CHAPTER LIII .- (Continued.)

"That's it," he said. "I buy it because Henson ask me to. Henson says he make it all right about the Rembrandt, and that if I do as I am told he give me £500. His money is to come on a certain day, but I pump and I pump, and I find that there is some game against Mr. Steel, who is a great novelist." "That is very kind of you," David

said, modestly.

"One against Miss Enid Henson," Van Sneck went on. "I met that believed to be in your possession; young lady once and I liked her; indeed, you have as good as said you therefore, I say I will be no party had it with you. Henson lured you to getting her into trouble. And into my house to get that more than Henson says I am one big fool, and anything else. That he would have that he is only giving Mr. Steel a killed you even after he got it I lesson in the art of minding his own firmly believe. But that is not the business. So I ask no further ques- point. Now, was not Henson looktions, though I am a good bit puz- ing for Prince Rupert's ring that you zled. With the last bank-notes I got from him by means of a trick?" possess I go to a place called Walen's | Van Sneck dropped his hands helpand buy the cigar-case that Henson lessly on the bed. says. I meet him and hand over the case and ask him for my money. at all, not even enough to repay me lutely overwhelming. It was the ring the price of the cigar-case. He has Henson was after. been disappointed. And I have been drinking. So I swear I will write ago! But what did you know about and ask Mr. Steel to see me, and I it?" do so."

"And you get an answer?" David

see me the same night. It was a study

forgery?" something like that. I know all ring he wanted me to copy. Henson about the forgery, how my notepaper | never told me what the ring was callwas procured, and when the forgery ed, but I knew it was the Prince Ruwas written. But that has very lit- pert ring. I made the copy, and tle to do with the story now. Please Henson was pleased with it. Some go on."

ceeded.

"I am not quite sober," he said. "I am hot with what I called my prongs. I come here and ring the bell. The hall was in darkness. There was a light in the conservatory, but none in the study. I quite believed went away perfectly satisfied that he that it was Mr. Steel who opened had a good copy and the original. I the door and motioned me towards chuckled to myself, feeling pretty the study. Then the door of the study closed and locked behind me, and the electric light shot up. When I turned round I found myself face to face with Henson."

Van Sneck paused again and shuddered at some hideous recollection. His eyes were dark and eager; there! was a warm moisture like varnish on his face.

"Even that discovery did not quite sober me," he went on. "I fancied it was some joke, or that perhaps I had got into the wrong house. But no, it was the room of a literary gentleman. I-I expected to see Mr. Steel come in or to try the door. Henson smiled at me. Such a smile! He asked me if I had the receipt for the cigar-case about me, and I said it was in my pocket. Then he smiled again, and something told me my life was in danger.

"I was getting pretty sober by absence of the owner. It was late my sense of smell?" at night in a quiet house, and nobody had seen me come. If that man walk out of the house without the to take a different view of the mat- like moisture to bring out the full faintest chance of discovery. And he ter altogether. was twice my size, and a man without feeling. I looked round me furtively for a weapon.

me and laid his hand on my should- may return in a few moments." er. He wanted something, he gave that something a name. If I passed that something over to him I was free, if not-

him. And I had what he wanted in scent of flowers bring back vivid re- bloom?" my pocket. If I had handed it over collections of things sometimes for He pointed to a creeper growing to him he would not have spared me. years forgotten? Van Sneck was go- up the wall. David broke off a As he approached me my foot slip- ing to say the air was heavy with spray. ped and I stumbled into the conser- the fragrance of some particular vatory; I fell backwards. And then blossom when he was struck down sion flower," he said. "It has a I recovered myself and defied Hen- by Henson in your conservatory.

any case. Even then I could smile tent I recollect all that happened stant it conveyed nothing to him. to myself as I thought how I could that eventual night. And just at the Then he half rose with a triumphant tube down his horse's throat. The bafile my foe. Once, twice, three very last I seem to smell something cry. times he repeated his demands, and powerful. That smell came to my each time I was obdurate. I knew nostrils just like a flash and then mustn't get up, you know. I see you that he would kill me in any case.

there was a knife in his hand. I flower I tell you what I did with missed him. The next instant and "Sounds rather complex," David I fell backwards. And Henson stood tracts much attention in England, hurled a flower-pot at his head and that ring." he had me by the throat. I felt his raid. stunning blow on the head, and till I "Our friend is talking sound common moment and I shall be able to tell capable, of yielding 1,000 candlewoke here to-day I cannot recollect a sense, and our friend is going to rest you everything. Oh, yes, the first power. Two hundred and fifty cansingle thing."

face, wet with the horror of the re- some pillows and let him sit in the ruse. And as I fell I took the ring ate the atmosphere sensibly less than collection. David Steel gave Bell a conservatory. Associating with fam- from my waistcoat pocket. Let me significant glance, and the latter liar surroundings frequently works have another sniff of that bloom,

nodded "Was the thing that Henson want- | sleep." ed a ring?" Steel asked, quietly.

