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THE ADVANCE.

FLESHERTON, ONT.

## Something New.

A newly designed tent has ribs similar to those used in carriage tops, the ends being pivoted at each side in order that they may be folded in small compass, with the cover stretched over the frame after it is opened.

Salt and pepper can be shaken independently from a newly designed box, a partition being placed in the centre, with the sifting cap for each of two layers of metal, with the per orations so arranged that they will register with but one chamber at once.

A Cal fornian has designed a boiler which cleans itself of all impurities in the water, the feed pipe being curved after it ente s the boiler to cause the water to revolve, the dirt gradually falling into a funnel in the bottom to be drawn off through a faucet.

Razors can be quickly sharpened by a new device formed of a circular piece of flexible material, having a fine grinding powder on its face, the sharpener being folded over the back of the razor so that the grinding surface acts on the blade as it slides back and forth.

An Ohio woman has patented a matchbox for pocket use, which is opened at the bottom to load, the matches being pushed out one at a time by a button on the side of the safe, the head coming last and passing over a roughened surface to ignite it.

Fence posts can be s curely anchored without driving into the ground by means of a new brace, which is formed of a castiron cone with a shank at the top on which a short post is placed to drive it into the ground, a strand of wire running to the top of the post to steady it.

A Magic Pill.—Dys-pepsia is a foe with which men are constantly grappling but cannot exterminate. Subdued, and to all appearances vanquished in one, it makes its appearance in another direction. In many the digestive apparatus is as delicate as the mechanism of a watch or mathe ti ll instrument that which even a breath of air will make a variation. With such persons disorders of the stomach ensue from the most trivial causes and cause much suffering. To these Parmelees Vegetable Pills are recommended as mild and sure.

### The Wine and Beer Club.

There is in some papers an untiring but most tiresome reiteration of the oft-refuted statement that the tendency of a general use of wine and beer is to reduce drunkenness in the community. Surely beer drinking Germany and wine drinking France furnish no support to this fallacious theory. The increasing prevalence of drunkenness in those countries begins to excite alarm, and the warning voice of the physician, the statesman, and the philanthropist is raised regarding the consequent demoralization and physical and mental deterioration of the people. Alcoholic insanity is reported to be twice as common in France now as fifteen years ago, and the number of persons placed under restraint on account of it has increased twenty-five per cent. in the last three years.—Presbyterian Banner.

MILLER'S COMPOUND IRON PILLS increase the power of assimilation, thus increasing weight and strength.

**Minard's Liniment Lumberman's Friend.**

### Married in the Ruins.

A determined bridal party at Strood, near Rochester, England, on reaching the church found that the building was on fire. It waited around till the fire was put out and made the pastor perform the ceremony in the ruins.

### Just the Difference.

The Man Who Didn't Know—I think you pay too much rent for this house.

The Man Who Was Two and a Half Quarters Behind—Ah, my landlord doesn't think so.

New life for a quarter. Miller's Compound Iron Pills.

### Queer Collection of Cigars.

A London man who always takes a cigar when invited out to dinner, though he does not smoke, has now a collection of half a century's accumulations, each cigar wrapped up and labeled with the date and occasion on which it was taken.

Why go limping and whining about your corns, when a 25 cent bottle of Holloway's Corn Cure will remove them? Give it a trial, and you will not regret it.

### Record Birth of Lions.

Victoria, the lioness at Sanger's circus, near London, has given birth to six cubs. This is believed to be the largest number born at one time in captivity. The cubs have been named after Queen Victoria's children.

### Quick Divorce.

In four hours recently a Paris court granted 294 divorces, a little over a divorce a minute. All the parties received state assistance in their cases, so that their divorces cost them nothing.

Miller's Worm Powders are a wonderful medicine for the ailments of children.

### That Is What He Meant.

"He says he loves her for all he's worth," remarked Fangle.

"He means for all she's worth," added Cumso.

The Turks have no war songs except those they have translated from other tongues.

# A HAMILTON CASE.

## Grocer S. Ross Makes a Very Startling Statement.

### He Would Have Been a Cripple All His Life Had Dodd's Kidney Pills Not Cured Him—Fell on an Icy Walk and Injured His Kidneys.

Hamilton, March 13.—"I do confidently believe I would have been a cripple for life if I had not used Dodd's Kidney Pills."

