CHAPTER I

R. RUTHVEN was

friends termed

"very eccentric.

la their eyes the

chief part of his ec-

centricity lay in the

fact of his being a

bachelor and per-

feetly contented

with the position.

Butthat was not all.

awful things He

dramatist and cynic.

one to mention them to him, far less

compliment him upon their popularity

They were all full of the most senti-

humor, yet Mr. Ruthven, if ever he

mentioned the tender passion person-

poet's and novelist's brain-a mon-

strous impossibility, not to be found in

Quiet, steady-going husbands did not

wives. They were not in the least

afraid of his upsetting their morality;

flirt in his life; but they were afraid of

his destroying their faith in the exist-

It his own word were to be believed.

he did not credit mankind with any

techings beyond those of self-gratifica-

tion and aggrandizement. He ignored

love and laughed at matrimony, except

as a convenient contract for such par-

ties as desired to benefit by their mit-

tual possessions a temptation he al

ways ended by saying he thanked the

Lord he had been preserved against

But if Mr. Ruthven did not care for

marriage, neither did he set much store

by riches. He was very liberal with

what he earned-no inconsiderable

amount-and openly pitied those who

considered it incumbent upon them to

save. He could not see the fun of plant-

ing fig trees for the next generation to

sit under. Yet be did not speud his

money on his own home, which was a

very modest one, situated in an old

fashioned purlies of Kensington. There

he lived, in a tiny house, waited on by

an ancient purblind housekeeper-one

of those inconvenient legacies which a

man sometimes finds himself compelled

to accept against his will, and does not

know how to get rid of afterward with-

Min Garrett had not much frouble,

however, with her master, who always

spent his evenings at his club. There

he might be found, night after night,

the center of a circle of admiring

friends, for Ruthven, though so unpop-

ular with the women in consequence

of an unpleasant habit he had contract.

ed by saying what he meant-was an

immense favorite with the men, who

heard no such caustic, witty, stinging

remarks from any other member of the

Cannibal Club With the other sex

Ruthven became hard, philosophical

sometimes almost uncomplimentary.

but his own knew him as he really

was - thoroughly good-hearted, honest,

and true; hating vice, and with a very

tender spot somewhere, waiting for the

right hand to probe and reveal. An-

other great cause for offense with the

ladies against Ruthven was, that he

never went to their dinner parties, and,

worse still, he never answered their

angled for that tough old heart of his

in vain, for a poular dramatist, and one

of the eleverest men in town, was not a

parti to be let slip without an effort.

in the sun, uncaptured and unlikely to

be so. The married women said he was

a bear, the unmarried once that he was

a fool, but Ruthven cared not what they

said. In appearance he was decidedly

good-looking. His carnest, deep souled

eves were set in a face whose features

betokened three grand qualities-de-

cision, perspicuity, and humor; but as

his short sight compelled him always

to wear a pair of double glasses, few

people knew how much tenderness

beamed in his glance and was mixed

with the rest of his disposition. His

age was about five-and-thirty, but his

hair was already plentifully sprinkled

with gray. He gave strangers more the

idea of being a disappointed and soured

man than anything else, and the ladies

were not slow to attribute his misan-

thropic temperament to his having been

juted by one of themselves; but they

were wrong. Ruthven had never been

filled. His cynicism was due to the

fact that he did not believe in that

which he had never experienced, and

the love passages which issued from his

pen were drawn, as we draw pictures of

If a lady, by any chance, induced

Ruthven to appear at an evening party.

she was always more elated at her suc-

cess than the event seemed to warrant;

for he was generally either brusque or

silent whilst there, and invariably

heaven, from his imagination only.

Many and many a fair woman had

letters.

out being called a brute.

ence of truth and virtue.

this world.

what his

And his hostess, could the hav tooked in upon him afterward, would have been surprised and disgusted to find how agreeable and talkative he put down in the charge-sheet as thircould become directly be entered his proper element and felt homself to be at home. Just as those of his acquaintances, who thought him "so terribly sarcastle" that they hardly dare open blue eyes stared tearfully at the magtheir mouths in his presence, would have been amazed to hear Mrs. Garret scold him for letting his breakfast grow cold whilst he lay is bed, or for remaining in damp boots with his feet upon one of the best chairs whiist he discoursed eloquently on all the cur dinal virtues for the benefit of his nephew, young Hamilton Shore. That young Hamilton Shore was Mr. Ruthven's nephew every one had been told. and some believed; but no one knew how he came to be so-Ruthyeu's antecedents and family history being alike unknown in the world of London.