CHAPTER LIV.

Van Sneck looked up with some signs of confusion. He had not expected a question of that kind. There was just the suggestion of cunning on his face.

"A ring!" he murmured, vaguely. "A ring! What ring?"

"Now, look here," David said, sternly. "You are more or less in our power, you know, but we are not as you are quite candid with us. Henson required something that he

"Gentlemen," he whined, "you are too much for me. The marvellous Henson swears that he has no money accuracy of your knowledge is abso-

"The one you stole from him years

Van Sneck smiled. "There is no living man who knows more about those things than I do,' "Sir, I do. You said you would he said. "It is a passion and a And some with me.

ago, in Holland seven years "It was. Henson had anticipated Henson gave me the description of a time later he came to me with the Van Sneck paused before he pro- original, and asked for another copy. I meant to be honest, but my love for those things got the better of me. I made him two copies; the one good, and the other an exact facsimile of the Prince Rupert. These I handed over to Henson, and he sure that he would never find out."

"But he did find out?" David said. "Only lately. Probably he took it to an expert for valuation or perhaps for sale. Lately his idea was to offer the ring to Lord Littimer for a huge sum of money, but when he discovered he had been done he knew that Lord Littimer would not be so deceived. Also he had a pretty good idea that I should keep the ring about me. You see, I dared not sell an historic gem like that. And, as usual, Henson was perfectly right."

pocket the night you came here?" | gone. asked Steel, with a commendable ef- It was after ten that Bell and people prefer the lily.

frightened and confused, and I was ure. not properly sober, and I did some-

Steel wriggled impatiently about Look at those colors blending--"

blow on your head held all your watering." senses suspended for a time. 'After ''lt's 'the proper time," David norance of the sorrows of this world "He saw my glance and understood the operation I should not have been laughed. "Turn on the tap for me." it, and smiled again. I was trembl- surprised to have found you half A cooling stream played on the ing from head to foot now with a blind and stone deaf into the bar- flowers; plants dropped their heads devil has been feeding them stones vague, nameless terror. From the gain. But one thing is certain-your filled with the diamond moisture; the until all their teeth are broken. very first I knew that I had not the smell will come back to you. It may whole atmosphere was filled with the smallest chance. Henson approached remain in obeyance for a few days, it odour of moist earth. Then the air

"What on earth has this to do with our interview?" David asked.

"'Fool,' he hissed, 'do you want Sneck said, admiringly. "He seems it." to see right through your mind and had gone again. Gentlemen, if I are excited. Has it come back to "He came with a snarl of rage; could have a good long scent at that you again?"

now late into the afternoon, when time I slipped on purpose. I told dle-power is very common with these the world, but if sea-sickness comes Van Sneck paused and wiped his we'll put him into an arm-chair with you I stumbled. But that was a lamps. It is claimed that they viti- on it is a dreadful agony. wonders. Van Sneck, you go to Yes, I've got it now quite clear."

Van Sneck closed his eyes obedient- David asked, eagerly.

ly. He was somewhat tired with the interview. But, on the whole, Bell from my pocket and pitched it away decided that he was doing very well from me. I saw it fall on to a pot indeed. And there was very little covered with moss, but I can't say more to be done for the present. The which pot or in which corner. I only two men smoked their cigars peace- know that I threw it over my shoul-

"But we can't save the scandal. I Henson knew nothing of it." don't see how Reginald Henson is going to get out of the mess without a prosecution."

Any further speculation as to the future of that engaging rascal was cut short by a pleasant surprise, no other than the unexpected arrival of Rutr Gates and Viris Henson The latter was beaming with hearth an! happiness; she had discarded ler disguise and stood confessed before all the world like the beautiful creature she was.

"What does it all mean?" David

say?" know?" Chris retorted. "They are sense as "forest" in the mother vaguely aware that somebody was country. This, however, is by way disposed to be hard on you so long taken away from the house a short of quoting from "Sport in New more need for disguise, Lord birds of those islands. Littimer says. He knows pretty well "It is curious how extraordinarily everything. He has been very rest- tame are the parrots, pigeons and less and uneasy for the past day or flightless birds as soon as you penetwo, and yesterday he left saying trate into one of these dense bushes have had to-day, so this time it that he had business in London. -they have no fear whatever of must be a really, truly story, and it Early to-day I had a characteristic man, and they regard him simply as happened last year in a pretty little telegram from him saying that he a curiosity. The small birds-the town down East, where your Uncle was at Longdean and that I was ne- New Zealand robins and fantails, for Charles and I were spending , the cessary to his comfort there. I was instance-will actually perch on you summer. and I was to bring Mr. Steel and very comical to see the robin- my sewing, and your uncle was read-Dr. Bell along."

