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"OH, WAD SOME POWER THE GIFTIE GIE US, TAE SEE OORSELS AS ITHERS SEE US."

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# THE DEAN AND HIS DAUGHTER.

CHAPTER XLII.

As soon as I was up and about, I hunted up Ethel, and as she happened to be also hunting up me on her own account, we very soon found ourselves alone together, not in the shrubberies but upon the lawn, where we could at once discontinue our conversation, and plunge boldly into some-

"I have news for you, Ethel." "And I have news for you."

"Bless my soul ! we are always doing, or thinking, or wanting the same thing, or having the same thing happen to us at the it and what is it all about ?"

"It's no very great secret dear. It's simply this, that a man, who happens to be eligible and to be also a very good fellow into the bargain, has proposed to

"Good heavens, you don't say so? And a man, who happens to be a very nice fellow and to be very eligible into the bargain, has a second time proposed to me. It almost begins to look as if we were bewitched, Tell me now; who is your man?"

"Before I answer that, you must tell me whether you have accepted Lord Ashwell this time or whether you have been insane enough to once again send the poor man off about his business.

"No, Ethel, I have done the right and the merciful thing this time. I have told him that I will do all I can to make him a most amiable and in every way a model wife, and I have sent him off. I really believe, so happy that he hardly seems to know what to do with himself. Now tell me what you have done, or rather tell me first, who your victim is."

"My victim, as you are pleased to term him, Lady Craven, is bearing up wonderfully under all the circumstances. Allow me to inquire after the health of yours."

"Mine is radiant with delight and now that we have each of us hooked and practically landed our fish, suppose we begin to compare notes. Who is your fish, what does he scale, how old is he, and is he in seasonable condition ?

named Sir Thomas Jackson, and is an Alderman and ex-Lord Mayor, and very presentable in every respect. Of his exact calling I know nothing as yet, except that he is something in the city and must make a fair amount of money by pursuing that occupation, as his private residence and place of residence out of business hours is in Chesham Place. He may be a soap boiler for all that I care so long as he is content to do what is right and handsome in the way of settlements, pocket-money, and other such matters of detall, It is in the matters of detail dear Miriam that the whole secret of this world really lies. Look to your details, and the larger matters will take care of themselves quite naturally.'

appearance. It is a very happy phrase, ex- soon as possible. actly hitting off what it describes."

to look so at once, for here comes the young to let matters rest as they were.

it necessary that I should do so.

and saw me off- Arrived at Peddington, 1 or, in fact, at all. I only want a few days procured a hansom, and, in about twenty more." offices of Messrs. Wylie & Wylie.

time to tell Lord Ashwell enything, and tainly let him know before dinner the next that my real object in coming up to town day. had been to ask him, Mr. Wylie, what he thought I had better do.

ter for a moment, not being, according to ginning to lie heavily on the meadows, and his usual practice, ready at once with among the reeds and sedge. an entire solution of the whole difficulty.

er or later, and before your engagement E hel burst into the room. gets abroad; or, if you do not, some enemy "I have to be off at once to Paris, my foreboding of evil to come. I suppose, in

little doubt myself as to what that opinion "But the papers were so down on me,"

"Leading articles in newspapers," he replied, "always accept the fait accompli, always say that they had foreseen it all along; always make it out worse than it is; and always moralize about it in a manner thing else, should anyone break in upon sickeningly hypocritical. No man with any confidence in his own opinion is ever inwhich is often sublimely impertinent and fluenced by the papers. Lord Ashwell, whatever he may have read at the time, will have formed his own judgment upon your history, and I should say that his judgment would be a sound one.

"And all these things being so, I cannot help thinking that your best course is to erratic. same time, It's marvelous! Well what is tell him yourself who you really are, and then to suggest that he should come and see me, as I had Mr. Sabine's confidence entirely, and can thoroughly satisfy Lord Ashwell upon any point he may wish to be informed about.

This was evidently meant to be final, so ed by him in person to my cab, and, as I had determined to stay in town for the night, was driven at once to my old quarters at the Langham.

On this occasion, instead of going ! rather chilly) with some tea and a small expect it, to be sprung upon you. You glass of fine champagne, and then wrote a will then find that you have plenty of fight- grounds. I am not defending my frame of

#### CHAPTER XLIII.

My letter was short enough, but I knew that Lord Ashwell would be delighted to hear from me. I told him that I had got through the little shopping that had taken me up to town entirely to my satisfaction, and that I intended to return by an early train the next morning, which would land meat the station at about eleven, and that

I should then drive straight to the house. I pleaded the necessity for catching the post as an excuse for the shortness of the letter, and having made certain that it would be sent off safely, went to bed earlier than my usual hour.

