A Loveless Marriage;

OR

A MATTER OF EXCHANGE.

CHAPTER. II.

"Bewildered, sweet cousin?" asked Miss Aylmer, saucily. He smiled at her in turn, throwing off the touch of glamour that was holding him, and told himself during the last fortnight, that she was indeed very pretty. Her face was piquante, original, delicious; more decidedly lovely perhaps than the one that though beyond his sight, still stood out in a bold, if soft light before his mental vision; but to him there could be no comparison.

"Are you losing your head amongst all the intricate windings of these new old friends?" she went on. "You should have trusted more to my guidance. I launched you safely when I sent you to Mrs. Mackenzie, but I fear since that, you have gone hopelessly to wreck, I'm judge by your face, you are quite lost, —Oh! how d'ye do, Captain Farquhar," with a brilliant smile and a glance, that said plainly this smile was meant for him alone.

The young man thus favored drew up by her side, and looked distrustfully at St. John. That he had accepted that charming greeting as specially his own, no one could see at a glance by his undisguised delight. Misguided youth!

"What I was going to say," continued Miss Aylmer blithely, addressing herself again to her cousin, "is that to avoid the social shoals and quicksands that abound in this neighborhood, would take a Stanley. The unwary traveller undoubtedly gets—Ah! so glad to see you, Mr. Vessey," beaming on a tall callow young man, and giving him a smile the very facsimile of that just bestowed on Farquhar. That the newcomer regarded it as a tribute to his own charms was beyond question. He too ranged up alongside, and glowered with equal politeness on Farquhar and St. John.

"I thought you were still in town," said he.

"I'm never still anywhere," returned she; which was the literal truth, though she didn't mean it. "I've an aunt, as" —with a swiftly comprehensive glance at him—"you have good reason to know and she draws me whithersoever she listeth. At present she is determined I shall vegetate down here, and muse upon my sins, so that—What! you, Mr. Sunderland! Why I quite thought you were in the Isle of Wight, or the Sandwich Isles, or somewhere. What has kept you here?"

This speech was accompanied by a glance and smile every bit as delicious as those given to the others. Mr. Sunderland, a huge young man, with a fluffy face and herculean shoulders, grows crimson beneath them, and a trifle confused.

"Well—er—you see, I—I." full stop. "You see the fact is that I hadn't an opportunity of saying good-bye to you last Friday, and as I knew you would be safe to be in church, I thought—that—er—I'd wait until to-day. You've been—er—so extremely kind to me, that I—I—didn't quite like to go without saying—"

"Now how sweet of you," said Miss Aylmer, with the slightest suspicion of laughter in her tone. "I quite wondered would you go—Do you know," frankly, and with another charming glance, "that I should have been very much disappointed if you hadn't waited."

"You seem to be the essence of good nature," said her cousin to her, in a low tone. He was feeling intensely amused. The three strange young men stood around her, whilst she conversed with him, and seemed not to think it at all derogatory to their dignity to wait upon her moods. It was evident that she had them in very good training. He would have liked to say so, but it would have been impossible with those six watchful eyes.

"Ah! you will see later on," said she, answering his last remark. "Good-natured doesn't express it. I simply seem to live for others. A perfect saint I am, if only I get my due. I do—sometimes! Well," with a vague, friendly, sweeping glance around her, that includes all her attendant satellites. "It's getting late, isn't it? There is something suggestive of luncheon in the air, and I don't fancy the rector will like us to bivouac amongst the tombs, so I'll say good—What! are you coming with me? All of you to see me home? How very, very kind."

"If you will allow us!" exclaimed Vesey and Sunderland in a breath. Farquhar looked black.

"I shall be only too glad. Need I say it? Good-bye, Hilary, if you come down to-morrow, I will give you a lesson or two in deportment."

"Why shouldn't I come now?" said St. John. "I can't come under the head of trumpery, as there are three already."

"Another!" cried she tragically. And then changing her tone to one of the utmost suavity, "Four! How nice! Auntie will be pleased!"

Here she caught Farquhar's eye, and that gallant Hussar, overcome by whatever he saw in hers, gave way to sudden mirth.

"It is so many years since I have seen our mutual aunt," said St. John, "that I can hardly flatter myself I have still a place in her regard; but—"

"Hope for nothing," said Dorothy calmly. "She remembers you perfectly. Now—are you ready?"

"I think if you were to introduce me to your friends I should feel more at home," said St. John graciously. And the ceremony having been gone through, they crossed the stile into the deep woods beyond, and strolled leisurely towards the tiny mansion over which Miss Aylmer senior lorded it triumphantly.

After all, auntie wasn't pleased! As they walked up the trim, short avenue that led to the pretty little house, half smothered in roses—Dorothy flanked bravely by her attendant cavaliers—a blind was suddenly jerked up in one of the lower windows, and a tall, gaunt woman, colossal in proportions, and armed with a binocular, presented herself. There was something apparently terrifying in this figure, because St. John found that the three other men stopped dead short in the middle of the avenue, and that Dorothy stopped with them.

