An hour later the expected visitor made his An hour later the expected visitor made his appearance, and was at once shown into Don José's room. He was a young man still, a native of Etretat, between Havre and Fécamp. His name was Mathurin Lemonnier, and though he came of pure Norman stock, his open, smilling countenance betoid a frankness which is any-thing but the axclusive inheritance of his race. As he approached the bed Captain Lemonnier made a low how.

made a low bow.

made a low bow. "I am happy to see you, sir," said Don José. "I understand that you were compelled by ac-cidents to put out of your course. My friend Le-Vaillant's letter reached me, however, all safe." "Senor Don José," returned the captain, "I am sorry to see that your health is not what Mr. Le Vaillant would like to see it."

"Tell me about my friend. How did you leave

him ? Well, in every way. His health is good, and

"Well, in every way. His health is good, and his business more than prosperous. Notwith-standing his age he has all the vigor and activi-ity of a man of thirty." "Heaven be praised ! And his son ?" "Mr. Oliver is the handsomest and best young man in all Normandy. He has the looks and ap-pearance of a lord. But withal, and in spite of the immense riches that will be his, he is all sweetness, simplicity and good humor. There is no limit to his charity. He is the benefactor and consoler of all who are in distress. In a word, from Cape la Hogue to the mouth of the Somme he is, I will not say loved, but adored." "Heaven he praised i" said Don José once more. "Annunsiata will be happy," he added to himself.

"Heaven be praised !" said Lon Jose once more. "Annunciate will be happy," he added to himselt. "When I set sail," continued the captain, "he was not at Havre." "Where was the ?" "Where was the ?" "Where was the ?" "He was travelling on the coast of Brittany, where no doubt he will have the opportunity of making some fine pletures, for he draws and paints better than some people who make it their business. He is a musician too—knows as much about music as the man who invented it. He plays several instruments beautifully, and sings !--it would bring tears into your eyes to hear him. He writes charming verses, fences like a gentleman, rides like a trooper, rows like a pilot, and if necessary could take command of a vessel just as well as a captain in the royal navy." Lemonnier spoke with all the fervor and enthusiasm of honest conviction. Don Jose raised himself in his bed, seized the worthy Norman's hand and pressed it warmly in his own. "Ah! if I were still rich," he thought, " I would give this good man a hundred thousand livres for what he has said." "Anunziata smiled at her father's enthusiasm. Don José turned towards her. "Well, my child, what do you think of the son of my dear friend ?" "I think," returned Annunziata, " that he is worthy of his father, who must be the most per-

"I think," returned Annunziata, " that he is worthy of his father, who must be the most per-fect of men since you love him."

(To be continued.)

A TALE OF THE FUTURE.

"No, sir, I will not—I never bet. Once only in my life did I make a bet for a large sum, and I lost that in such a humiliating way that I re-gistered a vow not to be bitten a second time." "You quite raise my curiosity. As there is no chance of oar settling by a friendly bet the little dispute as to what exact species of abomi-nation our friend the costermonger is hawking, you should at least let me have the benefit of your first and last experience in that line." "It is an old story, now; but if you will light a cheroot and join me in another bottle of Forzato I shall let you into the secret of my dislike to betting."

to betting."

The speakers were both Englishmen, and had The speakers were both Englishmen, and had met by chance at a little auberge in an out.of. itbe-way village of the lower Engadine. Having dined together, they were having their cigars it he verandah, when some trifling difference of opinian brought on the conversation given

