The Best Matchmaker.

CHAPTER VIII.

It is said that a commercial life is not "Dear young man," she thought, precisely fitted to develop the qualities "thank Heaven you won't have time of the heart and mind, and yet M. to study my daughter's character. Blandureau can boast a rare and pre- You'll marry her within a fortnight, cious virtue, which is the keystone of and thus assure my peace in my old his character, and invests him with a age. I could bless you a thousand certain superiority over many of his times over." the repast, have eaten, drank, and Avray. proved a capital "knife and fork," even at the risk of dying of indigestion the

same night. With such a character it was evident that M. Blandureau could not even think of breaking off the match which he and Hector's father had decided on. By his conversation during dinner and afterward, Hector, it is true, had not quite pleased him, but he might have displeased him altogether, and yet M. Blandureau would never have had the idea of modifying what he considered a sacred agreement. Thus Hector made a great mistake when he imagined that affairs were progressing favorably in this direction. It was simply because M. Blandureau had not had leisure for reflection that he had answered the query, "When shall we fix the marriage," in such an evasive manner. Hector's conversation had caused him great deception, and he had not been able to master his disappointment and bad humor. He had obeyed that "first impulse" which we all have, and which we all ought to guard against. But scarcely had Hector left, than he began to regret his answer, which he feared might awaken certain doubts in the young man's mind, and lead him to imagine that he. Blandureau, wished to temporize, and in the meanwhile find some pretext to get rid of him politely. If it had not been so late Mr. Blandureau would certainly have hastened after his chosen sonin-law, but he did not even know Hector's address in Paris, so he returned indoors mentally resolving to make a full apology on the following day.

"This marriage doesn't quite please me," he said to himself, "but I must hasten to have it carried out; for have given my word and must keep

He almost said as much to his daughter when she candidly told him that she should never love the husband he had chosen for her.

"I can't help it, my poor child," he answered; "we have engaged in an unfortunate speculation, but we must submit to the consequences. In keeping one's promises, the great merit is, to do so, when the result may prove disadvantageous, and so we'll keep ours. Blandureau's word, you know, is worth its weight in gold." And as Mademoiselle Aurelie pouted significantly, he added: "Don't distress After all I've yourself, my dear. only promised M. Malestrat your hand. So you must marry him. But fortunately. I have not promised that you would love him, so if your opinion doesn't change after the marriage, why we can apply for a legal separation, or you can part amicably if he will agree to it."

This way of looking at matrimony made Mademoiselle Aurelie smile, and she did not insist. She knew that nothing she could tell her father would be of any use, and so she resigned her- fellows. The Englishman so reserved, to the idea of marrying Hector. Besides her grief at having to do so was not so particularly acute, for no one else had as yet touched her heart. However, she revolved in her mind a pretty little plan by which she hoped to gain conjugal supremacy on the very morrow of her marriage. On this occasion Madame Blandureau's opinion was not asked for, and for a very simple reason-the worthy lady habitually never has any opinion of her own. And yet strange as it may seem, she had torm-

ed something very like one in reference to Hector.