Meantime, the binocular had been laid aside and the sash flung upwards. Across the mild August air a voice that would not have disgraced a drill-sergeant rang with a startling force:

"Dorothy! what means this indecent display? Have you forgotten this is the sabbath?"

She took no notice whatever of the storm in store. Her steady glare seemed to go right through them, as though they were not. This they all felt to be strange.

"Why, no, Auntie," said Dorothy meekly. "You see we've all just come from church. It was there I met—" She paused, and by an eloquent gesture pointed out the trembling young men around her.

"I shall countenance no such ungodly things as callers on the Day of Rest," said Miss Aylmer, senior, in enormous capitals. "Whoever those persons may be, I refuse to receive them in my house. Go home!" waving her mittened hand tragically. "Go home at once! Quit my premises!"

With this, and without more ado, she slammed down the window-sash with a resounding bang, lowered the blind indignantly, and retired from view.

Dead silence ensued. St. John, who was conscious of having grown exceedingly red, looked nervously at Dorothy to see how she was bearing up under the most unfortunate contretemps. He expected to find her writhing in the throes of shame and embarrassment. He was soon extraordinarily enlightened; he was quite prepared to pity her, to share, so far as lay in his power, out of her painful dilemma, but one glance at her was sufficient to dispel all thought of necessity for such kindly intervention.

Miss Aylmer was bending slightly forward, and had given herself up a prey to silent but agonizing mirth. There was not so much as one sign of chagrin or shame about her, and, as his eyes travelled still farther, he could see that her three companions were following her example, and were choking with suppressed mirth.

After a surprised contemplation of them all, St. John, to his further astonishment, found that he too was laughing immoderately, but in the same noiseless fashion, and was beginning to consider whether it was a disease of an infectious order belonging alone to the revenue of the Aylmers, and whether he had not caught it, when Dorothy once more found her breath.

"Let us run," said she. "There is the side walk, let us get to it without loss of time; she might draw up, that blind again, and if so, I, for one, would not answer for the consequences. I have heard of an old blunderbuss of my grandfather's that is hidden away somewhere in one of her secret recesses."

She caught up her skirts and led the way to a secluded walk hedged in by bushes, where safety might indeed be supposed to dwell.

"She must have been reading her Bible," said Dorothy, when she had dried her eyes. "She is always specially bad when full of Holy Writ."

"Why on earth doesn't she go to church and hear it read there?" asked St. John with some just indignation.

"The Rector is young. She doesn't approve of him. Crabbed age and youth don't know cannot dwell together, with us sanguinary engagements taking place every now and then."

"At that rate, poor you!" said her cousin compassionately.

"Oh, as for me, I'm temper-proof. I defy her," complacently, "to rouse me. I think this astonishes you because you are new to it. But," with a little sapient nod at the other three young men, "these all know, and now nothing surprises them. You can't imagine what a comfort that is, when it comes to a passage of arms such as took place just now. We are all quite aware that there are certain days when Auntie will not have us at any price. This," with another low, irrepressible laugh, "is one of them. Unfortunately, we never know when the attack is coming on, or I should have been able to warn you. I am sorry," with a pretty contrite smile, "that she should have been 'taken bad,' as Betty calls it, on this, your first day, but, believe me, you have gained something by getting rid of her so easily. And now go away, do, all of you, or I shall get a lecture the length of all your arms put together."

Obedient to her command, they dawdled away slowly one by one. St. John remained to the last. He had a question to ask that he felt he could not take home with him unanswered.

"You told me you would be my Mentor," he said. "Instruct me before I go in one small matter. I met Miss Rowton to-day. Where does she live now? Alone, at Eyelands?"

"Miss Rowton?" Dorothy stared at him as if only half understanding. "There is no Miss Rowton now, and Eyelands is a thing of the past save for four gaunt walls." Then a light broke in upon her. "Cecil you mean," she said. "But you are all wrong there. She is no longer Miss Anything. She is the Hon. Mrs. Vereker!"

CHAPTER III.

Mrs. Mackenzie's roses were looking their loveliest on the splendid afternoon she had chosen to re-introduce to the country her new-old friend, as she insisted on calling St. John, who hardly cared for the appellation; she seemed, indeed, to throw a touch of sarcasm into it. He was on the brink of thirty, and it was as though she would perpetually remind him that youth would not last for ever, and that he was standing on the borderland that divided it from middle age, from that stage of life when one becomes conscious that there is a past!

With youth there is naught but the present, except it be a mysterious, delicious thought or two about an ideal future. With age all is past (in every sense of the word), and there is nothing reliable, not even the future, which, even if obtained, holds out no prospect of pleasure.

Mrs. Mackenzie was a clever, perhaps a rather unpleasant old lady, but she certainly liked St. John, and believed him an acquisition to the rather mawkish society around, and deemed it high time that he should settle down amongst them, and marry, and have heirs, as all respectable people do.