My lover met me at the station. He had sent down from London a small stanhope, and a couple of fast-trotting cobs, which he said he wished me to try. need not remind my reader that my little experience of driving had been acquired very late in life. But I had a "I will answer categorically. My fish is natural aptitude for it, and I could feel as I took the reins that the horses knew their mistress, and that Lord Ashwell could see as much.

When we reached The Uplands I promised that I would join him at the rustichouse by the campshead as soon as I had changed my traveling dress. This operation 1 performed with great care, trying to make yet not at all anxious or disquieted. myself look at my very best, and I really hink succeeding tolerably well. Then made my way down to the water's edge, and there found Lord Ashwell throwing pebbles more or less aimlessly into the water, and evidently in an extremely restless frame of mind.

He began at once about myself, and about our marriage. How soon was it to proposition, and is trying to frighten you. be? and when and where was it to take "So I am coming to believe. First, how- place? and how soon might he tell all his ever, let me congratulate you with all my freinds about it? At present he had heart. We are such very old friends, and | thought it best to keep strictly to the very good friends, that I need hardly doso in a set letter of our understanding, and to tell no speech, now let me in turn tell you all about one. But, of course, the thing must be my own love affair. I have made my fiance known sooner or later, he did not really see the happiest of men, and he is, I believe, at any reason why it should not just as well this moment either dreaming of me, or be made public at once. Why should we else thinking of me over his after not tell the Fox's who were kind people, out. There will be a scene, no doubt, at breakfast cigar and brandy and sofa. For and would be sure to be pleased, and have Heaven's sake, if he should come up, as he | the whole thing put in the Post in the may at any moment, don't look full of shape of the customary announcement? guilty knowledge. Try and talk as if no- There was not the least occasion for any friends. For friendship is better than love thing whatever was passing in your mind. mystery, and for his own part he wanted in proportion as it has confidence in it. Put on what I have heard you call a casual the news to be made public property as

"I will look, my dear, as casual as I pos- all in a humor to be put off. All that I tirely treacherous. Marry him at once, my sibly can, and I had better perhaps begin could do was to beg him for a few days dear Miriam, and then the very day after-

"I have no doubt," I said, "you will The young gentleman himself was bearing think me fanciful, so perhaps I am. In down upon us at this juncture and wanting fact, I think that all women are fanciful to know whence we came, and whither we more or less. I can only ask you for just were going, and what we thought of the this once to bear patiently with me, and weather, and so on, gave me at last the to honor my fancy. A day or two, or even chance of telling him that I was going up a couple of weeks (for which I do not ask, sides, as Mr. Wylie told me, if I married in to London on business that very afternoon, and have no intention of asking), is a very any name but my own, the marriage would having in fact received a letter which made little matter after all, where two lives are be an idle ceremony entirely null and void, concerned. As for our marriage itself. I and then all sorts of complications would Lord Ashwell drove me up to the station, have no wish to postpone that indefinitely, follow."

minutes, found myself once again in the "Well, my darling," he answered, "it is that the cards cannot always be against is idle to pretend that I am not disappoint-Mr. George Wylie received me in his ed, for I am, and I think I have a little usual manner, although with more defer- reason to be. I always hated mystery, ence, I farcy, than he would show to ord- and I wanted to have had the whole thing time that the tide began to turn. I for my inary clients. And he then proceeded to out at once. It must be, however, as you extract my business from me so skilfully please. For the present I will say no turned already, and I consequently vote and rapidly that he really knew all about more about it, but we cannot, of course, it before I, for my own part, was aware that prolong our stay here indefinitely. The best of the people have gone already, and When he had learnt what he wished to the rest will soon be going. For my part, know he congratulated me very gravely I think the sooner we let the thing be

and courteously. Lord Ashwell, he said, known, and without giving people any unwas a young nobleman, whom everybody neccessary time to think about it and liked, and who had never been involved in chatter about it, get married up in London any scandal, or even difficulty; else he, and are off to the Continent, the better it Mr. Wylie, would most certainly have will be. Cannot you give me any idea?" known all about it. His lordship was in Upon what slight circumstances our the best set, and belonged to two or three whole life often lingers. I felt stronglyof the very best clubs, the arlconn and almost irresistibly-tempted then and there White's for instance. He was said and be- to tell him everything; but my evil destiny lieved, to have very considerable ability, prompted me to put off doing so. I was and to be certain one day to make his mark | tired with my journey, with late hours,

in the Upper House. And then Mr. Nylie and with the excitement of my triumph, abruptly gave the conversation a new and perhaps also I was vain enough to be departure by asking me whether I had as lieve that a little something like coquetry vet told Lord Ashwell of, what he politely might not be altogether without avail. So termed, the persecutions to which I had I put the matter lightly by, telling him that I should very probably make up my I snswered that I had not as yet had mind that night, and that I would cer-

reddening plantations to the house, for, The man of law considered the mat- early as it was, the mists were already be-