Such was the startling statement made by Mr. S. Ross, 76 Merrick street, to several friends and acquaintances a few days ago.

Mr. Ross is one of our shrewdest and most progressive business men. He conducts a flourishing grocery business at the address given.

"Why do you make such an assertion as that?" asked one of his hearers.

"Well, you all know of my severe fall on an icy sidewalk three years ago. The doctors said my kidneys were injured severely. I suffered the most agonizing pains in my back and loins. The doctors couldn't help me. Neither did any of the medicines I took, till I began using Dodd's Kidney Pills, the best health I ever sold. Three boxes of them set me on my feet, made me sound and well in every respect. Dodd's Kidney Pills are truly worth their weight in gold."

Mr. Ross expressed the same emphatic conviction held by every one else who has ever used Dodd's Kidney Pills for any form of Kidney trouble.

Dodd's Kidney Pills act so rapidly, so strongly and yet so gently, on the Kidneys, restoring them to their natural health and strength in such a short space of time, that those who use them are surprised at the results. And there is only one result, no matter how severe the disease may be, no matter how long it may have lasted.

Dodd's Kidney Pills positively cure all forms of Kidney Disease, including Bright's Disease, Diabetes, Gout, Rheumatism, Female Troubles, Dropsy, Impure Blood, Nervousness, etc.

### Penny for a Priceless Book.

A workingman purchased for a penny an aged looking volume bearing a date of 1540. The man tried to read it but threw up the attempt apparently in disgust and the volume was relegated to the cupboard. A friend of his saw the book and took it to the British Museum authorities, who promptly made an offer of £90, the highest sum the librarian is allowed to offer without a special vote of the trustees. Had the man known what he was about he would have stood out for more, as the authorities would have paid almost any price rather than let the book slip through their hands. It was, in fact, the first book printed by Gutenberg, and was therefore almost priceless. It is needless to say that the workman was satisfied with his penny's worth.

The Demon, Dyspepsia.—In olden time it was a popular belief that demons moved invisibly through the ambient air, seeking to enter into men and trouble them. At the present day the demon, dyspepsia, is at large in the same way, seeking habitation in those who by careless or unwise living invite him. And once he enters a man it is difficult to dislodge him. He that finds himself so possessed should know that a valiant friend to do battle for him with the unseen foe is Parmelee's Vegetable Pills, which are ever ready for the trial.

### Delicious Prune Fritters.

Stir one pound with a little sugar and a small stick of cinnamon. When soft, mash. Cut two days' old bread into thin slices, spread these slices with the mashed prunes and cut in quarters. Each slice of bread upon which is spread the prunes is again to be covered with another slice of bread. Beat six eggs, add half a cupful of milk, a pinch of salt, a little sugar and a pinch of powdered cinnamon. After beating this well dip the quarters into the mixture and fry in hot lard.

A dose of Miller's Worm Powders occasionally will keep the children healthy.

### Keep the Boilers Filled.

The boilers of fire engines are automatically filled in a firehouse by a new device, consisting of a pipe extending up from the floor, which has a self-coupler at the upper end to connect with the engine and open the steam valve to draw the water into the boiler.

Why will you allow a cough to lacerate your throat and lungs and run the risk of filling a consumptive's grave, when, by the timely use of Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup the pain can be allayed and the danger avoided. This syrup is pleasant to the taste, and unsurpassed for relieving, healing and curing all affections of the throat and lungs, colds, coughs, bronchitis, etc., etc.

Health for the children. Miller's Worm Powders.

### Spreading Misery.

Mr. Addlepate—Where ignorance is bliss, you know, 'tis folly to be wise.

Miss Willkins—Yes, I know. Still it may interest you to know that your hat is all jammed in at the top.

And he felt mean for half an hour.

### What the Trouble Was.

Dr. Kurenone—You are suffering from nervous prostration. I'll have to give you a sleeping powder.

Benedict—No. Give it to my wife and the baby.

Newfoundland is now the sixth copper producing country in the world.

CANCER ROOTS

Can only be removed by our perfect system. No knife, no plaster. Particulars free.