His plays were the most successful of The majority of his acquaintances according to the usual charity displayed |child be guilty? But the evidence given the time, but he would never allow any by those who benefit by all we have to against her by one of the policemen give them, and make the worst of evcrything we do in return-were bold acter. mental love scenes, and airy, graceful enough to hint there was a closer coanection between Ruthven and his pro- menced, after having been sworn, "I tege than he chose to confers; and he was on my beat last evening along Litally, sneered at it as a chimera of the never took the trouble to contradict the Peccadille Street-" them. He had said that Hamilton Shore was his nephew, and what so- tily. The policeman grew red, cleared ciety chose to believe on the subject his throat, and recommenced. was a matter of supreme indifference to like Ruthven to associate with their

The lad was now sixteen, and, having shown a disposition to enter the law. far from it; he had never been known to had been removed from the public school and was working under a tutor somewhere in the vicinity of his uncle's side a house, and when I came up with house. Except at breakfast-time be her she had not for ands full of entens. and Ruthven saw has little of each which she had : tole inside the paling". other; but he was under the special and charge of Mrs. Garrell, who gave bunfile supper when he returned better of an evening, and generally looked after,

He was a fine, handsome lad, tell and upright, with wide open blue eves, and fair, curly hair -- bearing no reactoblance whatever to his nucle. On rare occasions he appeared by Ruthven's side in the stalls of the theater, and he always attracted much attention from the friends of the latter when he did so; but his uncle did not encourage the practice. Like most men who have passed through the crucible of the world, he did not see the necessity of being searched by its flames, and wished to save Hamilton from too early | bles to the criminal an acquaintance with its evil. He had been burned himself too often not to cread the fire for his nephew.

So young Shore was still considered live, constable? What's her name? and treated as a mere child, at which Has she got no parents?" he was sometimes more than disposed to grumble.

Ruthven, who usually sat up writing half the night, seldom left his hed till cleven or twelve o'clock in the day. when, after a desultory breakfast, he would saunter down to the Strand and spend his afternoon among the theatrtcat world of London, being as well known in every lobby and greenroom as the manager himself.

It was on one particular day in spring when, having passed some hours in the way described, he was walking quietivi down a street in the city to which one of our principal police courts is stinated. There was an amused smile upon his face, the smile of a man who has l heard something which excites his ridicule either by its aboutdity or its on-

The fact is, Lord Lupten had just met and congratulated him on his supposed Ittinois Lad Pedale with the Stumps engagement to Clasy Vanilla, the pretiest and most popular burlesquer on an alliance with the well-known actthem, flashing his cold, glittering scales | losing his heart to Mrs. Flutterley Next week, in all probability, he should from birth, will allow. Like most criphear his name linked with that of Signora Scandalati, or some other prominent female. Why could they not leave him alone he who troubled his head so little about paying attention to any invent a destiny for him any longer.

court he perceived there was a large chine. He began riding about three crowd at its entrance-so unusually weeks ago, and after three or four large a one, in fact, that it induced him hours' instruction and practice he made to ask the policeman in attendance the la half mile on a track in less than three reason of it.

ing on, sir; a docter to be tried for him- this time to four minutes. He has alposition, and the hevidence against ready made a half mile in 2m. 10s. He him given by a member of parliamen: has tearned to dismount, and can

going in to hear the trial. It was a assistance. He has to be assisted, common habit of his to attend the par though, when he mounts, but he exlice and law courts when anything of pects soon to be able to do this alone. interest took place. His profession was De Kaib seems to have more than the study of mankind, and he knew of her share of bicycle riding cripples. A no better arena for the pursuit of it. year ago one of the young women of So he turned short round and entered the town had a leg taken off by the cars, the court. It was very crowded in an- | She now rides a bicycle very creditably. ticipation of the coming case, and for it is said. some minutes he could hardly get withdrew himself to join his beloved standing room, and of what was going | One pint of butter equals one pound.

on in front of him he had no idea, except from the remarks of the people, who were not complimentary to the cause of justice.