We parted in the hall, and I made my within ten days." Then, having thought the matter out, way to my own room. I had looked to one or two little things, and was beginning to "Of course you must let him know, soon- think of going downstairs to luncheon, when

or other will do the thing for you. It is dear," she began. "I won't bother you quite necessary that it should be done, and with my affairs. You have quite enough I advise you to do it at once. The only of your own to occupy all your attention : possible question is, will you do it yourself, but go I must, or I most certainly would possible questions of you? Now, I not be leaving you at this particular crisis, dinner that evening, and although, of You must take the tale as it has come to and I'm perfectly happy." would gladly go beyond the routine of pro- I have looked at the Bradshaw, and all the course, he was kind and courteous, he you. If you knew the whole truth of it fessional duty, only that I think you had other authorities, and I find that if I leave fessional duty, only here at five sharp, I can just manage to do better tell Lord Ashwell yourself. Then here at five sharp, I can just manage to do better tell Lord Ashwell write to matters comfortably. All the nearly demonstrative attention has been sharp, I can just manage to do whole truth would not explain away the better tell Lord whether you shall write to matters comfortably. All Liy packing is demonstrative attention, knowing my ob- facts. I quite know that. You know the received a very long and very characteristic comes the point whether you shall tell him, and if completed, my formal adieux have been jection to our names being coupled together facts, and you know the worst. The interhim, or whether judgmost certainly tell him. made, and there is nothing left for me but for the present, and mindful of his pro-He is a young man of strong common sense. to be ready for the carriage when it comes He is a young this story already. In round to the door. Meantime I have a mise to me on the subject. He is sure to a like the case letter for you which has been forwarded I was very glad indeed when the time all human probabilities, and from every from Paris, where it was addressed care of arrived that it was possible for me to retire, enough. You were introduced to me as Financial Advance and Discount Company,

of Prince Balanikoff. Open it at once, my doubt, and a sort of dread of the unseen estimable of Russians, and least bearish, has to say for himself."

I complied, more or less mechanically, and with a certain amount of uneasiness. I was passing through a very severe and sharp crisis, and my nerves were strung to the most extreme point of tension. The letter itself did not take by any means long to read, or to master its purport. It was not brief, but it was tren-

chantly to the point.

"Jockey Club, Paris, "October 24th, 18-

MY DEAR LADY CRAVEN, "It is just possible that it may be some time before this letter will reach you. do not know where you are, and I am aware that in England, at this time of the year, your movements are very likely to be

"Why am I writing to you? Of course have not forgotten the stern interdict under which you have virtually placed me. Of course I am wrong in breaking it. Mais, que voulez-vous ? News, sometimes, come que voulez-vous? News, sometimes, come to me in odd ways, and I have heard news of yourself, and, to tell you the truth, of Lord Ashwell. I hope what I hear may be go to bed and you can never trust yourself.

You may sleep on like the princess in the Let us part as if we had never met, and let us take very great care never to meet hundred pounds at once to your credit at Daughter (1) wished Mr. Wylie good day; was escort- Lord Ashwell. I hope what I hear may be to the that I have no manner of doubt. But it is

"Meantime, my own love for you remains unaltered, told you truthfully that it was, and had been, the only on the threshold of that delightful the two of us, and our orbits in all human so now. At any time, and under any circumstances, my old proposal to you, and good. I will leave Russia forever, and let you choose for yourself our place of abode.

"If you want me, as I am almost certain you will, and much sooner than you think, telegraph to me here, or come to me here, which ever you prefer. I have a sort of fancy that you will come, and so shall not leave until I hear from you.

"I could write pages; but I have said all that is necessary, and will now wait until our next meeting.

"Yours till death. " BALANIKOFF."

I handed the letter to Ethel, and said Read it for yourself, my dear, and tell me what it means. Your brains are sharper than my own by far. For myself, I contess, that it fairly puzzles me."