T. H. STOTT & JURY, BOWMANVILLE ONT

### Frames for the Nursery Pictures.

To make attractive nursery picture frames, take two lengths of picture moulding each about three feet long, and tack them to the wall a foot apart, the lowest being about three feet from the ground. Before nailing place three small blocks behind the upper one to obtain sufficient space between it and the wall to slip in glass behind it. If desired a piece of the moulding may be fitted at each end. This makes a permanent frame in which the pictures may be changed as often as desired. Being low they are within easy view of the children. Mo ldings may be obtained at from nine cents per foot upward.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator is pleasant to take; sure and effectual in destroying worms. Many have tried it with best results.

### Glass Frets on Zithers.

Glass frets have been tried on zithers, and have, it is said, been found to produce marvelous effects upon the tone. It is not very clear why this should be so. In stringed instruments apparently very trivial changes produce important effects. A slight change in the position of the sound-post in a violin may change a poor-sounding instrument into a fine one. The reason has never been satisfactorily ascertained.

### He Knew How.

"Paddy, do you know how to drive?" said a traveler to the owner of a jaunting car.

"Sure I do," was the answer. "Wasn't it I upset your honor in a ditch two years ago?"

**Keep Minard's Liniment in the House.**

### Temper as an Influence on Voice.

Temper, says an authority, has immense influence on the tone of the singing voice. An ill-natured or querulous person will invariably have a catlike quality in the voice, which is perceptible in singing quite as much as in speaking.

### Japan's Fiftieth Anniversary.

The Japanese nation proposes to hold in 1899 a great fair in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of that country to western civilization. It is noteworthy that the Japanese always date their reawakening to new ideas to the going of Commodore Perry to that country with a squadron of United States vessels nearly fifty years ago.

If the child is restless at night, has coated tongue, sallow complexion, a dose of Miller's Worm Powders is what is required; very pleasant and perfectly harmless.

### Bicycle Tires.

Tests of bicycle tires, recently made by Prof. R. C. Carpenter, of Cornell University, show that, other things being equal, the larger the tire the easier runs the wheel. A marked difference in ease of running is found between a 1¼-inch and a 2-inch tire. A single tube tire runs easier than a double tube tire.

**Minard's Liniment is used by Physicians.**

### The Worm Turned.

"There is one way I can surely tell if you are the long-lost heir," said the dignified matron to the applicant for restitution to the family circle. "Have you a strawberry mark on your left arm, just below the shoulder?"

"I have," calmly and fearlessly replied the man.

"Ah, then you are not my son."

I CURED A HORSE of the mange with MINARD'S LINIMENT.
Dalhousie. CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS.

I CURED A HORSE badly torn by a pitch fork, with MINARD'S LINIMENT.
St. Peter's, C.B. EDWARD LINLIEF.

I CURED A HORSE of a bad swelling with MINARD'S LINIMENT.
Bathurst, N.B. THOS. W. PAYNE.

### Anything for Departure.

Staylate—Just one more kiss, darling! Just one and then I'll go!

Voice from the Stairs—For heaven's sake, Nan, give him one! It's cheap at the price!

The British admiralty purposes to try fans worked by electricity in order to improve the ventilation of the lower decks of warships.

### How to Keep Cut Flowers.

It is a mistaken belief that ammonia or other drugs put in the water will prolong the freshness of flowers, says the Gentlewoman. If the flowers begin to droop they can sometimes be revived by placing them in a cool place or even on the ice for a short time. By placing cut flowers in a refrigerator over night they can be kept beautiful and enjoyed by day for a much longer time than if left in a warm room all the time. The cold delays the process of ripening, which ends in decay. Loose flowers keep longer than bouquets. But all flowers need to have their stems slightly cut every day before being placed in fresh water.

### Goblets Fashionable.

Dealers in cut glass announce a return to the high-stemmed goblet style of water glass. It cannot be denied that goblets are more decorative in effect on the table than the tumbler shape, but in careless hands the destruction of the former is much more rapid. The bowl of the new goblet is rather broader than formerly, while its stem is not as long as that seen on the same glasses when they were in almost exclusive use for water service a few years ago.

Are you thinking of buying a new wheel? If so, be sure and see the

GENDRON

before you purchase. Write for a Catalogue, either English or French.

Gendron Mfg. Co., TORONTO, Ont.

NATIONAL BINDER TWINE

Full strength; over 75 lbs. breaking strain. Full length: 600 feet to the pound. Full weight: 80 lbs. to each bale. No clogging in the binder—compactly wound; made entirely of pure Manila Hemp without adulterant of any kind, absolutely the best ever offered the Canadian farmer. 80 lbs. NATIONAL BINDER TWINE FOR $11 CASH with any one of the following valuable and useful

PREMIUMS:

14-Karat GOLD-PLATED WATCH, stem-winding and stem-setting, guaranteed reliable time-keeper—lady's or gentleman's size—maker's guarantee with each watch.