fellow-men. This vain old parvenu is Such was the moral situation of the a fanatic believer in what he calls Blandureau family when Hector rethe holiness of commercial probity. turned to Ville d'Avray-this time ac-This belief dates from the time when companied by his new friend, Sir James he first started in business and when Wellesley. This was the young barhe signed a great many promissory onet's debut in Parisian society, which notes, and faithfully paid them on settl- enjoys throughout Europe the repuing days. He might easily have con- tation of being the wittiest, most tented himself with that, but M. Blan- agreeable, and yet most exacting in dureau was determined not to be an the world. In truth, however, one can ordinary trader. When in course of hardly say that it fully tallies with time his signature became as good as this description. Sir James had passa bank-note. he decided to give his ed a part of the day in preparing for word the same value as his signature; the ordeal, and assumed his stiffest keep his ver a promises quite as strict- consummate conceit which particul- qualms of conscience on the day when force of troops to the Canaries, and ly as he fulfilled his written engage- arly belongs to the citizens of Great he conceived the abominable plan which that her principal fleet will concentments. He declared that a man who Britain. Although he was not with- was to enable him to get rid of the did not consider himself bound to fol- out certain inward misglvings to ap- happy mortal selected to marry Louise rate in the waters of those islands. It low such a course simply because pear before a tribunal of French d'Amblecay. He had only listened to has been learned by the naval authori-"there was nothing written down" ladies, he outwardly evinced the assur- his despair, the adviser of mad resowas after all only a vulgar scoundrel. ance and self-confidence of a man who lutions. But with calm and reflection Whoever did business with M. Blandu- knew his own value, and was fully the sentiment of honor returned, and that the armoured cruisers Infanta, reau might sleep at ease when he had aware that if but a hair of his head he realized how odious was the project Marie, Teresa, and Cristobal Colon, the sympathetic remark, said, "That's agreed." Those words were touched, Lord Palmerston, then he had formed. Quite horrified, he which left Cadiz for the Cape Verde Flora, she is not long for the from his lips were indeed equivalent alive, would not have hesitated to gave up all idea of prosecuting it, and Islands to augment the torpedo boat to a contract drawn up by two nota- equip a hundred vessels and spend yet he saw no other means of salvato a contract drawn up by two nota- equip a hundred vessels and spend yet he saw no other means of Salvat flotilla, were accompanied by trans- box of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills we ries. Of course this practice had more many millions of money to obtain fit tion. What could he do? than once resulted to his personal dis- and proper reparation. When Hector That was all; and so he waited like a ports carrying some thousands of troops taken, she had tried upwards of twenty advantage. At times, after making a had offered to introduce the young condemned man whose sentence is for Canary Island forts. verbal bargain, he had perceived that Englishman to the Blandureau family, shortly to be carried into effect. If he would be a loser, but far from re- his object had been to cement their he still returned to Ville d'Avray it calling his word, he had repeated it, friendship at once, so as to allow Sir was because he did not wish to initiate dissatisfaction in Washington in conpreferring to make a sacrifice rather James no opportunity of escaping him. the rupture. He felt convinced that nection with the understanding that than have his promise questioned. If He had certainly never imagined that he would soon be favored with a polite the Administration is working for more guson resolved to give them a trial this conduct had altogether impover- the baronet was likely to achieve any ldismissed; and certainly he did not at all evince the solicitude of the suitbeen derided, but on the contrary, de- be the case, for Sir James Wellesley ap- or admitted to pay his court, for at the question and the Maine affair. Every- fully, she began to take them. At the spite a few blunders, he steadily grew peared to the Biandureau family like most he visited the Blandureaus once body who knows anything about naval by, day went by she began to feel be richer and richer, and so he was ad- the living incarnation of noble tradi- or twice a week. mired. In Paris and in London, at tions, and Madame Blandureau subse- After all, he was not wanted at Ville Brussels, and at New York, merchants quently confessed that when he en- d'Avray. The retired merchant's counwere in the habit of saying, "Blandur- tered her drawing-room for the first try seat claimed another visitor-a ently to the disadvantage of the Uneau's word is worth its weight in gold;" time, she had felt as impressed as if most assiduous one, who fulfilled with ited States. and as a matter of course he felt very she had beheld an emperor. So Hector marvelous exactitude all Hector's neproud of the circumstance. Having found himself relegated to the back glected duties. Like M. Blandureau, retired from business, he still applied ground; in fact, he was fairly eclipsed. Sir James was a man who knew how these principles to his private life, and Never had M. Blandureau done the to keep his word. He had promised they became, as it were, his invariable honor of his house with such gracious- to pay frequent visits to Ville d'Avray, rule and guide even in the most ordl- ness and affability. He was all attennary circumstances, so that, to say the tion and respect for his new guest, Yes, every day, did this exemplary an emergency, and it is now clear to 102 pounds, and when she had comtruth, his "commercial probity" de- and when he learned that Sir James audacious baronet willingly undergo those in official life, who believe that pleted the eight box her weight had generated into monomania. Any one would inherit a peerage from one of the ordeal of three and four hours' the state of affairs in Cuba should have increased to 141 pounds. Only one who missed an appointment with him his uncles who sat in the House of conversation with the retired com- been ended as far back as last Novem- month ago she called at the home of fell greatly in his esteem; but on the Lords, he became perfectly obsequious. mission merchant, who was delighted ber, when the present fighting season the editor of this paper to leave her at other hand there was no fear of him Henceforth he persisted, despite all ex- to find such an attentive listener in began with the Cubans more than hold- dress to have the Reporter forward breaking his word. If you invited him postulations, in calling the baronet the nephew of an English peer. It is ing their own, that the United States ed to her at Arlington, Mass. During to dinner, and he accepted, his pres- "my lord;" and in his delight at hav- true that Sir James usually replied would have been nearly twice as strong the moment's conversation with her ence became a foregone conclusion. It ing an authentic representative of the in such a manner as to prove that he as Spain in naval forces. The United the above facts were told to Mr. W. might have rained, hailed, snowed, or English aristocracy at his table, he had not at all heard or understood States had then seven seagoing arm- A. Richardson, the editor, and with thundered, and yet he would have only remembered Hector to congratu- what was said to him, but this was orclads, while Spain had only four. come. He would have come indeed had late him on his connection, and to of no consequence to M. Blandureau, They had no torpedo boat destroyers willingly agreed to have him tell he been ill, had he even been dying. thank him for having brought this who, attributing the incoherent char- ready, and the healthy season in Cuba, the people "How Dr. Williams Pink And he would have done due honor to distinguished foreigner to Ville d' acter of the baronet's answers to his during which an Administration army Pills brought her from the gates of