As soon as madame the hostess had supplied

of opinian brought on the conversation given above. As soon as madame the hostess had supplied their wants, the elder of the two began to relate the following incident with an air of veracity so strongly marked that his listener found it im-possible to doubt the accuracy of what he said :-"The time I speak of is some twenty or five-aud-twenty years ago, when the Alpine Club was still in its full glory. Things were very dif-ferent then from what they are now. The Andes Association had not yet been formed--destined as it was utterly to cast into the shade its Alpine predecessor. There was no railway over Mont Blanc, and the idea of a lift to the hotel on the top of the Matterhorn had not yet been started; in fact, if I remember rightly, the hotel itself had not been built. I was at that time a member of the club, and few more en-thusiastic individuals could have been found amorable wore the articles that I contributed to its Journal, giving appailing accounts of the ad-ventures I had met with in scaling peaks and climbing down precipices, and other little per-formances of that nature. Immenses used to be my delight and pride at being able to inscribe the magic letters A. C. after my name in the visitors' books in Swiss inns. Astonishing used to be the "get up" in which I started for the most ordinary mountain walk, girt about with a variety of ropes, and ice-axes, and spectacles, and beits. I can speak jestingly of these little

vanities now, but it took a very severe and a very expensive lesson entirely to cure me. And the way it came about was this. There was to be an annual dinner of the club held at the Crystal Palace on a certain day in May, soon after I had taken my university degree. This dinner I had set my heart on attending; but when the afternoon of the day arrived, I re-ceived a letter from some country cousins, say-ing that they were coming up to town that day, and begging me to meet them at the train. This was pleasant; but as there was no help for it, I endeavored to calm my rufied temper with the assistance of my hookal, and so far succeeded that I was not actually rufied to my relatives, while escorting them across town. When I had thus done my duty, I began to consider what to do with myself, and what particular establish-ment I should favor with my custom for dinner that evening. Just as I had settled this im-portant matter, who should I meet coming round a corner, but my friend Jack Hilyar 7 the very mau, of all others, I should have wished to come upon at the moment, Jack was as good a felloy as ever breathed--pleasant and light-hearted, but with plenty of stuff in him for all that. As luck would have it, he had not yet dined, so we arranged to have a quite little dinner together, and a good chain the smok-ing-room afterwards. We had finished the second course, and were discussing the wines and dessert, when a stranger entered the room and essert that I can read a man's general character from his appearance-but this I dan-tell at the first glance, whether a man is poten-tially my enemy or my friend. In this jud.-ment at first sight I have never yet found my-self to be mistaken. The very moment the stranger entered the room where we sat, I con-ceived an intense dialike to him -a feeling that that man, if ever he were to cross my path, would prove a determined and formidable foe. At a glance we could see that he was an Ameri-can. The sharp, eagle face, the slowting due that ano, if we restimed and partiy

humbug." Jack looked delighted, and, giving a sly glance at me, proceeded to draw out our friend once more. "'I hope, sir,' he rejoined, in a most polite tone, 'that you will give your reasons for that opinion, as I had thought of becoming a mem-ber; but, of course, would not do s, if convinced that the whole concern was a humbug.' "'Wall, stranger, you could not do a know-inger thing than stay as you air. I guess they've named the thing wrong. It should be the "Brag Company, Limited." Some 'tarnal duffer that calls himself an A. C. goes up a mountain that all the folk near have known for years, and then writes to all the European papers to say that he has made a first ascent. I reckon they've raised the prices of every darned thing in Switzerland close on fifty per cent. Then they're such checky cusses to meet; and the greater the duffer the checkier he is. Don't do it, stranger-don't do it.' "While this was going on, I sat by silent, but rapidly losing my temper. At last I could stand

it, stranger—don't do it.' "While this was going on, I sat by silent, but rapidly losing my temper. At last I could stand it no longer, and burst out with: 'This is mere vague abuse, sir. I will bet you any sum of money you choose to name that I will select a better mountaineer from the members of the club than any man you can name. Is that a fair offer? The Alpine Club against the world.' "The Yankee looked me over from head to foot, and then drawled out: 'Wall, stranger, I guess I'll take your bet, if you'll let the moun-taineering be between you and me. I lay you 10,000 dollars that before this time three years I'll have cut you out in tall climbing.' "I had spoken hastily, and was perfectly However, I was in for it now, and could not go back from my word. As coolly as I could, I said: 'Just as you like. Let the bet be between you and me. The sum you name will be as good as any other, but of course must be lodged by both parties before the matter is finally arrang-ad.'

