broiling by a handful of salt. Salt thrown on any burning substance will stop the smoke and blaze. Bread insufficiently salted becomes acid, dry and crumbly. Bread made with salt water is said to be good in some cases of consumption. When cabbages, onions or strong smelling vegetables have been boiled in pans, to prevent odors clinging to them place some salt on the stove and turn the pans bottom up over the salt. In a few minutes the pans will smell sweet.

## ALL SALADS

should be soaked in salt and water to destroy animalcules or small worms. Make a strong brine and water garden walks to kill weeds. A moderate quantity of salt stimulates their growth. Salt and camphor in cold water is an excellent disinfectant in bedrooms. Housemaids should pour salt water, after using it, down the drain pipes. Sewer gas is counteracted by a handful of salt placed in toilet room basins. Water for laying dust is more effective when salt is added. Sea water is generally used in English coast towns for this purpose.

Rattan, bamboo and basket work furniture may be thoroughly cleaned by scrubbing with brush and salt water. Japanese and plain straw matting should be washed with salt and water and rubbed dry. This keeps them soft and prevents brittle cracking where traffic is heavier. Brooms soaked in hot salt water wear better and do not break. Bedroom floors may be kept cool and very fresh in summer if wiped daily with a cloth wrung out of strong salt water. All microbes, moths and pests are thus destroyed. Black spots on dishes and discolorations on teacups are removed by damp salt.

## RUSSIAN SABLES.

Something About Hudson's Bay and Other Furs.

Russia sable heads the list of valuable furs. It ranks with the most precious stones, and will last a century, and is the only fur that will bring its value in any season of the year. It has been for generations the favored fur of the crowned heads of Europe, and at present is in greater demand than ever. The darkest and best, "imperial crown sables," are caught on Lena River in the Alack wilderness, between the Arctic circle and the Arctic Sea. Prices range from \$200 to \$250 each. Other beautiful specimens are caught on the Obi River, prices ranging from \$100, \$125 and \$150 to \$200. Handsome specimens are also caught on the Volga River, prices ranging from \$40 to \$125, the light colored as low as \$15. These prices embrace all grades of natural colored Russian sable.

Hudson's Bay sables are next in value. Prices range from \$5 to \$35 for the very best. Twenty dollars will buy a handsome dark natural-colored Hudson's Bay sable skin. The light-colored Russian and Hudson's Bay sable and pine marten skins are blended to imitate the dark-colored Russian sable. The work is so skillfully done that it takes a good judge to detect the difference, but, like other dyed furs, the blended sables will not hold their color as well as the natural. The best blended sable skins can be purchased for \$20. From this maximum figure they range down to \$15, \$10 and \$5.

America supplies otter, Hudson's Bay sable, mink, seal, beaver, bear, fox, chinchilla and many other furs.

Russia supplies ermine, silver fox and Russian sable, etc. Neither England, France nor Switzerland produces any of the fur-bearing animals, and the only advantage England has is in the character of the dye of seal-skin, and Germany in the character of the dye of Persian lamb, astrakhan, etc.

# ROUND THE WHOLE WORLD.

## WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE.

Old and New World Events of Interest Chronicled Briefly—Interesting Happenings of Recent Date.

Bishop Ellicott, of Bristol and Gloucester, who is 78 years of age, has taken up the bicycle.

Baroness Hirsch has given \$250,000 to endow a home for Jewish consumptives in England.

Copenhagen is to have an elevated railroad running along the shore from the city to the woods at Charlottenlund. The motive power will be electricity or compressed air.

At Dolhain, on the Belgian frontier, toward Germany, the whole population went to the railroad station recently to hoot the Count of Flanders, with his son, Prince Albert, and his son-in-law, the Duke of Vendome, because the Count had employed Germans on his estate near by.

Sweden will send an expedition to Konig Karl's Land, east of Spitzbergen, next summer, which will also explore the other islands and the undiscovered region between Spitzbergen and Franz Josef Land. Last year's rush to Spitzbergen shows that the difficulties of such an expedition are little more than those of a summer cruise.

An extraordinary story of the credulity of Russian peasants comes from Slayansk, in southern Russia, where a woman whose little ten-year-old girl had sore eyes consulted a witch doctor and was told to apply gunpowder to the child's eyes and touch it off with a match. She obeyed, blinding the child and injuring herself.

Sainte Barbe, one of the most famous high schools of Paris, founded in 1460 and the alma mater of Calvin and of Loyola, has been bought by the Government for 2,000,000 francs. It is becoming constantly more difficult for private institutions to compete with the State establishments. Last year the Ecole Monge, from which religious instruction was excluded, was turned over to the city of Paris and was rechristened Lycee Carnot. This year it is the turn of the Catholic college of Sainte Barbe.

Germany army officers are to have their pay raised. First Lieutenants will receive \$420 a year instead of \$315, Captains, \$985 instead of \$900, Majors, \$1,500 instead of \$1,350, and Colonels, \$2,100 instead of \$1,950. The money for the increase is obtained from the saving the Government makes in reducing the interest on the public debt from 4 to 3 1/2 per cent. The change is not all profit to the officers, as they are compelled by the army regulations to invest their savings in Government funds.

A queer sect, the Mazarenes, turned up in a London police court recently, owing to the refusal of their chief priest to pay a printer's bill. He called himself Antipas pastor, Fidei Defensor, and said that he had been a clergyman of the Reformed Episcopal Church in the United States. The bill in dispute was for a pamphlet containing a "Statement of the Faith once delivered to the saints in opposition to the Faiths of Christendom," and on its last page had an advertisement of the Antepas Cycles, price 12 guineas. Antipas, F.D., had to pay.

Mme. Cotescu, wife of a Roumanian court councillor at Bucharest, has brought suit for 100,000 francs damages, against a boarding-school mistress of Boulogne sur Seine for the loss of two daughters. Mme. Cotescu had placed four daughters in a convent school, where one became converted from the Greek orthodox faith to Roman Catholicism, and later fled from her home to become a nun. To prevent the conversion of the two younger girls the mother put them in the Boulogne school, on the teacher's engaging to keep them away from the nuns. The girls fled from school, however, and are now believed to be nuns in some convent. The mother's suit for damages is complicated by the fact that her daughters have come of age and have intervened in the suit, through their lawyer, with the assertion that they acted of their own free will in what they did.

## A CONSCIENTIOUS PATIENT.

At a certain London hospital a patient was recently given some extract of malt, with instructions to take a teaspoonful twice a day, commencing on the following morning, and to report himself at the end of a fortnight. At the expiration of this time he returned, and said to the physician: "Please, sir, am I to go on taking them insects you gave me?" "Insects!" said the astonished physician, "what insects?" "Why, them cockroaches, sir. I have taken one night and morning in a teaspoonful of the sticky stuff." Inquiry elicited that the cockroaches had not been dispensed, but had got into the jar during the first night of its stay in the patient's house.

## ARGUMENT FOR LATE RISING.

An eminent medical authority asserts that getting up early tends to exhaust the physical power and to shorten life, while the so-called invigorating early hours are apt to produce lassitude, and are positively dangerous to some constitutions.

## THE FUTURE SUMMER MONTHS.

According to the methods which is now adopted for reckoning leapyears, December, January and February will be summer months about 720,000 years hence.