> "We've got Van Sneck here." "And I had forgotten all about red one-put out a wax match. him," said Chris. "Was the opera-

tion successful?" down to the story of the ring and robin, which is almost certain to be the mysterious manner in which it near you, will invariably fly down followed Ruth into the conservatory, or fly away with it. He is a delightburied over a rose.

smile on her face.

said, "you are safe now?"

very impatient man, Ruth." "And you shall see my uncle when cess." you please, dear," she said. "You will find him quite as charming as you say your mother is. What will she say?"

"Say? That you are the dearest and sweetest girl in the world, and that I am a lucky fellow. But you are not going off already?"

"Indeed, we must. We have a cab at the door. And I am going to brave the horrors of Longdean Grange and spend the night there. Only, I fancy that the horrors have gone for ever. I shall be very disappointed if you don't come to-morrow."

Behind a friendly palm David bent and kissed the shy lips, with a vow that he would see Longdean Grange on the morrow. Then Chris caught "Then you had the ring in your up Ruth with a whirl, and they were

fort at coolness. "Did Henson get Steel managed to convey Van Sneck to the conservatory. The place was knowing half a man. "No, he didn't," Van Sneck chuck- filled with brightness and scent and led. "Come what might, I had made color and the afterglow of the sunup my mind that he should never see shine. The artistic eye of the Dutchthat ring again. You see, I was man lighted up with genuine pleas-

"They say you islanders are crude that time. It came to me that I thing with the ring, though to save and cold, and have no sense of the had been lured there; that Henson my life I couldn't say what I did. beautiful," he said. "But there are had got into the house during the Do you know, Dr. Bell, I have lost no houses anywhere to compare with those of the better-class Englishman.

on the chair. The interruption was "Hang those colors," said Bell, liked to kill me he could do so and exasperating. Bell, however, seemed vigorously. "Steel, there is nothing good. fragrance of flowers. Turn on your "Quite naturally," he said. "The hose and give your plants a good

> seemed laden with the mingled scent. "I can smell the soil," Van Sneck

cried. "How good it is to smell any-"I fancy a great deal, Bell said. thing again! And I can just catch "The sense of smell has a great deal a suggestion of the perfume of some-"Well, gentlemen, I didn't believe to do with memory. Doesn't the thing familiar. What's that red

"That's a kind of Japanese paslovely full-flavored scent like a mix-"Very clever man, Dr. Bell," Van ture of violets and almonds. Smell

Van Sneck placed the wet dripping "But I knew that I should die in out at the other side. To a great ex- spray to his nose. Just for an in-

"Steady there," said Bell. "You

"You know where the ring is?"

"Well, not quite that. I took it der, and that it dropped into the "We have got to-the end." Bell thick moss that lies on the top of all the pots. I laughed to myself as "I fancy so," David murmured. it fell, and I rejoiced to see that

"And it is still here?" Bell demanded.

Van Sneck nodded solemnly. "I swear it," he said. "Prince Rupert's ring is in this conservatory."

(To be Continued.)

NEW ZEALAND BIRDS.

Traveller Says They Are Wonderfully Tame.

It is not a little strange that in asked. "What will Longdean village New Zealand and Australia, as well as in Canada and South Africa, the "What does Longdean village word "bush" is used in the same time ago to be buried, but that is Zealand" some remarks by the auall their knowledge. And there is thor, 'Col. Montagu Cradock, on the

to come clothed in my right mind, if you keep perfectly still; and it is "I was sitting on the piazza with which, by the way, is almost exactly ing, when all at once the dearest lit-"It can't be managed," said Bell. like our British robin, except that he tle gray bird, with pale yellow spots wears a white waistcoat instead of a

"The trick invariably comes off. Just light a match and put it down later I went into the house to get Bell told his budget of good news near you and stand still, and the had disappeared again. David had to it and put it out with his beak, where she stood with her dainty head ful little bird, and his little bold black eyes twinkle every bit as it. She looked up with a warm, shy brightly as those of his British compatriot. If you chirp with your cloth, bits of cotton wool and thread "I hope you are satisfied," she mouth in the same way that you and laid them near my work on the persuade a weasel to look out of a table. Very soon down came birdie "I was never very much alarmed, stone wall into which you have seen again, and seemed delighted to find dearest," Steel said. "If this thing him run, the little fantail gets des- so many nice bits for the nest. had never happened I might never perately excited, and after flying have met you. And as soon as this close round you a minute or so, will forth with the pieces of string, wool business is definitely settled I shall just light on your head or shoulder and cotton, often lighting on my come and see your uncle. I am a for a moment, and then dart off, to chair, and seeming not one bit return directly and repeat the pro- afraid. The next day she came

SENTENCE SERMONS.

Love makes loyal. Less work, more weeds. Work gives zest to rest.