SOLID GOLD RING set with genuine Garnet and Opal gems—stamped and warranted—with maker's Trade Mark and guarantee.

MUSICAL CLOCK, glass sides, in Nickel Silver and Gilt—a handsome ornament and accurate time-piece. A never ending pleasure in the home.

HOW IT IS DONE: The National Farmers Co. sells direct to practical farmers, dealers business only for cash, makes no losses—Every dollar does its full duty. We have a lot of NATIONAL BINDER TWINE on hand—so much that the bank rate of interest until after harvest, on the money locked up, will amount to many thousand dollars. We want to save that interest and give it to the farmer in return for cash. That is where the fun comes in.

This Company reserves the right to refund your money if the price of Hemp advances by reason of the Philippine war or other causes. Manila Hemp comes from the Philippine Islands. ORDER AT ONCE and make certain of your season's supply before Hemp advances.

Remit money to us only by Postal Note, Post Office Order, Express Order or Registered Letter. Write your name plainly, give your post office address and also the railway station to which we are to ship the Twine. You pay freight on the Twine from TORONTO, we send you the premium prepaid by mail or express from Toronto. Observe above directions carefully so we cannot make any mistake in forwarding your goods. Say whether you want a Gentleman's or a Lady's Watch, a Musical Clock or a Ring—if the latter, send a piece of string or paper size required.

Address all letters and make all remittances payable to

NATIONAL FARMERS COMPANY, TORONTO.

Enquirers are referred to any Mercantile Agency and to the Editor of this paper as to our responsibility.

FREE! We give this beautiful Heavy Gold Plated Chain Bracelet in a dainty plush-lined case for selling 12 of our Fine Linen, Full-sized Doylies at 10c. each. Latest and prettiest designs; no two alike. Write, and we send doylies, postpaid, and our big Premium List. Sell them, return us $1.20 and we at once forward your bracelet free. Liberal commission if preferred. Unsold Doylies returnable. LINEN DOYLY CO., DEPT. D., Toronto.

Japanese Versus French Pear Stocks.

Twenty Bartlett pear trees were planted in February, 1896, at the Alabama station on poor, gravelly soil. All were from the same nursery and have received the same treatment. Ten of the trees were on Japanese seedling roots and ten on the usual French seedlings. From the first the trees on Japanese roots have been the most vigorous, and now they average fully twice the size of those on French roots.

FREE! Ladies' and Gents' Gold, Silver, and Nickel Watches, Chains, Rings, Bracelets, Blouse Sets, Air Rifles, Knives, Spoons, Forks, Lace Curtains, Magazines, etc., etc., to any one who will help us to sell our new Rose Bud Tooth Powder at 10c. per package. It is the finest that can be made and should be used by everyone. Six packages can often be sold in one house. Premiums are given for selling 3 packages and our big premium list. Write name and address very plainly. No money required. Mention this paper and we will send a number of packages and our big premium list. Toronto Drug Co'y, Dept. S., Toronto.

T. N. U. 211

STEM SET, STEM WIND WATCH FREE

To introduce Dr. Worden's Improved Pink Iron Tonic Pills for enriching the blood, for pale people, delicate ladies, liver and kidney diseases, rheumatism, nervousness, general debility, etc., we give FREE a 14k gold-plated watch, ladies' or Gents' solitaire ring or a time-keeper, warranted. The Pills are 50c. per box, $2.50 for 6 boxes. Send this amount and you receive 6 boxes, and the watch, or write for particulars. This is a reliable offer.

THE DR. WORDEN PILL CO. 347 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont.

FREE! We give this fine Watch with a chain and charm for selling 2 dozen Aluminum Silver Thimbles at 10 cents each, or a Lady's Watch and guard for selling 3 dozen. No Money Required. You run no risk. Write and we will send the Thimbles postpaid and our Premium List. Sell the Thimbles, return the money, and your Watch will be forwarded at once, all charges paid. Unsold Thimbles may be returned. Hundreds have already earned valuable Watches selling our goods, why not you? Mention this paper when writing. Aluminum Thimble Co. TORONTO, ONT.