She had two nieces—"The Mackenzie girls" as they were universally called—who were glad enough to stay with her the greater part of every year, their father's personage holding high rank amongst the uncomfortable places on the earth. They were what rude people called "terrible girls." Tall, ugly—plain, at all events (I believe there is no such thing as an ugly woman now-a-days), with two of the most remarkable noses it could be your luckless fate to see—sandy hair, and a thin veneer of kindliness and charity that was quite insufficient for the concealment of the bitterness that lurked beneath. To one of these nieces it was Mrs. Mackenzie's dream to see St. John wedded. If the laws of the country had permitted of his espousing both, she would have regarded him with even more loving eye.

There was quite a goodly gathering at the Grange on this particular day. There was Colonel Scott, a confirmed old bachelor, beaming away amongst the girls, with a face as red as a sunbeam, and a smile that stretched his kindly mouth from ear to ear. There was Bobby Blair, a friend and cousin of St. John's, who had come down with him, and who ran the colonel very close with the girls, and, indeed, at the present moment, was distinguishing himself, and utterly routing that fascinating veteran by the extreme delicacy with which he balanced himself on the edge of the fountain, and thrummed "Old Bob Ridley" on a real and original banjo. They were a little depressed, perhaps, because he hadn't been able to blacken his face, but, so far as it went, the performance was a great success.

There were more girls than surrounded Bobby and the colonel, and through the openings in the shrubberies, and amongst the roses, and in all the private walks, pretty figures could be seen, flitting here and there, generally with a taller, less graceful form beside them, whilst on the several tennis courts momentous battles were being fought, and victories lost and won.

To the right there were tents that gleamed like conical sugar loaves in the rays of the autumn sun, in which tea, iced claret, and other cups, and, indeed, anything you might desire was to be found. To do Mrs. Mackenzie justice, lack of hospitality was not one of her failings.

St. John, as was but natural, was the hero of the hour. All the girls, attached or unattached (except a few benighted beings who were very far gone indeed in other directions), gravitated towards him, and angled for, or openly asked for, introductions to him. Dorothy Aylmer, who held a little court of her own, and was independent of stray admirers, whispered to him softly, as he stood by her side for a moment, that she hoped he would not lose sight of the fact that a haughty spirit went before a fall, and try to keep humble. She insinuated, too, that it behoved him to walk circumspectly, and with his eyes on the ground, as, in the present backward state of the laws in England, harems were not openly acknowledged.

He had laughed at her, and was quite aware that all her saucy whisperings were only meant to bring that scowl to Farquhar's dark face; but in truth he had hardly heard her. Just then he had seen someone sitting over there beneath the barberry bushes, that were weighed down with their wealth of yellow bloom, and he had thought for nothing else.

It was Mrs. Vereker. They had met once or twice since that first Sunday in the churchyard, and he had become accustomed to see her in many colors; but never until now without them. She was dressed in a plain white cambric gown, without a suspicion of blue, or pink, or maize anywhere. It seemed the simplest of gowns, yet the experienced eye could see at a glance that it never was made out of Paris; and that the few little scraps of lace that lay in it here and there were priceless. This charming costume was crowned by a big white hat, rather of the coal-scuttle type.

It struck St. John, as he moved nearer to her, that she was singularly pale to-day, paler even than was her wont. Her eyes looked larger, darker, and—though the idea seemed absurd to him frightened. The red lips, too, betrayed more openly that suspicion of melancholy that had suggested itself to him on first seeing her, and that had somehow fascinated him more than all the radiance of her beauty. He was a man, indeed, strangely alive to impressions of this sort—tender-hearted, honest and ever ready to be touched by real distress in man or child or woman.

He could hardly fail to see that she looked nervous, restless, and anticipatory. From time to time she turned her head from right to left and back again, as though expecting, but not desiring, the approach of someone. St. John was still a good way from her when he saw this expectancy die, and the dark, troubled eyes concentrate themselves upon some object that to him as yet was unknown.

Her pallor died too, and a hot and almost cruel color flamed into her face. It dyed cheek and throat and brow and gave him the idea that for the moment she was suffocating. She seemed, too, to shrink a little, and yet she bent deliberately forward, and compelled her unwilling features to form themselves into a smile, the saddest St. John thought he had ever seen.

What could it mean? He had paused somewhat in his easy stride towards her, and now looked in the direction her eyes had taken. There he saw a man emerging from one of the tents, who, with a rather indifferent air, was walking direct towards Mrs. Vereker. That it might be Mr. Vereker never for a moment suggested itself to St. John. It was stupid of him if you will, but so it was.

He was a middle-sized man, powerfully built, with a remarkably repulsive expression. It was not so much the thick, soddened features that displeased you, or the dark and hideous hair, that was fast disappearing from the bald, prominent forehead, or the cunning malice of the small light-blue eyes, but the air of insolent mastery that distinguished the entire figure and shone most conspicuously in the slow walk, which was obviously aggressive.

Just now, added to all these other charms, a dash of sullenness was thrown in that heightened each. As he reached Mrs. Vereker, he paused and bent slightly over her, and muttered something to which she apparently made no answer.