Ethel read the letter over, not once, but two or three times, until I felt certain that she had thoroughly mastered it. Then she handed it back to me with an enigmatical expression of countenance. She was evidently at once amused and bewildered, and "He is a funny fellow, dear Miriam,

she said, "very persistent, and very terribly in earnest. But I always told you that he meant well. As for reading between the lines of his epistle, the task is an easy one -far easier than the small pea under one of the threelittle thimbles. He is making a last desperate effort to get you to accept his What, however, you have to be frightened about, I fail to see. If I were you, I should certainly not answer the letter; but I should none the less keep it as a curiosity, which, indeed, it most unquestionably is. And whatever you do, mind as soon as you are married, and have got Ashwell to yourself, that you make a clean breast of everything to him, and leave him nothing to find the first, but through that you must struggle, and you will end by being firmer lovers than ever, and, better than lovers,

while love is always passion, and consequently more or less irrational, capricious, He was evidently in earnest, and not at and uncertain, if not, indeed, at times enwards have the whole thing over.' "But you do not seem to understand. Ethel. I mean to tell Lord Ashwell everything before I marry him. In fact I must tell him before. You forget I have seen Mr. Wylie, whose advice entirely chimes in with my own previous determination. Be-

> "Well, darling," said Ethel, "there is only one thing certain at cards, and that you. Of that I am quite confident. Your bad luck up to now has been persistent, cruel, and almost malicious. It is high own part feel pretty certain that it has that we keep our own counsel and for the present say no more about the matter. There is the luncheon bell, and I have my old Alderman to pacify. He will be furious at my having to go over to Paris, and I do not mind telling you that he is the kind of animal who wants a good deal of smoothing down. I shrewdly suspect that he has ruined his digestion with thick turtle soup and Mansion House punch, and that his digestion has ruined his temper. Nous verrons. When I am Lady Jackson, highly excited and irritable mood, as, in closed the book of the past, and was going and my bear shall dance to my own tune or I will know why. You shall see my dear.

# CHAPTER XLIV.

That afternoon Ethel started for Paris. She had somehow or other managed to pacify her Alderman, and, in fact, left him on the best possible terms. I accompanied Then we made our way up through the her to the station, and bade her an affec- in it. He may have his own view of the but also to my plans for the future. tionate farewell.

"We shall soon meet again, darling," were her last words; "I hope to be back

I returned to The Uplands with a sense of oppression that I could neither accoun for, nor yet shake off, and a sort of vague reality, it was the effect of Prince Balani. koff's strange warning.

child, and let me know what that most evil with which I was apparently threatened. But when I got to bed no refreshing sleep, nor, indeed, sleep of any kind, came to bring me relief, and I tossed about all night a prey to vague misgivings and unpleasant reflections. I lit my candle and tried to read, but I found it impossible to concentrate my attention for two minutes

together, so that I was forced to give up the attempt as hopeless. I got up and paced up and down the room and then went at his boots and not at me, "is very unfortunate, and I must also add—very and bare necessities. would, and I was finally compelled to accept the inevitable, and to remain awake to say the least, under a misunderstanding wrote my answer. the whole night.

"Stop awake all night," you will be told, why, it's the best fun in the world, Whenever there is anything good to be most particular care not to go to bed. Once

specimen of a young English country gentle- morning. Being no longer a child or even afraid it must be so. 1 see no other way I was in no hurry to figure early that again."

In this humor I went down to the letter, which, as I knew, would, if ing to do, if you are even to hold your mind. You may call it defiant, you may better see me as far as the house, and when it can. Non olet. I dare say that your minderstunes have not made your forcet your and I was still not in the prime of life, but tainly are not likely to break our hearts for period. I consequently was restless, im- probability will never again cross." patient, and in the very last temper calcuthe promises attached to that proposal, hold lated to provoke or to encourage reflection.

rang out the signal for lunch.

-entirely himself, with all his self- even looking at him, hurried into the house. possession about him, looking almost twenty years younger than his age, hold- Lady Aletheia was in the house and able to centre and focus of the entire company- room. no less a person than the husband whom I honor, and obey.

It was a distinctly difficult position. I was looking steadily at Sir Henry corresponding impression. when he looked up, and our eyes met. I made him a very formal bow, but it was and I wished before I went to bid you good with an expression in my face which |-by and to thank you for yourhospitality." intimated : "Try your worst. You and I know perfectly well that the scabbard is going, Lady Craven? Well! People come thrown away. I do not expect quarter, and people go. Perhaps it is best that and if you mean fighting, I can fight as leave-takings should be brief." well as yourself."