BINDER TWINE AND ROPE.
ONTARIO BINDER TWINE CO., 124 Front St. West, Toronto, Ont.

USE ULRICH'S ENSILAGE CORN
MAMMOTH WHITE
GIANT PROLIFIC
YELLOW DENT
IMPROVED LEAMING
E. R. ULRICH & SONS, Springfield, Ill.
Ask your dealer for samples and testimonials.

PILES, PILES! It cures all forms of them—ease after the knife has been used. It is a wonderful remedy. It is simple and safe and is free to honest sufferers. Send address and get it free.
A. LEWIS, 112 Shuter Street, Toronto.

REIDS' PIANOS
In TOUCH, TONE and FINISH they have no equal. Correspondents wanted in every town to act as agents.
REID BROS., 157 King St. West, Toronto.

# A BEAUTIFUL PIRATE

By Guy Boothby.

She shook hands with the handsome little midshipman as she spoke, and while she was doing so I had time to steal a look at the first lieutenant's face. The astonishment I saw depicted there almost caused me to laugh. He had been amazed at the beauty of the cabin, but that was nothing compared with the admiration he betrayed for the Beautiful White Devil herself. He murmured a confused but not altogether inappropriate reply to her last speech, and then we sat down to dinner. Her companion, I learned on inquiry, was suffering from a severe headache and had elected to dine in her own cabin.

The dinner was in the chef's best style, and its cooking, serving and variety, combined with the beauty and value of the table decorations, evidently completed the effect upon the officer that the cabin had begun. Alie herself was in excellent spirits and talked with the wit and cleverness of a woman who has perfected an originally liberal education by continual and varied study of the world and its inhabitants. By the time the meal was ended and we had bidden her good night the lieutenant was in a maze of enchantment.

We went on deck together, and once there, out of earshot of the cabin, his enthusiasm broke loose. I will spare you, however, a recital of all the extravagant things he said. Let it suffice that I gathered enough to feel sure that when he got back to Hongkong he would add to rather than detract from the number of stories already in circulation about the too famous Beautiful White Devil. One promise, however, I took care to extract from both officers, and that was not to mention my name in connection with the yacht on their return to civilization. I made the excuse that if such a thing got known it might do me serious harm in the practice of my profession, and both men readily gave me their words that they would not breathe a syllable on the subject.

Their stay with us, however, was not to be of as long duration as we had expected, for early next morning we sighted a small brigantine, who, on being hailed, stated that she was bound for Hongkong. Passage for the officers and their men were soon arranged, and, within an hour of picking her up she had sent a boat, we had bidden our naval visitors goodby and were standing on our fictitious course again. As soon, however, as they were out of sight the helm was put up and we were making a bee line back to the settlement.

That evening as I was pacing the deck, smoking my cigar and wondering when the time would come for me to say farewell, I heard a light footstep behind me and next moment Alie came to my side. We paced the deck for a little while, talking commonplaces about the beauty of the night, the speed of her vessel, and the visit of the man-of-war's men; then she drew me to the stern and said:

"Do you remember your first night on board this boat, when we discussed the sea and the poets who have written of her?"

"It was the night of the first day I ever saw you," I answered. "Is it likely I should have forgotten it?"

"Some men forget very easily," she answered, looking down at the sparkling water. "But I'll do you the justice to say I don't think you are one of that kind."

"And you are right; I am sure I am not. I think if I were lying dead in my grave, my brain would still remember you."

She looked roguishly up into my face and said:

"That is rather a big assertion for a medical man to make, is it not?"

"Bother medicine," I cried impatiently. "It reminds me of the outer world. And by the same token, Alie, I want to ask you something unpleasant again."

"And that is?"

"When I am to say goodby to you?"

"Tomorrow," she answered. "Tomorrow night, all being well, we shall pick up a trading schooner off a certain island. Her owner is under an obligation to me and will take you on board and convey you to Thursday island. Thence you can travel home via Australia and the canal or Honolulu and America, as you please."

I had expected that the parting was not far distant, but I think it would prove as close as this. I told Alie as much.

"It is the only opportunity that may serve," she answered. "And I must not keep you with me too long for your own sake."

Under cover of the darkness I managed to find and take her hand.

"It is only for a year, Alie. You understand that, don't you? At the end of a year you are to be my wife?"