He waited a moment and then went on, much to St. John's unacknowledged relief. He was some disagreeable acquaintance no doubt, some fellow belonging to the country, whom it was impossible quite to ignore. He was glad the stranger had seen the wisdom of not continuing the conversation with her, as, if he had, he, St. John, would have felt it his duty to interfere, considering the very unpleasant condition in which it had seemed to him that the repulsive-looking guest decidedly was.

(To be Continued.)

STRENGTH OF HAIR.

The strength of hair has been found by a German experimenter to vary greatly with color. A single black hair supported 4 ounces; one of very dark brown, 3½ ounces; brown, 3 ounces; but yellow scarcely held up 2 ounces without breaking.

The Home

SELECTED RECIPES.

Fruit Pudding.—One cupful of milk and one cupful of tinned fruit sauce. Add two tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar and bring to a boil. Remove from the fire and stir in quickly the well-beaten yolks of four eggs. Butter a pudding dish and put in a large cupful of tinned fruit. Beat the whites of the eggs to stiff froth, stir into the custard, pour over fruit, and bake half an hour.

Spinach on toast is an excellent luncheon dish. A half peck of the vegetable is boiled in salted water until tender. Drain and chop fine. To this add thickened milk. Into a saucepan put a tablespoonful of butter, to which, when melted, add an even tablespoonful of flour. Rub smooth. Stir in slowly a cupful of milk and let boil and thicken before mixing with the spinach. Serve hot on squares of toast. Brussels sprouts may be served in the same way, and if thoroughly cooked are both palatable and digestible.

Plum Pudding Fritters. — Cut neatly out of slices of cold plum pudding a number of oblongs (about 2½ in. across). Make a batter as follows:—Put 3½ oz. of flour in a bowl, make a hollow in its centre, and drop the yolks (only) of two eggs into it. Mix well, then stir in by degrees enough milk to make the batter the consistency of thick cream, coating the spoon, when lifted from it, with a smooth film. Set the batter aside (not in a cold place) for two hours, covering it with a cloth. When it is to be used sweeten it with 1 oz. of powdered sugar, with the squeeze of a lemon. Finish off the batter with whipped white of one egg, dip the pieces in it, and then put into boiling fat. Drain well, and serve with powdered sugar sprinkled over. A nice sauce may be served with these fritters.

Cranberry Sauce.—Good sauce cannot be made of unripe berries. Select those that are of a dark purplish red, and do not strain; the skins of the berries give an additional flavor, and strained sauce becomes a jelly, losing its original character entirely. If obliged to use underripe berries, sprinkle with soda, heat until some begin to burst, wash them thoroughly, and proceed as in making sauce ordinarily.

Two good ways of making a dainty dish out of the despised canned salmon follow:

Scalloped Salmon.—Take one can of salmon picked up finely, butter a pudding dish, and put a layer of cracker crumbs on the bottom; then a layer of salmon, with bits of butter, salt, pepper, a trifle of tomato, fresh or canned, and a little milk. Proceed in this manner until the dish is full, having the buttered crumbs on the top. Add milk to make quite moist, and bake one-half hour in a quick oven. This makes a simple and tasty dish for supper.

Salmon pudding with lemon sauce is a delicious and good-looking luncheon or supper dish. The ingredients are one can of salmon, three eggs, a scant cup of fine crumbs, three tablespoonfuls of melted butter, salt and a pinch of cayenne, the juice of half a lemon and a pinch of grated lemon peel. Drain the fish dry (setting aside the juice), and mince it very finely. Mix with butter, crumbs, seasoning, and beat in the eggs. Turn into a buttered mould with a tight top, and set in a pot of hot water, which must be kept at a fast boil for an hour. The water should not rise above the top of the mould. Dip the mould into cold water to loosen the contents from the sides, and turn out the pudding on a hot platter. The sauce may be ready to pour over it when this is done. For the sauce, mix in a saucepan three tablespoons of butter, the juice of a lemon, a pinch of grated peel, and the same of powdered mace with pepper and salt. Heat to scalding by setting it in hot water over the fire, then pour in two whipped eggs beating hard. The more the eggs are beaten the lighter the sauce will be. Pour this over the pudding and serve. This makes a good sized dish, sufficient for five or six persons.

SALADS.

String Bean Salad.—Cut the tops from green peppers and remove the inside. Take a can of French string beans, or cut the ordinary ones into narrow lengthwise strips; cover them with French dressing, and let them grow cold. Make some balls of cream cheese by mashing a whole one with a fork and adding enough French dressing to make the whole smooth—about a tablespoonful to a whole cheese. Fill the peppers with the beans, letting them come well up at the top, and put a cheese ball on top of each. Arrange on a flat dish on lettuce. Serve thin crackers with the salad.