# CHAPTER XLV.

me how he got the best of a very abusive | are final as ours is likely to be. with every variety of oath, ancedote, Aletheia, and she turned on her heel, and I abuse, and biasphemy for about an hour. heard the rustle of her skirts as she swept "When," said George, "he had blown his along the corridor. whether that was all. He replied that it | English equivalent for shaking the dust off was. I then told him, not in these exact your feet. My fly came, my boxes were put terms, that I was devotedly grateful to on to it : my gratuities to the servants were Providence." My look at Sir Henry was duly made; and I very soon found myself of much the same tenor. It meant, and in the train for London, divided between a tongue so have I. If you talk, I can talk." window. And with this expression stereotyped into Arrived at the Langham, I telegraphed to my features. I looked at him and waited Ethel.

I have always said I considered him a stupid man, but with a certain amount of | tired." pomp and management of detail when he And this missive despatched, I proved its might be fully prepared with all the cir- sincerity by falling asleep in a chair until cumstances. And in this world, stupidity | the chambermaid roused me between eleven is apt to rank as wisdom purposely hidden and tweive o'clock, and took my final under a veil of cunning and caution. Not orders for early departure. knowing what to do, Sir Henry did noth- All things have an end-even the journey ing, but he also looked hopeless, helpless, to Paris. Before starting, I went into a and perfectly bewildered. Now a diploma- chemist's shop and asked for a sleeping tist ought to be no one of these things.

windings of the shrubberies there, face to asked permission to feel my pulse, and face with me, stood Lord Ashwell the advantage of him. I knew the very familiar with it by the smell. worst which he could certainly know, noth- "Then, madam," said he, "try a little (for the variety is the black Hamburg), ing beyond what he might have picked up internally, and as hot as you can take it. hang the entire length of the roof in and added to by conjecture. I, in other It is a powerful soporific, and will send straight, even lines, instead of up the roof, words, have batteries in reserve; but as you to sleep at once. And as the aroma as is commonly the case. Over two thouagainst this must be put the fact that I lingers in the breath, you had better let me sand bunches were cut out after they had was now an old strategist, and that it is the put you up some musk lozenges."

old strategists who are always beaten, for the I burst out laughing. What an excellent two shillings a pound—which is, as good natured than small ones?" "Yes" answervery simple reason that they follow stere-otyped rules of the game, and are conse-pleasant and tell the truth! I took up be £112. Probably no other tree of any difference between the Jersey mosquito quently unequal to a sudden emergency. my lozenges, and further discharged my collections by purchasing a bottle of Eau sum in fruit annually. course there was mischief in the air, and I de Cologne. I need only add that his could not possibly tell what cards he might advise was entirely correct. The Presibe holding in his hand. But I could dent of the Royal College of Physicians Great Britain's Navy Undermanned. see that his manner was embarrassed himself could not possibly have given me and uneasy. Therefore I conjectured better. the worst, and prepared myself to face it. I did not trouble myself with thinking.

fact, his very first words proved. "It is very unpleasant, Mrs. Gas- I was, but as the proverb runs, "better coigne," he said, "when unrleasant things late than never." Gather your roses You shall see. And we went down to like this happen. I suppose they must hap- while you can. Or, as I fancy I remember pen sometimes, but for my own part I like Horace said, "Carpe diem, quam minito get them over. I have no wish to put | mum credula postero. any question whichmay be painful to your- From the Gare du Nord, was 's Ethel self, or which I have not a perfect right to met me, bubbling over in her usual shion. put. But I believe you know old Sir Henry but as tender-hearted, sympathetic, and Craven. He is down here, and has been true as ever, we were driven hurriedly to

saying a good deal about you. I cannot the Rue Royale. By the time we had got suppose for a moment that he is telling there Ethel knew all I could tell her, not downright lies. There must be something only with regard to what had taken place, matter, and he may be, or he may not be "And you have made up your mind, wrong. I do not think very much of him. | my dear, to do as he asks?" But what he has said calls for an answer. Yes, I have thought it over. I won't In fact it calls for an answer which I can say, as the Dean would, that I havgo back and give him. I am very sorry prayed over the matter, but I have con-

name is not Gascoigne. You mean that I I mean to do as I choose. Don't you once was Lady Craven. Well. You know remember my old yachting story of the my story as many other people know it. I bo's'un: 'If any man isn't happy aboard could give you my own version of it, which this vessel, why, by the Lord, I'll make I do not suppose you would believe for a him know what for.' That's my frame of Lord Ashwell took me down to moment, or allow to effect you in any way. mind, my dear. I'm aboard this vessel, you would be sorry for me. But even the am I. Good people always are."