"If you still wish it, yes," she answered, but so softly that I had to strain my ears to catch it. Then with a whispered good night she slipped from me and went below.

At sundown next evening, surely enough, a small topsail schooner hove in sight from behind an island, and seeing us ran up a signal. It was returned from our gaff, and as soon as I read it I knew that my fate was sealed. Leaving Walworth to see my luggage brought up on deck, I went down Alie's companion ladder to bid her farewell. She was seated on the couch at the farther end, reading.

"The schooner has just put in an appearance and answered our signals," I began, hardly able to trust my voice to speak. "I have come to say goodby. For both our sakes we must not let this interview be a long one. Alie, will you tell me for the last time exactly when I am to see you again and where?"

"On the first day of May next year, all being well, I will be at an address in London, of which I will take care to acquaint you beforehand."

*"I want you to wear it."*

"But since you last spoke of that I have been thinking it over. Alie, you must not come to England. The risk would be too great."

"There will be no risk at all, and I shall take every precaution to insure my own safety. You may rest assured of that," she answered. "But before you go I have a little keepsake for you, something that may serve to remind you of the Beautiful White Devil and the days you have spent with her when you are far away."

As she spoke she took from the table, beside which she was now standing, a large gold locket. Opening it, she let me see that it contained an excellent portrait of herself.

"Oh, Alie," I cried, "how can I thank you? You have given me the one thing of all others that I desired. Now in my turn I have a present for you. This ring"—here I drew a ring from my finger—"was my poor dead mother's last gift to me, and I want you to wear it."

I placed it on her finger and, having done so, took her in my arms and kissed her on the lips. This time she offered no resistance.

Then we said goodby, and I went on deck. An hour later the Lone Star had faded away into the night, and I was aboard the Pearl Queen bound for Thursday island and the port of London.

When I came to think of it, I could hardly believe that it was nearly four months since Walworth had found me out in the Occidental hotel, Hongkong, and induced me to become the servant and at the same time the lover of the Beautiful White Devil.

Arriving in Thursday island, one of the hottest and quaintest little spots on earth, I was fortunate enough to catch a British India mailboat in the act of starting for Brisbane.

### CHAPTER XII.

THE FIRST OF MAY.

Next morning after my return to England I donned the orthodox top hat and frock coat and set off to walk to South Kensington to call upon my sister Janet, who, by the way, was a widow, her husband having died of malarial fever when with his regiment on the west coast of Africa.

I found her in the morning room in the act of writing a note of welcome to me. She greeted me with all her old sisterly affection and when she had done so made me sit down before the fire and tell her all my adventures.

"We have heard the most wonderful tales about you," she said, with a smile. "How you were captured by a sort of female Captain Kidd of fabulous beauty, who carried you off to an island in the Pacific, where you were made to dig sufficient gold to pay your ransom."

"Indeed?"

"It has been recopied into all sorts of papers," she continued. "But I've no doubt it was a mass of mere fabrication. Own the truth now, wasn't it?"

"Every bit," I answered candidly. "I have been very much annoyed by those stupid newspaper paragraphs. It is just like the rabid craving of the age for sensationalism. But before I go any further, Janet, I want to tell you something. I am going to be married."

"You, George! Why, you always used to say you had made up your mind never to do anything so foolish."

"So I did, but you see I have changed my mind."

"So it would appear. And, now, who is she? Tell me where you met her and all about her."

This was what I dreaded, but it had to be met and faced.

"Well, in the first place, her name is Alie. She is 27 years of age and an orphan. Her father was a captain in the English navy, but is now dead. She is very sweet, very accomplished, and very beautiful, and I feel sure, Janet, if only for my sake, you will offer her a hearty welcome when she comes home."

"You know me well enough to be sure of that, don't you, dear old George? And is anything settled yet? How soon does she come home, and when are you going to be married?"

"To your first question I can only answer, as soon after the 1st of May as possible. On the 1st Alie will arrive in England. Now will you wish me happiness, Janet?"

"With all my heart and soul. But I am dying to know more. Tell me where you met her and indeed all about your adventures; remember, you have been away a whole year."

I told her as much as I thought prudent without revealing Alie's identity, and when my story was ended we sat chatting on till lunchtime.

When I left the house in the afternoon, I knew I had insured a kind reception for Alie when she should arrive in England.

Now I must skip the greater part of a year and come to the middle of the last week in April, just three days, in fact, before I knew I might expect my darling.