Mademoiselle Aurelie was, if possible, yet more delighted than her father, and she was quite as unable to conceal her impression. Sir James' meaningless glance made her blush like a schoolgirl, and for the first time in her life she felt embarrassed, and doubted her own powers. Strange to relate, she really felt something like a slight beating of the heart. But then could one dream of a more grandly haughty, or of a more perfectly frigid aristocrat than Sir James? Was he not the beau ideal of etiquette and social solemnity? All young girls, whether they own it or not, picture to themselves in the recesses of their hearts some improbable hero whom they are destined never to meet; but more fortunate than her fellows, Mademoiselle Blandureau had found her hero; and the consequences were surprising. Her haughty glance waxed almost tender, her voice lost its imperious tone, her attiroue and manners became unusually modest. She forgot to play the part of a queen. and contented herself with acting like a young girl. Madame Blandureau was so surprised that she doubted her senses, but the truth is that Aurelie

had met her fate. Sir James, on his side, soon realized that he had conquered the household. He forgot his assumed stiffness and frigidity, and ceased to allow suspicious prudence to keep him eternally on the qui vive. He had come to a stranger's house, and now, after an hour's stay, he felt as if he were among friends. On starting from Paris with Hector, he had sworn not to open his mouth, save to partake of refreshments or to articulate such monosyllables as are after all, absolutely requisite. He was indeed especially anxious to avoid being laughed at on account of his bad French. But now he saw that no one thought of making fun of hhim, and so he ventured to speak-and, indeed, he spoke a great deal. It is true that he was scarcely understood, but then he was listened to with all the greater attention.

That evening finally destroyed Hector's prestige in Mademoiselle Aurelie's mind. Whilst pretending to listen to a long speech which Sir James delivered in trying to explain to M. Blandureau the difference between Whig and Tory-which difference the ex-commission merchant never succeeded in understanding—she mentally compared the two young men with each other—and the comparison did not at all result in Hector's favor. How trivial and common he seemed to be! He was gay, witty, and caustic; when he spoke he gesticulated like all men from the south; he laughed. and, worst of all, the others laughed while listening to him. What a difference there was between these two young and the Frenchman so expansive. Ah! at first sight one could easily tell that the former was a peer's nephew. and the latter but a Bordeaux merchant! For, after all, M. Malstrat was but a trader, or at least his father had been

marry the man I hate?"

follow this course,

without consulting her. She had the English government in the affair UAINIU never felt so truly unhappy before. of the San Jacinto. After a stupen-

when the clock struck midnight that have given anything to get rid of M. he at length spoke of retiring. Whilst Blandureau. He knew now that he conducting his guests to the gate, M. was really loved, and he wished to en-Blandureau made "Lord" Wellseley joy his felicity; but no, he must find promise that he would speedily re- some answer for this pestering old turn to Ville d'Avray, begging him father, who obstinately kept on reindeed to come as often as possible. peating: Sir James readily gave his word, and then, when he and Hector was again of the Southern Commissioners?"slone together, he exclaimed:

can't find words to tell you what an impression that young lady has made on me. I really find her most charming and loveable."