themaway."

you are not Mrs. Gascoigne at all, but that up. In other words, it was in liquidation, thing which I do not understand, and to the grizzly bones for accountants, receivers, which I am not accustomed.'

of my life carnot always be compressed hundred a year out of his fifteen. What into a few sentences of space, or a few he was to do he did not know. It was the any secret from you, and there is nothing the same time, I surely would not refuse whatever which, at this minute, I wish to out of my abundant income to aid him in keep or hide from you. That is all."

unsatisfactory. I cannot see any way out I t was very wrong of me, but I laughed Misunderstardings are unpleasant things. The difficulty in this case is most certainly not of my making."

"The difficulty need not trouble you," I cried. "In fact, it does not exist. I absodone in the morning, I always take the lutely decline to be considered as upon my I owe you my life and all the happiness defence. You are dissatisfied with what that my life has brought me. I should be

"I am sorry," he replied; "but I am similar payment on each quarter-day. man, and would, no doubt, make a model a girl, I knew that in the fresh light of out of the matter. There are always well that you should know where this play, I dined rather late, with the allow. only my duty to let you know, as soon as I "Avoid two things," Ethel used to tell may come and when it does come the only and body to Prince Relenited. It is now dawn I should appear to disadvantage, troubles in this world and we have to face money comes from. It is a part of the ance of a pint of champagne. A man after possibly can, that you are threatened with me, "one of these is the lime-light; never thing for you to do is to take your chance two months since I wholly renounced the allowance I had been receiving from Sir may come, and when it does come, the only and body to Prince Balanikoff. It is now

"You may be right," I said, "and I dare Henry Craven. that I held all the cards in my own hand, probably never meet again, and we cer- Latin.

We walked back to the house by side without another I wandered about the grounds until the was a fine day or had asked me what were bell in the turret of the tower to the stables | the chances of skating in the coming winter, and whether I liked skating, it would have aid. My days are numbered, and, in all I entered the room more or less heed- driven me mad. But he did nothing of the lessly. It had never occurred to me who sort. His silence was phlegmatic and might be there, or who might not. I had English. We marched along so slowly in my own mind reckoned up the company, and steadily that I could almost hear each and was not prepared for any addition to single stone n the gravel crunch under his it. I was consequently fairly startled, feet. Then we reached the porch and I when, at the other end of the room, I saw said good-bye, and, without waiting or

Inquiries soon satisfied me that the ing forth with the loquacity of a gossip, receive me. I found her, or rather was and the assurance of a professor, and taken to her, in a little room which I can evidently considering himself the heart, best describe as half boudoir, half writing In a very few minutes Lady Aletheia had once most solemnly vowed to ove, entered. Her bearing was not perhaps

aggressive, but was unquestionably chilly, and was evidently intended to produce a the further we wander from the light, and "I have to go," I said, "Lady Aletheia, "Oh, indeed," she answered. "You are I had risen when she came in, and she had

not herself taken a seat, so that we were both standing. "It is perhaps best they should be I remember George Sabine once telling brief," I replied, "especially when they Yankee harbor-master. The Yank talked "I quite agree with you, 'answered Lady Greater Than That at Hampton Court, It

wind and stopped spouting, I asked him | We have, so far as I know, no exact

to-morrow morning. Meet me, as I am

draught, and by way of letting the man Luncheon over, I strolled away by my- see that I knew what I was about, I told self down to the river. It would be idle to him that I was suffering from insomnia. so that now the vine and its main stems Old Bachelor (one of the judges)—"Yes pretend that I was not restless and uneasy. He was a stout, good-natured man with an stand partly across the house, just two- madam, we all agreed that your baby was then inquired whether I had ever tasted In one respect, and in one only, I had rum. I replied truthfully that I was only

One thing was evident, that he was in a My mind was absolutely made up. I had to begin life over again. Late, no doubt,

for all this trouble, and I only hope to sidered it thoroughly. In the first place Heaven that you can help me out of it." I like Balanikoff: in the second place, he "You mean," I said, "that my right is a gentleman; in the third place, "Of course you are," she said : "and so

pretation of them is another matter. I am of Southwick, He was in the most terrible ready to interpret them, but cannot explain distress. Wishing to add to his stipend, death. he had been induced to invest largely in the " Surely," he said, "the matter is easy Consolidated British and Foreign General discussed several discussed se

you are Lady Craven. The explanation of and was likely to remain so, as long as that is for yourself. It is the kind of there was a scrap of flesh left upon

trustees, and other such unclean vultures "I had intended to tell you everything. to pick at. To avoid disgrace and exposure, My life has had a history, and the history he had been compelled to set aside twelve minutes of time. I did not mean to have divine will and he must bow to it. At bill." this sore trial, and to enable him to have right," she said, "I will be a sister to "The whole thing," he replied, looking at his disposal, not the luxuries of life, you."