I had her own assertion that she would be in England on the 1st of May, and I had never known her fail to keep her word. Just as that thought passed through my brain there was a ring at the bell, and a few seconds later my man brought up a telegram on a salver. With fingers trembling with eagerness I tore the envelope open and read the following message:

Arrived this morning. Bundaberg House, Surbiton. Come quickly. ALIE.

There and then I ran out of the room, gave the telegraph boy in the porch half a crown for his trouble, seized my hat and stick, hailed a hansom and bade the cabman drive me with all possible speed to Waterloo. The man was a smart whip, and as he possessed a good horse we covered the ground in grand style. When we reached the station, I paid him off, purchased my ticket and ran on to the platform just in time to catch the 6:15 express. Punctually at five and twenty minutes to 7 I left the train again at Surbiton and, proceeding into the station yard, called another cab.

"Do you know Bundaberg House?" I asked the man as I took my place in the vehicle.

He shook his head and called to one of his mates.

"Where's Bundaberg House, Bill?"

"Out on the Portsmouth road nearly to Thames Ditton," was the reply; "that big house with the long brick wall next to Tiller's."

"I know now, sir," said the man, climbing on to his box.

"Very well, then! An extra shilling if you hurry up," I cried, and away he went.

At the end of a short drive we pulled up before a pair of massive iron gates. A passerby threw them open for us, and we drove in, passed round a shrubbery and pulled up at the front door. I paid the cabman off, and then, having watched him drive down and through the gates again, rang the bell. Next moment the door opened and a trim maidservant, without inquiring my name, invited me to enter. The front door opened on to a nicely built and furnished hall, and from it I passed into a handsome drawing room. It was empty, but before I had time to look round the folding doors on the other side were thrown back and Alie entered the room.

I must leave you to imagine our greeting. I can only say that it sends a tremor through me to this day to remember it. I know that while I held Alie, who seemed more beautiful than ever, in my arms she whispered:

"You are still of the same mind, George?"

"Doesn't this look as if I am, darling?" I whispered. "Yes, I love you more fondly than ever, and I have come tonight to claim the fulfillment of your promise."

"You have been very patient, George!"

"It was because I loved and believed in you, Alie!" I replied. "But come, darling; I want my answer."

"And you shall have it," she said softly. "There it is!"

As she spoke she raised her beautiful white hand and pointed to the ring I had given her, saying as she did so, "It has never left my finger since you placed it there!"

"My best of girls," I cried, raising the little hand to my lips and kissing it fondly, "I am the very happiest man in the world! And now I must hear all your doings; tell me how you got home!"

"There is little to tell," she answered. "I followed your route via Thursday island, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. I staid in the latter place for nearly a month, and while there advertised for a companion. The result was Mrs. Barker, a nice, amiable little person, whom you will shortly see. When we reached Naples, I happened to see an advertisement concerning this furnished house in an English paper, telegraphed about it, received an answer in Paris, engaged it and arrived here this morning."

"And how did you leave the settlement? And, by the way, where is Mr. 'Beelzebub?'"

"The settlement was very well when I came away. They were busy building the new Communal hall I used to talk to you about. And poor old Bel is left at the bungalow. I was afraid he might excite remark and possibly draw suspicion upon me."

"Alie, do you think you are safe in London?" I cried in alarm, all my old fears rushing back upon me at the mention of that one word suspicion. "Whatever should I do if any one suspected you?"

"You need have no fear on that score, dear," my intrepid sweetheart answered. "There is no one in England who could possibly recognize me, and the only people in the whole world who could do so are Vesey of Hongkong, the sultan of Surabaya, the rajah of Tavoy, Earkmansworth and that lieutenant and midshipman. The first is dead, the second never leaves his own territory, the third is in bad odor with the English government just at present and little likely to come home. Barkmansworth is, I presume, still in Hongkong, and the lieutenant and his junior are with their ship in the China sea."

"All the same, I shall not be satisfied until we are safely out of Europe again, Alie."

"You say we. Then you mean to come away with me, George?"

"Of course. With whom else should I go? Hark. Somebody is coming."

"It is Mrs. Barker, my duenna. Now we must be matter of fact folk once more."

"To-day, however," the Minister declared, "our coast defences are so much improved that we can speak of the conditions of nine months ago as of the distant past. The difficulty at that time was an almost absolute lack of men. At our principal ports only one-third of the batteries could be manned on the first day of the mobilization, and most of the shells had no fuses."