Hector was opening his mouth to reply "She is to be my wife," when a strange improbable presentiment appropriately prompted him to hold his

CHAPTER IX.

again as fast as ever. he suffered much as Hector had suf- at this time would be enormous. fered on thinking of Mademoiselle Blandureau. Then it was that conscience recalled him to a sense of honor and duty. But what is duty compared with love? And Sir James already for service, the vessels composing it realized that he must die if he failed will be in fine trim for hostile work to win Aurelie's heart and hand. Un- in two weeks. The concentration of fortunately he was poor, and he knew this fleet at the Canaries or some that the Blandureau family was im- point nearer to the United States of war? She gets her bread from Ammensely wealthy. This seemed to him would measurably increase the erica, her butter from Denmark her an insurmountable obstacle, for al- difficulties of the United States in the though, despite his impoverished cir- event of a sudden resort to hostilities, selle Aurelie's hand would not the step will see the Spanish naval force inbe looked upon as an attempt to obtain creased by the addition of two magnistore the family mansion? Fortuna- neros and the Princessa de Asturias. herself, and her eyes, it may be men- idity that is inconsistent with the land about becoming dependent for tioned, very often met the baronet's. Spanish tendency to "manana." were anxious to follow him on his serviceable for some time to come. way back to Paris. At first he doubted the truth, ascribing what he noticed to his own imagination, or else setting it down to chance; but at last one fine day, it so happened that he Curtous Ways That Perstan Gulf Divers remained for five minutes alone with the fascinating Aurelie. Perhaps, that was chance as well, but it may have been in some degree prepared on are no doubt but a very brief space of time, and yet it is astonishing how many things may be said while they elapse, especially when people don't and Sir James and Aurelie, be it noted, only resorted to the language of their eyes. To tell the truth, the magnetic

hand and raise it to his lips.

life she mentally reproached her fath- wished his "lordship" to give him some er for having chosen her a husband explanations concerning the conduct of Sir James did not seem to notice dous effort, Sir James succeeded in Sir James did not seem to notice dous citor, of the flight of time, and it was only mastering his emotion. He would THE EXPERIENCE OF MISS PLORE the flight of time, and it was only bare given anything to get rid of M. FERGUSON OF SYDNESS PLORE

"What do you think of the arrest (To be Continued.)

SPAIN HAS LOST NO TIME.

Her Navy Strengthened and Enlarged in of the town. From 1890 to 1895 sick. Every Direction - The States Rather ness preyed upon Miss Ferguson and

A despatch from Washington to the New York Sun says :- Confirmation has then received by this Government of Hector had given no thought to the the report that Spain will send a large a sister and other friends, thinking ties from an equally trustworthy source

These facts have caused considerable matters realize that delay is wholly to ter and ther spirits to return and is the advantage of Spain, and consequ-

SPAIN LOST NO TIME.

For the past six months every moment has been utilized by the Spanish

scanty knowledge of French, rattled on could operate in the island, was at death to the enjoyments of health" hand. Four armoured vessels have He was astonished, as being well as The truth is that while to all ap- been added since then to the Spanish quainted with her when in Sydney pearance patiently listening for M. navy. All were under construction in knowing how ill she was and seeing Blandureau, Sir James was really all November. Three of these are now at her a physically changed person was eyes and attention for Mademoiselle Carthagena or Cadiz, and the fourth enough to cause anyone to be amazed Aurelie. He had fallen in love with will be at one of these places in a few at the change. her at first sight, and now he was days. Half of the torpedo boat destroy- The above facts can be verified by absolutely entranced, enraptured, ers owned by Spain, are at the Cape writing Miss Ferguson, at No. 16 Hell-Unfortunately, he could not altogeth- Verde Islands and the rest at Cadiz. derson street, Ariington, Mass.; the er rid himself of his memory, and The sickly season is now beginning, editor of the Island Reporter. Sydney, whenever he recollected his engage- and it is realized that the loss of life C. B., or any one of the intimate ment with Mademoiselle d'Amblecay among American troops sent to Cuba friends of Miss Ferguson. Hardwood