Caviare and Aspic Salad.—Make a clear aspic jelly by simmering a knuckle of veal, the bones of a chicken, and a quart of water, with a sprig of parsley and a slice of onion. When reduced to a pint heat the white of an egg a little, and with the broken shell stir this in and let it boil up well once. Strain through a flannel. Dissolve a level tablespoonful of gelatin in cold water, and mix this in the hot stock and again strain. Color delicately with a little green vegetable coloring and set on ice in a mould. Boil four or five eggs hard, and when cold cut them in lengthwise halves and remove the yolks. Fill with caviare, and when the salad is needed turn out the aspic, arrange the egg halves around it on watercress, and pass French dressing.

Roquefort Salad.—Separate slightly a white head of lettuce which has been in ice water and arrange among the leaves bits of Roquefort cheese, using two tablespoonfuls to a head of lettuce. Surround the whole with watercress and pour over it a French dressing. Serve sandwiches of buttered brown Boston bread with it.

Spinach Cups.—Wash well half a peck of spinach and cook it without water by steaming it in a covered saucepan until there is enough juice to cook it in. Put it twice through the meat chopper until it is perfectly smooth, and season with salt, cayenne, and lemon juice. Press this into small moulds, putting it around the bottom and the sides, but leaving a space in the middle. When cold fill the cups with mayonnaise made stiff with a level spoonful of gelatin dissolved in water added to a cup of the dressing. Turn out and serve on lettuce with a little riced yolk of the egg on each.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

When spreading butter that is too firm dip the knife first in hot water.

Walnuts should be pickled as soon as they are tender enough to allow of a pin being run into them.

Rice possesses more nutriment than wheat, oats, or barley. It will sustain life longer than any other starch-producing plant.

When a knife-handle comes off fill the hole with powdered resin, heat the knife stalk red hot, and thrust in, then allow to cool.

Dishes which have become brown and burnt from baking in the oven may be easily cleaned after they have stood a while in borax water.

Kitchen paints will soon acquire a shabby, dull look from the frequent cleaning that is necessary in this room. The use of soap only increases the difficulty, especially if the paints are varnished. A good plan is to boil one pound of bran in a gallon of water for an hour, then wash the paint with this bran water, and it will not only be kept clean, but bright and glossy.

To remove stains and odor of petroleum use lime water. Bottles or cans can be purified of all smell and taint if thoroughly washed with water into which some fresh lime has been put. Lamp reservoirs should be washed out in the same manner occasionally, and a brighter light will be obtained. Carpet or tablecloth stains can be removed by the same medium.

The flavor of apple-pie is improved by sprinkling the fruit with lemon juice after it is put into the pie-dish, and covered with tiny pieces of butter. Then add the sugar and nutmeg, or cinnamon.

Iron mould marks should be thoroughly dampened, spread over a warm surface and then rubbed with salts of lemon till the stain disappears. Next quickly rinse part in several changes of water. Remember the salts of lemon is a strong poison, so it needs careful handling.

LONDON BOBBIES.

Baltimore Detective an Admirer of the English Police.

Detective Thomas Burns, of headquarters, Baltimore, Maryland, who returned from London, England, on Sunday, bringing with him John Sullivan, formerly a motorman on the United Railways, who is wanted by the Baltimore authorities on the charge of manslaughter, is enthusiastic over the organization and methods adopted by the London Police Department.

"The London constabulary," said Detective Burns this morning, "is a wonderful organization. The great city is policed by about 17,900 men. There are about forty men in Scotland Yard, which is something like our detective headquarters, only vastly larger. In addition to the plain clothes men in Scotland Yard there are about eight hundred plain clothes men scattered about the various police districts.

"The London policemen work in eight hour shifts, but of course the detectives cannot work on regular hours there any more than they can here.

"What particularly impressed me in England is the universal respect of all classes for the law and for the police. London policemen and detectives go absolutely unarmed. The people there have such regard for the police and the law they represent that officers are not obliged to carry espantoons, blackjacks or revolvers. The only appliance they carry is a small whistle, with which they can summon assistance, but even this is seldom used.

"I was greatly interested in the work of the London traffic squad. When a London policeman holds up his hand, traffic stops immediately. He is absolutely imperial. A peer of the realm, a member of the Royal Family or an omnibus driver knows that he must obey that uplifted hand. All traffic stops until the hand lowers his hand. All the time I was in London I did not see one man resist arrest, and I saw a number of arrests made. The policeman making the arrest simply put his hand on the offender's shoulder and told him he was under arrest. Whatever the crime or complaint was, the prisoner walked along with the policeman as if it were a matter of course.

"The English officials were very kind to me, and Detective Inspector Small and Detective Sergeant Haines were assigned to show me the city. We visited the notorious Whitechapel district, at one time the worst slums in London; but this district has been practically cleared of crime, and the very worst slum of London is the 'Guinea' district, where there is a large foreign population.

"Scotland Yard deals with all kinds of crimes. In this respect it is different from our local department, for the Scotland Yard men are assigned to work up counterfeiting cases and other crimes against the government. There are two Scotland Yard men who are considered experts at detecting counterfeits. In the last year these two detectives have secured thirty convictions of counterfeiters.

"London has an efficient harbor police, but they operate entirely with rowboats along the Thames."