"Shame!" exclaimed one man, sturd-

"If she did do it, what harm?" sald another.

"She's a mere child to look at," remarked a third. "Silence in the court!" was shricked

out by the clerk in office.

"What is it all about?" demanded Ruthven, pushing his way to the front

There in the dock was a pitiable sight. Held up between two policemen. because she trembled so she could not stand, was a young girl, whose age was teen, but who, by reason of her attenuated appearance, did not look more than ten or cleven. Her small, white, pinched face, from which two immense istrate, was filled with terror; her rough and tangled hair, which should have been flaxen, but was so begrimed with dirt as to appear what artists would term a neutral tint, hung down upon her half naked, bony shoulders; and her ragged cotton gown was scarcely sufficient for decency. She looked like a half-starved, hunted fawn, with those wild, pitiful, entreating eyes, and her whole appearance filled Ruthven's breast with ro much compassion that he listened with interest to hear what charge was brought against her. He concluded it would be theft, and so it was-of what other crime could such a was certainly of an aggravated char-

"Please your worship." he com-

"Speak out," said the magistrate, tes-

"I was on my beat in Little Peccadillo Street--'

"You've said that before," integrapted the magnificate.

"When I see this young gal, your worship, stooping by some palings our-

"Only three," articulated the gale line of the chilly in the doct. "What does she say " and groups of the

magnificate

the d got, your worship." "Only three! Three is as had as

thirty What more, con. table?" "Nothing to particular, your worship, She was threving the onions - not the first time by many, I know and I took her in the bact."

"What's the prisoner got to ray for herself?

"What 'ave you got to say for yourrell? You can speak to his worship, if you will," repeated one of the constr-

"Please, sir, I was so hungry!" "Hungry! nonsense. Hunger is no excuse for crime. Where does this gir!

Her name is Peg O'Reilly, your worship, and she's got no parents as she knows of; and she ain't got any friends, nor any home to particular, neither;

she gets her living about the streets." The magistrate frowned visibly. Ruthven was watching every phase of the farce through his double eyeglasses. "Ha! very bad! very bad Indeed! Does she attend the School Board?"

"No, your worship " "Been vaccinated"

Ave you been waccinated?" demanded the policeman in charge.

"Whacked," said the prisoner, mistaking the word, "oh, yes, sir, often. The mournful tones went through Ruthven's toughened heart.

DICYCLING WITHOUT LEGS

a Mile Inder Five Minutes. Ever since wheeling became a craze the boards. His lordship had appeared the human race, big and little, high and to imagine that it was the most natural low, powerful and weak, has thought it thing in the world that the well-known ino dishonor to be found in scanty as dramatist should be about to contract tire, pushing pedals. There seems to be no limit to the fad, and the result ress and that he was a very locky fel- has been no end of freaks and freaking. low to get her. Ruthven had acknowl. [Now, however, the greatest of all freaks edged the possible luck, while he de- makes its appearance. It is a bicycle nied the fact, but his lip curied inward | whose rider has no legs and only one Yet the coveted, cunning fish swam by ly the while. He and Cissy Vanilla! arm. The rider is Arthur Roadbouse, a Where would the world's folly stop? boy resident of the Kalb, Ill. He is thir-Last month he had been accused of teen years old, bright and as active as his physical imperfections, which came ples, his mind is precocious. The bieveling craze left him in body more hopeless and helpless than ever. A neighboring bicycle manufacturer agreed to make a wheel which the boy of them? If his detractors could only could ride, and he did so. His one have tooked into Ruthven's hourt at hand guides the handle bar and bars of that moment they certainly would not steel lead up from the pedals to the have put themselves out of the way to short stumps which he has known as legs. Strange to say, he experienced As Ruthven arrived at the police very little trouble in balancing the maminutes. He can now do a mile in less "It's one of them spiritual cases com- than five minutes, and expects to reduce Ruthven immediately decided upon handle his wheel readily and without

Paralysis Follows Bloodlessness and Nervous Prostration.