of it. You admit that you are not Mrs. over the letter, and profanely remarked Gascoigne. You admit that you are here, that Ally Sloper was at it again. Then I

#### "Paris, 2,0001 Bis, Champs Elysees. December 28th, 18-, "My Dear Father,

the Old Bank, Southwick, and to make a

allowance I had been receiving from Sir

call it what you please. It seemed to me I am in its shade, we can part. We shall misfortunes have not made you forget your

Your Daughter, MIRIAM.

By return of post I received the following reply: The Deanery, Southwick, December 29th, 18-

"My Desrest Child, "First let me thank you with all my heart for your most generous and welcome human probability, I shall not tax your bounty long. But I am happy to know that I still retain your affection. The more the years roll by the more closely do you remind me of your sainted mother.

"Judge not, that ye be not judged. have always seen the full force and singular beauty of that divine command, and have humbly endeavored to mould my life in unison with it.

"Morganatic marriages, such as yours, are, in its wisdom recognized by the Greek Church, a communion with which I have always been in the closest sympathy, looking forward as I do with earnest faith to the ultimate reconciliation of Christendom.

the life, and truth. "I am, always, my dearest Daughter, "Your most devoted and affectionate Father. "AUGUSTUS VANDELEUR ST. AUBYN."

I really feel that this delightful episcle speaks sufficiently for itself and its writer, he strode haughtily on. and needs no comment of my own.

AN ENORMOUS VINE.

Bears 2,000 Bunches of Grapes.

at Hampton Court Palace is esteemed the most remarkable, even that is excelled in dimensions by the still greater vine at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Park. Not only these giants, but probably all other vines it was intended to mean, "if you have a novel from the bookshelf and a view from the in the kingdom, have to give place for extent and productiveness to that most remarkable vine which is just at the present sportsman." Miss Bloomfield-"Is he? "I shall start for Paris by the 9.40 train | moment carrying the enormous quantity of | He never shoots anything." Miss Belle-852 bunches and a total weight materially field-"That is why I call him good. I think it is real wicked to kill innocent exceeding half a ton.

This is growing at Manresa House, Roe hampton, in a vinery 224 feet long by 11 present gardener, Mr. Davis, as a cutting, onto a wall outside, more than 30 years ago. But finding that in the natural soil such carital growth was made, the present house got the prize at the baby show? I knew he thirds up its length. There are seven main | the feast objectionable of the lot." rods or branches running horizontally each way. These are allowed to carry laterals, or fruiting shoots, on the upper sides only,

The one great lesson of the British navamanoeuvres which have just been concluded New Guinea, told a rather ghastly story. appears to be that the navy is underman ned to a serious degree. On this point all correspondents are agreed. Although nothing like the number of ships have native came up. Knowing that the old in the case of a real war, it was impossible to find proper crews for them. The naval Mr. Chalmers asked him what he wanted. Chronicle, was drawn upon as it was never drawn upon before, and yet ships were mobilized with about two-thirds of their proper complements, and in some cases scarcely a half of their proper complement of officers, "acting sub-lieutenants-that is to say, midshipmen—being put to keep ers, and it was found to contain the breast ought to fall upon lieutenants." The Daily Chronicle makes a demand for a short service system. It proposes that lads entered it from fourteen to fifteen years should pass through the navy and after from ten to twelve year's service go into the mercantile marine, with a small annual sum as a retainer.

Cholera Victims Cremated by Incendiaries.

Sixty houses in the city of Blaszki, in the trolled by this house, whose total fortune is the cholera is making fearful ravages, were set on fire the other night and completely About two months after these events. I destroyed. A number of the inmates of these houses, who were suffering from the disease and were too weak to make any

> In the Market. New clerk-"What shall I wrap these

### PALL FUN.

"Why do you cook your pastry in such unattractive shapes?" "The doctor said I must eat only plain food."