HOW TO READ CHARACTER.

Tell-Tale Indications Which are Easily Distinguished.

Teeth that are long and not narrow denote large, liberal views, strong passions, and heroic virtues; if they are long and narrow a weak character is denoted. Evenly growing teeth show a better disposition and better developed mind than those that crowd and overlap.

Long noses are cautious and prudent; short ones impulsive and joyous.

Deep-colored eyes, with well-arched lids, both upper and lower, show a truthful and affectionate nature. An eyebrow slightly curling at the outer edge indicates a jealous nature.

There is a whole world of tell-tale indications in the apex of the ear. If it lies close to the head the owner possesses a refined nature. But if the top starts away from the head at a well-defined angle that person has an uneven disposition and is not to be relied upon.

If a girl's thumb lies flat or drops a little, marital submission to the master mind is indicated. If the thumb has a tendency to stand at right angles to he hand, the damsel owning it is headstrong. A person of weak character has a pendent thumb; the strong character has a strong, erect thumb.

Fingers which bend backward mean powerful determination. If they are round, strenght, both physical and mental, is indicated. Stubby fingers are grasping fingers. Finger-nails that are rounded show refinement; if long and rather square at the top, firmness and energy are denoted.

WOMEN COOK THE BEST.

Some of the most famous diners, of whom the late Sir Henry Thompson was not the least, have held that a first-rate woman cook is the superior of any "chef" that ever drew his thousands a year. Half the nonsense that is talked about "chefs" and half the money that is paid them flow from the determination of plutocratic persons to get rid of large sums in a manner that is pretty sure to be talked about.

Winds of passion do not blow to harbors of high purposes.

THRILLING EXPERIENCES

SOME WILD ANIMALS WHICH CANNOT BE TAMED.

A Trainer Tells of His Experience With the Fierce and Untamable Jaguar.

Jaguars, said the trainer of [illegible] to the writer recently, are [illegible] most vindictive, and untamable [illegible] four-footed beasts. Some [illegible] the black panther runs [illegible] close, but to my mind he's [illegible] pared with a real fierce [illegible] American jaguar. They are [illegible] to their own species, and I can [illegible] one instance which will prove [illegible] just as fierce and untamable [illegible] day the first saw him [illegible]

Dr. H[illegible]ndy, the director [illegible] logical Gardens, took pa[illegible] the jaguar Rip by name [illegible] ing he appeared somewhat [illegible] interested a New York m[illegible] the rich man communicated [illegible] bag dealer and succeeded in [illegible] a lady jaguar for the purpose [illegible] ening the temper of Rip. [illegible] tain Lind the animal arrived [illegible]

A MAGNIFICENT CREATURE

which would have made a fur [illegible] tuler with delight.

After due consideration [illegible] decided to put the cages of [illegible] imals close together at first, so [illegible] might become acquainted [illegible] of neighbor plan as it were [illegible] the formal introduction was [illegible] ding so Elizabeth, as the [illegible] was christened, enjoyed [illegible] days more of life than would [illegible] have been the case.

Apparently Rip was much [illegible] the new arrival, and showed [illegible] mosity at all; but this was only [illegible] of his wiles, as you shall hear. [illegible] third day the barrier between [illegible] cages was removed, and Elizabeth [illegible] tered her new home. Rip [illegible] ran to the farther corner of [illegible] measured his distance, crouched [illegible] then with a mighty spring [illegible] Elizabeth's back. No sound was [illegible] ed, but the fierce brute's [illegible] through his visitor's spine. [illegible] than a minute she was dead. [illegible] Rip relaxed his hold, retreated [illegible] favorite point of vantage, and [illegible] sullenly at the petrified keepers [illegible] witnessed the dastardly murder. [illegible] further experiments in propagation [illegible] with a male were attempted. [illegible] creature is now spending his [illegible]

A STATE OF LONELY FEAR

I have been, perhaps, more successful in the training of jaguars than [illegible] who have attempted the almost [illegible] sible task, and on one occasion [illegible] have I met with a serious [illegible] was in the country, where [illegible] holding a one-night show. [illegible] had been anything but [illegible] somehow or other the rain [illegible] its way into the jaguar's cage. [illegible] was due to this fact that [illegible] called him, was in a worse temper [illegible] usual.

Anyway, when I entered [illegible] nine o'clock and proceeded [illegible] through his performance he [illegible] in his movements that I [illegible] whip more energetically than [illegible] custom. This apparently [illegible] straw, and watching his [illegible] Tom made a spring and [illegible] his teeth farther in my [illegible] was exactly pleasant. In [illegible] I thrust the butt end of my [illegible] is furnished with a pretty [illegible] spike, into his side, and [illegible] he let go and retreated. [illegible] him until I was exhausted, and [illegible] him sulking in a corner. [illegible] dangerously injured, and [illegible] we met, which was a [illegible] Tom had apparently forgotten [illegible] dent. I was never, however, [illegible] of him, and cannot say that he was [illegible] really tamed.