INCREASING HER STRENGTH While certain things must be done to put the Spanish fleet in condition cumstances, he really had the greatest with the prospect of sending a landing contempt for money, would other peo- expedition to Cuba practically out of ple believe in his disinterestedness? If the question on account of the prevailhe asked M. Blandureau for Mademoi- ing climatic conditions. A longer delay money to regild his escutcheon and re- ficent armoured ships, the Cardinal Cistely, this distressing idea vanished at now rapidly nearing completion. Work the first glance from the young lady on them is being pushed with a rap-

Despite Sir James' natural timidity There is now no way to strengthen and modesty, none the less real, al- the United States navy quickly. Nethough concealed by an apparent air of gotiations for the purchase of armour- from France and as her coffins have haughtiness, he could not help noticing ed ships abroad have been abandoned, come from the same country it has in the long run that Mademoiselle and the battleship Oregon requires been the gruesome custom to import the Blandureau by no means avoided him, forty more days to reach Key West. Parisian eggs in Parisian coffins of the As soon as he reached Ville d'Avray, The United States navy is not as strong cheaper sort, using the latter tempor she hastened into the drawing-room, now as it was last November. Then if, indeed, she were not already there, the Maine was afloat. Not a torpedo waiting for him; and in addition, more boat destroyer can be made ready undthan once, after taking his leave, he er eight months unless the most urgent had noticed a muslin curtain drawn measures are taken and the battleships back as if a pair of adorable dark eyes | Kearsarge and Kentucky will not be

SHARK CHARMERS.

Have to Catch Them In the Persian Gulf the divers have a curious way of opening the season. They the young lady's side. Five minutes depend implicitly upon the shark conjurers, and will not descend without their presence. To meet this difficulty St. Stephen and Milltown Railway the Government, is obliged, to hire the Company and the C. P. R.-Mr. Mac waste their time in word of mouth, charmers to divert the attention of the Pherson. sharks from the fleet. As the season approaches vast numbers of natives ga- rison. power of love quite revolutionized the ther along the shore and erect huts Respecting the Hamitton and Lage young baronet's innate ideas of pro- and tents and bazaars. At the oppor- Erie Power Company-Mr. MacPherpriety, and he was guilty of an act tune moment-usually at midnight, so son. of audacity which he cannot explain as to reach the oyster banks at sunrise For the relief of Robert Augustus to himself even to-day. He dared to |-the fleet to the number of 80 or 100 Baldwin Hart-Mr. Landerkin. take hold of Mademoiselle Aurelie's boats, puts out to sea. Each of these boats carries two divers, a steersman Mademoiselle Aurelie by no means and a shark charmer, and is manned withdrew her hand, in fact, it seemed by eight or ten rowers. Other conjuras if a slight pressure of her fingers ers remain on shore, twisting their bodmutely answered Sir James' mute de- ies and mumbling incantations to divclaration. No doubt he would have ert the sharks. In case a man-eater is one. Mademoiselle Aurelie felt very stammered out some burning phrase, perverse enough to disregard the charm sad while she allowed her thoughts to when. inappropriately, enough, M. and attack a diver an alarm is given. Blandureau burst into the room like and no other diver will descend on "Ah!" she murmured, "must I really a whirlwind. The retired merchant that day. The power of the conjurer in the course of the year in dusters and did not notice either his daughter's is believed to be hereditary, and the chamois leathers by using instead news Such a prospect almost made her blushes or the baronet's confusion. He efficacy of his incantations to be wholly papers for polishing silver, metal weep, and for the first time in her held a newspaper in his hand, and independent of his religious faith.

FERGUSON, OF SYDNEY, N.S.