A PATIENT WOMAN AFFLICTED FOR YEARS.

She Tells How at Last She Was Perma-

nently Cured. From the Press, New York City.

. For more than fifteen years, Mrs. A. Mather, who lives at No. 43 East One-hunthred-and-twelfth Street, New York, was : sufferer from anæmia, which, in spite of the treatment of physicians, gradually developed into nervous prostration until finally marked symptoms of paralysis set in. Mrs. Mather gladly gave the reporter

her experience. "For many years," Mrs. Mather said, " was a constant sufferer from nervousness. It was about fifteen years ago that my condition began to grow worse. Soon I became so affected that I was prostrated and. until about two years ago, was a part of the time unable to leave my bed. I employed several physicians from time to time, my bills at the drug store for prescriptions, sometimes, amounting to as much as \$50 a month, but all the doctors did for me did not seem to help me at all My blood became greatly impoverished and after years of suffering I was threatened with paralysis.

"When I walked I could scarcely drag my feet along and at times my knees would give away so that I would almost fall down. Feeling that doctors could not help me had little hope of recovery, until one day read in a newspaper how a person, afflicted almost the same as I was, had been cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. I purchased a box and began taking the pills. The effect of this first box pleased me so much that I bought another. Before I had taken an the pills in the first box I began to experience relief and, after the third box had been used, I was practically cured. It was really surprising what a speedy and pronounced effect the medicine had upon me.

"I always keep Dr. Williams' Pink Pils in the house now, and when I teel any symptoms of nervousness find that they give me certain relief."

Mrs. Mather's daughter, Miss Anna, corroborated her mother's account, and told how she herself had been cured of chronic indigestion by these pills; and how, too, her cousin had been cured of ana mia.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills contain, in a condensed form, all the elements necessary to give new life and richness to the blood and restore shattered nerves. They are also a specific for troubles peculiar to females, such as suppression, irregularities and all forms of weakness. They build up the blood, and restore the glow of bealth to pale and sallow cheeks. In men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork or excesses of whatever nature. Pink Pills are sold in boxes (never in loose bulk) at 50c. a box or six boxes for \$2.50, and may be had of all druggists, or direct by mail from Dr. Wilhams' Med. Co., Schencetady, N. Y.

Mexico's Defensive l'orce-The regular army of Mexico com-"She said it was only three online as | prises 27,000 men of all arms, including a police of about 2,000 men and a gendarmerie of 250. The navy consists of two small unarmed vessels and three gue boats. The annual expenditure on account of army and navy is from \$12. 500,000 to \$15,000,000.

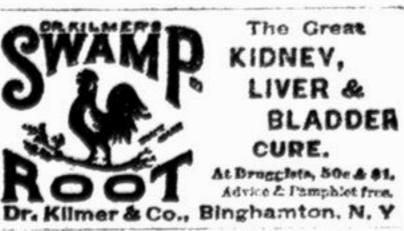
Those who love God cannot hate men



Gladness Comes

With a better understanding of the transient nature of the many physleal ills, which vanish before proper cfforts-gentle efforts-pleasant effortsrightly directed. There is comfort in the knowledge, that so many forms of sickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant family laxative, Syrup of Figs. promptly removes. That is why it is the only remedy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the one remedy which promotes internal cleanliness without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore all important, in order to get its beneficial effects, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine article, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only and sold by all reputable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health, and the system is regular, laxatives or other remedies are then not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, one may be commended to the most skillful physicians, but if in need of a laxative. one should have the best, and with the well-informed everywhere, Syrup of Figs stands highest and is most largely used and gives most general satisfaction.



Remember!

You are wasting money when you ouy cheap binding instead of the best

Remember there is no "just as good" when the merchant urges something else for



Bias Velveteen Skirt Binding. Look for " S. H. & M.," on the Label, and take no other. If your dealer will not supply you we will.

Send for samples showing labels and materials, to the S. H. & M. Co., P. O. Box 699, New York City

HOW TO MAKE \$500 YEARLY PROFIT WITH 12 HENS.