To give the jaguar his due [illegible] he has become accustomed [illegible] realizes that you are his master [illegible] show a certain regard for [illegible] opinion, and even [illegible]

YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

Two years ago I was training a female jaguar named Venus, and that [illegible] sequently saved my life is [illegible] able. This is how it happened:

I had been instructing a [illegible] ress to do certain tricks with [illegible] and apparently the two got [illegible] together, when one night [illegible] exhibited a good deal of [illegible] per for which I could find [illegible] I was wondering what had [illegible] when my attention wandered [illegible] stant, and like a flash the [illegible] and knocked me clean on my [illegible] great paws were on my [illegible] muzzle at my throat when [illegible] of pain, she swung round [illegible]

I was on my feet in an [illegible] posing that some of the men [illegible] ed; but no, my deliverers [illegible] who lay behind the tigress [illegible] the brute's hind leg. [illegible] at once, knowing that the [illegible] have it out between them [illegible] did. They tore at one another's [illegible] the fur flew, blood began to [illegible] the death of one or both was [illegible] doubtedly taken place, had not [illegible] of us rushed in and succeeded [illegible] ing them apart. We never put the animals together again, as [illegible] have remembered the quarrel [illegible] tably, at the first opportunity [illegible] to the death.

FOREIGN LORDS.

British Peers Who Have Never Seen England.

There are three peers, [illegible] who belong to families that [illegible] generations been settled in [illegible] tries, and which have practically [illegible] nothing to do with our own [illegible] many years. Indeed, some [illegible] peers have never even set [illegible] land at all.

There is, for instance, the [illegible] Seafield. Early in the last century [illegible] then earl emigrated to New [illegible] and married there. His sons [illegible] er seen their father's native [illegible] family has remained, and today [illegible] Grant-Ogilvie, of Now Zealand, [illegible] years of age, and also married [illegible] undoubted Earl of Seafield, [illegible] never uses the title, but works [illegible] his hands to earn his living [illegible] any new-comer into the colony.

Then there is Baron Fairfax of Cameron, whose forefathers went out to Virginia long ago. The present lord was born in America in 1870 and certainly never used his rightful title, nor even came to England until he was well past thirty.

Even more striking is the case of Baron Aylmer, who is a Canadian in every way, for both he and his father were born in Canada. Lord Aylmer is practically unknown in this country.

The Farm

DEVELOPING BREEDING SHEEP.

Truly sheep-raising is a farming in which [illegible] farmers are engaged. M. C. Herner [illegible] good reasons why sheep raised on farms. In the [illegible] it is well known [illegible] that there are more [illegible] sgols on the farm that [illegible] beds for the immeasurable [illegible] the farmer has to contend [illegible] sheep are the best [illegible] animals, it is for the [illegible] down the weeds that we [illegible] Then, too, there is the [illegible] rived from the wool and [illegible] duct.

In starting to develop a [illegible] and mutton flock [illegible] not be pure bred. They [illegible] all be of the low set, [illegible] type and of [illegible] should not be bred [illegible] year, by which time they [illegible] developed an [illegible] healthy lambs. I [illegible] Shropshire type, as the [illegible] called as a breed and [illegible] They should also be [illegible] not necessarily pure bred [illegible] characteristics of this breed.

The selection of the [illegible] important thing connected [illegible] raising. He is half the [illegible] rests its destiny. [illegible] should a grade ram be [illegible] be pure bred. The dams [illegible] will be money well [illegible] be typical of the breed one [illegible] velop and should have the [illegible] teristics.

Severely culling and [illegible] strong, healthy sires are [illegible] tials for developing a [illegible] breeding sheep. In [illegible] ewes not of the [illegible] disposed of, thus bringing [illegible] near to a uniform [illegible]

As the mating season [illegible] ewes must be in good [illegible] if can be conveniently [illegible] should be separated from [illegible] ing the day time. Mating [illegible] them only at night. By [illegible] plan, he can be [illegible] care necessary to maintain [illegible] vitality. I generally breed [illegible] later than November [illegible] lambs getting well started [illegible] flock is put to pasture in [illegible]

The management of [illegible] breeding lambs [illegible] considerable [illegible] proper shelter, feed and [illegible] good condition and [illegible] healthy lambs. A shed [illegible] protected from the [illegible] be sufficient for shelter, [illegible] be closed during storms. [illegible] Roots, either [illegible] hay and oats form an [illegible] for breeding ewes. [illegible] cious quantities will bring [illegible] cessfully through the [illegible] lambing season. Salt and [illegible] be within easy access at all [illegible] year.

The ewes require some [illegible] lambing time. They should [illegible] from the rest of the flock [illegible] lambs are strong enough [illegible] selves. As soon as the [illegible] pasture, they require [illegible] feed. The lambs should [illegible] from the ewes early in [illegible] grain of some kind [illegible] ing. The early fall [illegible] to the young lambs, and [illegible] therefore be provided [illegible] much as possible. [illegible] the first year is [illegible] healthy growing [illegible]

LIVE STOCK NOTES.