It is hard to be happy in a hurry. by. Love is always looking for a load.

asting love. The sense of duty is a sign of the

divine in man. Righteousness is a lot more than

respectability. ing character.

cannot learn of a child. No words of faith have force until

they become flesh. It is hard for the leek to see why Hatred often comes from only

The only sure thing about a lie is that it will never die.

The defense of the devil usually hides some share in his dividends. Many mistake their dreams about

heaven for deeds to lots up there. It takes the touch of love to pick even the mote out of another's eye.

norance or more ignorant than pride. fearing we should frighten her away. When his goods are his chief good

sorrow.

The happiness that comes from ig- piazza again."

may be sin. Some people never know that the

A CAREER FOR ELEPHANTS.

Elephants that pile teak logs as was ordered by his veterinary to unfolded. blow a certain powder through a horse blew first.

POWERFUL ALCOHOL LIGHTS.

The utilization of alcohol as an "That's the scent,' Van Sneck illumininant is growing in France cried. "The air was full of that as and Germany, and the subject atover me exactly by that cracked tile | On the Continent alcohol lamps are "Not a bit of it," Bell retorted. where Mr. Steel is now. Give me a now made with incandescent mantles of alcohol for industrial purposes.

YOUNG

FOLKS DOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

SOME RULES.

There are some rules Not taught in schools That every girl should know; Don't fuss and fret, Your wrongs forget, Each day some kindness show; Keep fresh and neat, Be kind and sweet, Don't force your friends to wait For church or play Because your way Is always to be late. Be patient when You're ill and then This truth I need not tell-Through all the year Your friends most dear Will learn to love you well.

A BRAVE BIRD.

"Another story!" exclaimed Auat Julia, as little Elanor climbed into her lap and laid her curly head contentedly on her aunty's shoulder. "Well, this is the fourth story you

on its wings and tail, flew down on the piazza and hopped round in a very friendly way. A few moments my scissors, and while there your uncle called to me to look out of the window. There was the dear little bird up on the table, pulling at my work and trying to fly off with

"I brought out some ravelings of

"All that day she flew back and again, getting better and petter acquainted each time, until she hopped into my lap, pecking at my work and picking up any loose threads she could find, and carrying them off to her nest in the tree near

"The third day some friends came It takes a fool to appreciate a fad. over to see our new pet, and to Reverence is the foundation of watch her, busy at her task of nestbuilding.

"For a long time after they came birdie watched them from her perch in the tree, but did not offer to fly down near us, and we feared we Killing time is a sure way of spoil- had frightened her away; but in a little while down she came again, He can never teach a man who flying on the table, and then into the lap of one of the ladies sitting

> "Of she went again with the scraps of wool she found there, then back again, perching on the shoulder of a little girl, and pecking at her hair ribbon, evidently thinking it would make a fine, soft lining for her nest.

"Next she lighted on Uncle Charles' arm, and tried to pull his handkerchief out of his pocket. Wa wanted very much to laugh at the dear little thing, she was so cunning There is nothing prouder than ig- and amusing, but we kept very quiet,

"She hopped about the piazza for a man is likely to find little lasting some time, then finally flew back to her nest, which by this time I think The saddest people are the only must have been finished, for although ones who are always fleeing from we often saw her flying about near the house, she never came on to the

HOW TO ROLL AN UMBRELLA.

How many men know how to roll an umbrella so that it will look as neat and compact as when it leaves the store? Not many of those you meet have the secret. Nearly every one who rolls an umbrella takes hold evenly as coolies do, and take care of it by the handle and keeps twistof children more tenderly than some ing the stick with one hand and human beings, and do other clever folds and rolls with the other hand. and remarkable things, have been The proper way is to take hold of made known to us by travellers in the unbrella just above the points of India. Now an English-woman tells | the cover ribs; these points naturally of one, who is what may be called a are even around the stick. Keep general drudge in a hospital in Cey- hold of these, pressing them closely, lon. One day a patient dropped a against the stick, and then roll up pill, which rolled beyond his reach. the cover. Holding the ribs prevents The elephant picked it up, and plac- them from getting either twisted out ing it in the man's open mouth, blew of rlace or bent out of shape. Then it down his throat. This story will the silk will fold evenly and roll go with that about the man who smooth and as close as the first time

WANTED A REMEDY.

"There is a fortune awaiting the man who invents a remedy for seasickness," said a physician.

"My trother is chief surgeon of an Atlantic liner, and he tells me that some people have offered him as much as \$500 to keep them well during their Transatlantic passage. Al sea voyage, if one's health remains good, is the most delightful thing in

"A millionaire and his young wife any other illuminant except incan- crossed on my brother's ship during descent electric lamps. In Germany their honeymoon. They had a \$1,potatoes, and in France beets, are 000 suite on the upper promenade now largely used in the production deck, and they were not out of sight of land before sea-sickness seized