For Five Years She Was an Alexast Rein less Invalid - Used Many Medicine Without Benefit-Dr. Williams' Plat

Pills Restore Her Health. From the Sydney, N.S., Reporter. Many of our Cape Breton readers especially those residing in Sydne and vicinity, will remember the ject of this article, and also knew Miss Ferguson when residing at her home on Hardwood Hill, just on the borden from a bright and healthy girl became an invalid, completely given up to weakness and despondency the spring of 1895 she left her hous and went to the States, where she has that a change of climate might benefit her. While there she was attended by medical men, but without any in. provement, in fact she gradually grew worse, until she used to spend the greater part of every day the lounge at her sister's. Frienis came to see her, only to go away with sickness up to the time when the fire from doctors and some of the man patent drugs for sale at druggists Hearing from a friend of the value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, Miss Fat

botel licenses. the course of a few weeks she walked a mile to the post office and home again. Miss Ferguson continued tak. ing the pills until she had used eight of March. boxes, when she was completely restored to health and happiness. She was again strong and healthy. Whileill crew of six are lo she had greatly run down in weight Two Scotchmain and at the time she began using Da covered that golf

> 4 p.m., until the May. The congested !

to furnish the fur Bridge to connect Isles.

Rev. William G ard's quoad sacra taken suddenly il. hours. The authorities

exposure among 1 aber district. A stowaway ser Auley, is in custor

with having caus army prisoner. At Kintail a has been erected t Roderick Morrise

collected on a hol coast and were with enteric feve During the 12

cheese from Canada, eggs and other trifles from the Continent, and-it has just been discovered-now gets much of her milk supply from France. Milk doesn't sound very warlike, "As mild as milk" is a proverbial phrase. Still it is necessary to the fit nutrition of the future defenders of Britain, and

such a prime necessity of baby life up on a possible enemy of war. London's egg supply has long come

there is considerable complaint in Eng-

MILK MADE IN FRANCE.

From Across the Channel.

Where would England be in case

England Gets Some of Her Milk Supply

Hill, Sydney.

arily as packing-boxes. The difficulty may be met by an in ternational agreement declaring babys milk-can contraband of war, so that the cheerful whomp of the morning vender could be uninterrupted by the roar of combat.

A measure more in favor, however, is the branding of every bottle of foreigs milk "made in France." How to make age this isn't so easy to decide.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time and passed to-night:-Respecting the Columbia and West

ern Railway Company-Mr. Bostock. To confirm an agreement between the Respecting the British Columbia

Southern Railway Company-Mr. Mor-

COST OF FUEL.

The cost of fuel on steam railroads is about 10 per cent. of the operating es penses; on electric roads it is about 5 per cent.

USE FOR NEWSPAPERS

You can save quite a respectable sun window glass.

THUM I'M INTERESTING ITEM

SCOTTISH Stray Scraps of News Heather- Happenin

a Few Words. Cycling is growin or in Rothsay.

Cardonald school at a cost of £2,000 Alyth school has count of the measle The net salmon fi is still very umpro Edinburg will sp tending her electric There were 177 s Clyde at Glasgow A gas explosion a ock, did about £2,0 Irvine Forge Con Ayrshire are to be Viscount Wolsele

with the freedom o Salmon angling in reported very poor Kirkcaldy reports proved with prosper A new steamer fe Company was launc month. Last year 1,194 cm

reported to the co syshire. Paisley had a ro when 54 prisoners the cells. At Strathmore, i

herd's widow, died of 99 years. At Cupar the ju to empower the gr

There were sixty on the summit of E A fishing boat sized off Portvoller

are Lords Roseber The Bard o' Ree pewspaper opponer on the subject of Dingwall merche places of business

alarmed over the

was pastor there Sixteen Paisley

8rd and Feb. 19t Whitehills only 1 come of 1s. 1d. p

Mrs. Webster, ster, master pair committed suicide She had been in Sheriff Campbi shire calls a foot of atoms," and

known improvide Andrew McLa resided at 2 Me tally injured at of erection in Po The body of a the water at the

has been identifi Grant, laborer, Glasgow. William Logar at Burnhouse ha off while cleaning charge in the V longing to Mess

TO CURE A Take Laxative Bron

ETER Near the Casp era! "eternal fi

natives, where n the ground and To cultivate a c

in the use of P Extractor. It no sore spots on the peinless. It reli THE BRIDE

May-What! ay-I'm in a so altar smilir ply crazy to solemn, th tres the step.