Sound feet are [illegible] horse. You cannot keep [illegible] condition if you permit [illegible] in a filthy stable.

The work of agriculture [illegible] definitely demonstrated [illegible] profitable age to fatten [illegible] they are still young. The [illegible] and the more food is required [illegible] duce a given gain.

Select the breed that [illegible] your conditions, purposes and [illegible] You may be a natural lover [illegible] pure-bred stock, but [illegible] certainly make a success [illegible] think only of the big prices [illegible] mals sold for some [illegible] sire for pure-bred animals [illegible] expectation that the [illegible] your herd will bring [illegible] he ga slow [illegible]

Don't whip a staying horse, [illegible] never under [illegible] it to approach [illegible] it shies at. Whipping [illegible] makes matters worse, [illegible] ing the object [illegible] over the whipping, often [illegible] fatal accidents. If you [illegible] talk to it and pax it [illegible] of the wagon and [illegible] object it shies at, and [illegible] look at it, let it smell and [illegible] ject if it flies. The next time [illegible] the object it will pay no attention [illegible]

FARM NOTES.

Tests and observations have [illegible] that wide tires are a benefit to [illegible] roads, while the narrow tires are [illegible] destroyers. Wide tires act as [illegible] compacting the track, while narrow [illegible] only cut up the roadway.

Many farmers labor too hard and [illegible] many hours a day. Conditions [illegible] seem to compel it often, but it is [illegible] tionable whether anything is [illegible] gained by it. Farmers should [illegible] these things. Each should [illegible] his own conditions, surroundings [illegible] its, etc., and discover where improvement can be made.

Don't invest any money in gold mines, [illegible] coffee plantations, copper works and [illegible] the like, thousands of miles from your home, and managed by men you never see. By taking this advice you may possibly miss the opportunity of [illegible] getting enormously rich, but it is altogether likely that by heeding it you will save money.

The harvests are all over; the crops have been marketed or have been got ready for sale, and it is easier now to reckon up the year's business than at any other time. Winter used to be regarded as a season of inactivity on the farm a fallow time not only for the land, but for man as well. It is not so now. The merchant in town does not like a dull season. He wants to see business driving the entire twelve months, for that means greater profits. It is the same with the modern farmer. There is something doing every month in the year, though life is not so strenuous now as in June and July; but, with the dairy and the sheep and the advance preparations for the spring campaign, none is idle.

If the Lord had loved us less He would have let us live without labor.

CURRENT TOPI[illegible]

A St. Petersburg despatch [illegible] the press of the [illegible] in declaring [illegible] gine of [illegible] inaugurated by the [illegible] as by [illegible] "The [illegible] commentary on [illegible] form" policy of [illegible] was to [illegible] out of [illegible] and [illegible] to prolong [illegible] George [illegible] desperate [illegible] been [illegible] pletely [illegible] supposed to [illegible] toral. All the [illegible] lute apathy [illegible] although the [illegible] been [illegible] convocation [illegible] liberal and [illegible] through some [illegible] of real, [illegible] there is no [illegible]

Between the [illegible] terrorists [illegible] During the [illegible] well as during the [illegible] voluntary [illegible] was entirely [illegible] declared that [illegible] crament [illegible] tional" [illegible] assert that [illegible] ing the [illegible] courts-martial [illegible] suppression [illegible] papers, the [illegible] the constitution [illegible] best and [illegible] peace [illegible] official [illegible] are [illegible] are [illegible] pletely [illegible] whatever [illegible]

Put [illegible] series [illegible] were of the [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mr. [illegible] poor [illegible] The greatest [illegible] ness [illegible] know the [illegible] planting [illegible] of the [illegible] they [illegible] tion.

No wonder [illegible] appeal [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] dates [illegible] honest [illegible] including [illegible] cate the [illegible] policy [illegible] twenty [illegible] happy [illegible]

SENTIN[illegible]

The [illegible] The [illegible] best servant. [illegible] A little [illegible] a lot of [illegible] Faith in God is [illegible] ship with him. He who is [illegible] will find [illegible] People who [illegible] complain when [illegible] Many a good [illegible] tion for lack of [illegible] Large ideas of [illegible] the price of [illegible] Whatever is [illegible] character gets [illegible] ledger.

A good deal [illegible] because it is [illegible] It is not the [illegible] spirit of the [illegible] ligion.

There are [illegible] ters. [illegible] The creed of a [illegible] to the divine and [illegible] To [illegible] your [illegible] is the first way [illegible] your Father. [illegible] Many a man has [illegible] of life by looking [illegible] poor [illegible] The greatest [illegible] know the [illegible]

It is better [illegible] a few folks than [illegible] gardens for many [illegible] You determine [illegible] receive by the size [illegible] your benefits go [illegible] You are sure to [illegible] mystery of your [illegible] only your gains. [illegible] The people whose [illegible] on top of the skin [illegible] into the thick of [illegible] The plan of saving [illegible] laws is like leading [illegible] by fenc