Mrs. Squib-"Do you still think thi new hat too big, dear?" Mr. Squib-"No'm not now. I've been comparing it with the

"I wish your mother were also my mother," said he, looking at her tenderly. "All

"She is a great favorite with the male sex." "Yes." "Why doesn't she marry ?" "Her numerous engagements prevent her." Possible purchaser-"Now, is this mule perfectly gentle ?" Uncle Mose-"Well, sah, I nebbah knowed him to bite anybody

"Can I see you apart for a moment?" You mean alone, don't you ?" "Yes a loan-that's it, exactly. I want to borrow

Banks-"Here is a queer fashion item. It says baggy-kneed trousers are coming to the front." Rivers-"Where else could Daughter (weeping)-" Oh, papa, to-day I enter already on my thirteenth year.

Father-" Calm yourself, child-it won't

is so; but his jokes are veterans all the She-I don't see you with Miss Gotrox any more. Have you and she had a misunderstanding?" He-" No; an under-

rtanding. She rejected me." "What! haven't you named the baby yet ?" Mamn a-" No." Can't find any thing good enough ?" Mamma-" N-no : can't find out which uncle is the richest." Fat man-" Phew ! How do you account

for this unexpected hot wave?" Weather prophet-"I think it must be on account of my buying a fall overcoat and a heavy derby. Ethel-" He was very attentive to me. I wonder if he know that I have money?"

Clarissa-" You say he was very attentive to you ?" Ethel-" Yes." Clarissa-" Then he knows it." Physicia : -" You must avoid all excitement, avo.1 beer or wine entirely, and

drink only water." "But, doctor the idea of drinking water excites me more than anything else."

Good-bye, mosquito, soon we'll find Your days are o er You were-claim not to be maligned-A frightful bore. "What's the matter with Jennings, Har-

low?" "Oh, some mental trouble. He

suffers from a complete loss of memory." "Suffers? Jove! he's in great luck, considering his past.' We swelter, mop and fan. And growl because 'tis hot;

Then when 'tis cool we grumble, too, And wish that it was not "Look here." said the proprietor o the lunch establishment, "this coin has a hole in it." "Well," replied Meandering Mike, "so had the doughnut ye sold me." And

Patient-"Can you tell me, doctor, the cause of baldness ?" Physician-" Nothing easier, sir. It is due to the falling out of the hair. Will you pay now, or shall I put it down to your account?" Voice from doorway-" Mary, what are

you doing out there ?" Mary-"I'm looking at the moon." Voice from the door-While in the public mind the great vine | way-" Well, tell the moon to go home, and you come into the house. It's half-Day-" If I were in your place, wouldn't paint that house white: I'd paint

it brown." Weeks-"If you were in my place, you'd probably be so mad that you'd paint it red, just to spite the people who gave you advice about it." Miss Bellefield-"Mr. Spatters is a good

animals and birds." "Hallo, yellowly! You are looking as bright as a dollar." "I'm feeling as bright feet wide. The vine was planted by the as one, too." "You must have been taking a long vacation." "On the contrary. havn't taken any; that's why I'm looking and feeling so well," Mrs. Youngma-"And so, my darling

> His mother (after the sudden change)-"Jamie, dear, go and bring in some kindling. We'll have to make a fire." Jamie (grumblingly complying)-"You had me

hunting the ice wagon all day yesterday. Seems to me you're awful hard to suit,' "Do you think," said the intellectual young woman, "that there is any truth in

# A Ghastly Story.

At a meeting of the London Missionary Society at Leeds, the Rev. J. Chalmers, of He remembered, he said, one day whea sitting on the doorstep of his hut, his wife gentleman had been at a cannibal feast, The native intimated that he had brought a present for "his daughter," as he styled Mrs. Chalmers and forwith placed on the ground a small cocosnut basket, and asked Mrs. Chalmers to open it. At Mr. Chalmers' neguest, however, the native himself opened the basket and presented it to Mrs. Chalmof a man. Mr. Chalmers prevailed upon him to take back the remains. Before the old native died he became a member of the Christian church, and remained so up to

# The Rothschilds.

It is said that owing to the close intermarrying of the Rothschilds there is no one of the rising generation of the family who is considered capable of succeeding to the management of the vast wealth now conestimated by competent authorities as being over \$2,000,000,000 the Paris Rothschilds aione being set down at \$350,000,000, of which Baron Alfonse, the head of the French branch, is credited with \$200,000,-000. This enormous fortune, if it goes on effort to save themselves, were burned to will double every fifteen years, and it is appalling to think of the sum to which it would amount a century hence. Under the circumstances, the blight upon the younger generation Rothschilds must be regarded in the light of a wise dispensation

of Providence.