### Will Not Suppress the Truth.

M. Lockroy declared that he would never hold back the truth from the Chamber. "These facts," he continued, "have been obtained after painful inquiries, but there are men behind the guns everywhere now."

France, he went on to assert, must prepare for the future as well as the present, and all her financial resources should be economically employed to this end. He spoke in high terms of the personnel of the French navy, praising the courage and loyalty of the men and advocating the Germany system of forbidding all foreigners on warships.

M. Louis Jourdan, Republican member for Florac, followed with an excited protest to the effect that somebody ought to be made responsible for a "state of things which brought the country within a hair's breadth of a conflict."

### The Submarine Boat.

M. Lockroy spoke with the greatest satisfaction regarding the experiments that have proved the submarine boat Gustave Zede capable of real service. He said the boat's new apparatus enabled it to perceive enemies, and to strike them with certainty and "surety," declared the Minister, "France possesses a new destructive engine of terrible power."

### THE TREATY SIGNED.

**Spain's Queen Regent Has Signed the Peace Treaty With the U. S.**

Madrid, March 18.—The Queen Regent has signed the treaty of peace between Spain and the United States.

The signed treaty of peace will be forwarded to the French ambassador at Washington, M. Jules Cambon, for exchange with the one signed by President McKinley. No decree on the subject will be published in The Official Gazette.

### Announced at Washington.

Washington, March 18.—The first news of the signature of the peace treaty by the Queen Regent of Spain was conveyed to Secretary Hay and the officials of the Administration through the bulletin of the Associated Press. Official news of the action at Madrid was not conveyed to the State Department before the close of the department for the day. M. Cambon, the French ambassador, called at the department about ten minutes to 4 o'clock, and, in the absence of Secretary Hay, called upon Assistant Secretary Hill. He told the latter that he believed the treaty had been signed.

# MUST HAVE A STRONG NAVY.

## French Minister of Marine Tells the Whole Truth.

**In a Vigorous Speech in the Chamber of Deputies M. Lockroy Made Some Startling Revelations—Navy Was in no Condition to Fight During the Time of the Strained Relations With Great Britain—Cable News.**

Paris, March 18.—In the Chamber of Deputies yesterday, during the debate on the naval estimates, M. Lockroy, Minister of Marine, sketched the Government program and gave a curious insight into the unpreparedness of the navy during the recent Anglo-French crisis.

The Minister of Marine revealed a number of startling facts relating to the condition of the French arsenals at the critical juncture in the relations between France and Great Britain some months ago. He quoted from the much-talked-of letter written by General de Bordes last year, declaring that "not one of our naval bases is able to fulfill the functions for which it was established, or capable of making a defence to save the honor of French arms."

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## FASHION'S CHANGES.

**Increasing Tendency Toward Tight and Clinging Styles.**

The tendency toward clinging styles is so pronounced that there is a prospect of the return of the old sheath skirt, varied only by a flaring flounce around the foot. At present whatever change is made is in the direction of increased tightness, and it has already become necessary to suppress all fullness around the hips in underwear in order to keep the gown free from any suggestion of a wrinkle.

As for sleeves, they are already quite as tight as they ought to be. It is no longer easy to raise the arm, and if they become much tighter it will be impossible. The gathers at the top of the sleeve have almost entirely disappeared, but the shoulders are still widened by the addition of sleeve caps, large revers or a wide collar.

The form of the fashionable corset is modified in such a way as to narrow the hips and raise the bust, while diminishing the size. The conventionally desirable figure is now almost straight in front from the bust to the point of the bodice. This is not a graceful form, however, but is, on the contrary, so stiff and unyielding that it is doubtful if even the most infatuated followers of the mode will consent to be straightlaced in such a manner. It recalls the figures produced by the unyielding contrivances of steel, leather and wood worn by women in past centuries under the guise of stays.

YOUNG GIRL'S GOWN.

An illustration is given of a red cloth costume for a young girl 16 years old. The skirt is trimmed with two bands of black embroidery. The bodice, slightly gathered at the waist, opens in front over a white silk chemisette. The revers and the inside of the valois collar are of white cloth embroidered with black. The tight sleeves have black embroidery at the wrists. The red felt hat is trimmed with black plumes. JUDIC CHOLLET.

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