We have received from the publishing house of A. Corbett & Co. Bible House, New York, a book bearing the above significant title by A. Corbect, professor of gallinoculture science. Prof. Corbett has made a life study of poultry and poultry raising and he has applied a natural way of artificial incubation without the use of lamp, hot water or electricity. The method is strongly indorsed by leading journals, scientific men and exhibitors,

There are 13,000 different kinds of postage stamps in the world.

I never used so quick a cure as Piso's 'ure for Consumption.-J. B. Palmer, Box 1171, Seattle, Wash., Nov. 25, 1893.

Thirty-five per cent of the graduates from our women's colleges marry. If the Baby is Cutting Teeth.

Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy. Mas. WESSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for Children Teething. Many a man exhausts himself doing

up-hill work after he has reached the

Hegeman's Camphor Ice with Glycerine.
Cures Chapped Hands and Face, Tender or Sore Feet,
Chibbians, Piles, &c. C. G. Clark Co., New Haven, Ct. When do the teeth usurp the tongue's prerogative? When they are chatter-

Nerve Restorer. No Fatsafter the first ont's use. Marvelous cures. Treatise and \$2 treat oothe free t.

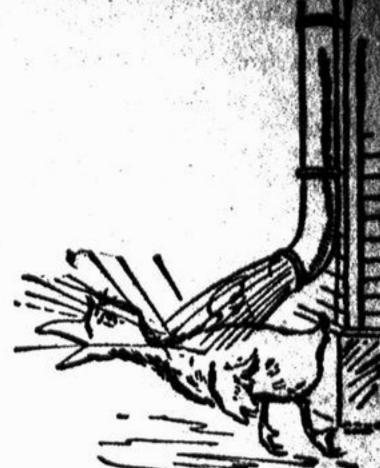
Fit cases. Send to Dr. Kime, 981 arch St., Pulla, Fa-If all the houses in England were placed side by side they would cover a space of 450 square miles.

Good reasons why you shou'd use Hinder orns. It takes out the corns, and then you have peace and comfort, surely a good exchange. 15c. at druggists.

When a snake has gorged itself with a large meal, its skin is so stretched that the scales are some distance apart. Every dollar spent in Parker's Ginger Toni

is well invested. It subdues pain, and brings better, digestion, better strength and better health.

The scheduled land in the United | When Answering Advertisements Kindly States is worth \$12,500,000,000.



Under the Weather.

That is the common Spring complaint. You feel "logy," dull. Your appetite is poor. Nothing tastes good. You don't sleep well. Work drags. You cross every bridge before you come to it. There's lots of people have felt like you until they toned up the system by taking the great spring remedy

Ayer's Sarsaparilla It's been curing such cases for

50 years. Try it yourself.

Send for the "Curebook." 100 pages free J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

W. N. U. CHICAGO, VOL. XI. NO. 16

Mention this Paper. The nervous system is weakened by the



IT WON'T RUB OFF. ASTINE wall-conting, ready for the brush by mixing in cold water.

ALABASTINE CO., Grand Rapide, Mich. but cannot thrive."

Chosen by the Covernment



thing but a Columbia?

The War Department proposes to test the bicycle thoroughly for army use, and recently advertised for proposals for furnishing five bicycles for the purpose. Result: Bids from \$50 to \$85 each for other machines; our bid of \$100 each for Columbias, their invariable price. & And the Government selected

- Sumblia Bicycles

The experts who made the choice decided that Columbias were worth every dollar of the \$100 asked for them. If YOU are willing to pay \$100 for a bicycle, why be content with any-

STANDARD OF THE WORLD

The handsome Art Catalogue that tells of Columbia and Hartlord bicycles is free from any Columbia agent; by mail for two 2-cent stamps

> POPE MANUFACTURING CO., HARTFORD, CONN.

Branch Stores and Agencies in almost every city and town. If Columbias are not properly represented in your vicinity, let us know.



FIELD AND HOG FENCE WIRE. 26, 88, 42, 50, or 88 inches high. Quality and workmanchip the Nothing on the market to compare with it. Write for full information. UNION PENCE COMPANY, DE KALB, ILL.



Examination and Advice as to Patentability of Invention. Send for "Inventors" Guide, or How to Get of Patent. PATRICK O'FARRELL, Washington, D. C.

"THE BEST OFFER YET?