both parties before the matter is finally arrang ed.'

ed." "I calc'late you're right, stranger. I won't be long before you hear from me about it. What do you say your name is?' "Forbes—Henry Forbes." "Mine is Zachariah Johnston, of New York City. Wall, I guess we're to meet here on this day three years, and whichever has first done the tallest and hardest mountain is to have the stakes. Shake hands on it, stranger—shake hands on it."

stakes. Shake hands on it, stranger—shake hands on it.' "Here I was obliged reluctantly to stretch out my hand to be grasped by the bony fingers of the other. After this, he tessed the end of his

THE FAVORITE.

VORITE. cheroot into the fireplace and sauntered out of the room whistling 'Yankee Doodle.' "The whole affair had not taken more than five minutes so that Jack had not had time to interfere. His face, at the moment when the American left the room, was a study for an artist. Astonishment, amusement, and a sort of tragic horror were all struggling for express sion. When the door was fairly shut, he burst into an immoderate fit of laughter which lasted for some time. 'Well, if I did not think it was all a joke,' at last he found breath to say. 'I should say it was as nasty a scrape as ever you got yourself into. Making a bet of £2,000 with an utter stranger. A bet that, if there were anything in it, would compel you to go roaming about the world for three years, and spend fabra-lous sums of money on nothing at all. I'll just go after him and explain that, of course nothing was meant by the thing, or else he will let that long tongue of his wag to such an extent, that we shall never hear the last of it.' "As he got up to leave the room the manager of the hotel came in with a very puzzled ex-pression of countenance. 'Excuse me, sir, but are you Mr. Forbes ? "'Yes, Forbes is my name." "'Well, sir, the American gentleman who has just left the honse—very strange gentleman he appears to be—came to me a few moments ago and asked me to give you this slip of paper. But the strange part of the matter is, gentle-men, that he handed me a note of hand for \$2,000 payable this day three years, for which I gave him a receipt. He said it was some bet he had made with you, Mr. Forbes, and that you would understand about it.' "I felt as if I were in a sort of serio-comic fream; but mechanically took the slip of paper of which the manager had spoken—there were only a very few words on it—'This day three years, May 19, 1885, at five in the afternoon, in the smoking-room, Langholm Hote', Z. J.' "I mmediately after speaking to me, he left the hotel, and calling a hansom, drove off.' "I sa

"Jack came over to me, and, laying his hand "Jack came over to me, and, laying his hand

"Jack came over to me, and, laying his hand on my shoulder, said, 'He's a sharp hand at a barg'in; but cheer up, old fellow, we'll take the wind out of his sails before we've done with him. Let me see, now—I've just sold out of the 71st, and don't well know what to do with myself. So I'm your man for any mo intainous excres-cence from this to Timbuctoo.' ""Thanks, my dear fellow,' cried I, grasping his hand; 'but it won't do. I could not think of letting you go on this wild goose chase with me. Why, heaven only knows how long I shall be away from England; for do my utmost to win the bet I certainly shall.'

the bet I certainly shall." "Don't talk any rubbish of that kind, about thanks. Why, I could not think of a more amus-ing employment, than being a little of the world, and at the same time cutting out our friend the Yankee. No, since I was partly the means of getting you into the scrape by talking at all to the man, I certainly mean to see you well out of it."

at all to the man, I certainly mean to see you well out of it." "So, after a great deal of talk, it was finally arranged that Jack Hilyar and I were to start together in search of the highest and most diffi-cult mountains to be found. Of course, before anything more was done, we took eare to find out that Mr. Zacharlah Johnston was not a pen-niless adventurer, but had wherewithal to pay his debt, if he should lose. This point being ascertained, the next great question that arose was, what mountain we should attack. Switzerland had been long used up. Norway was voted too low for our purpose. The highest peaks of the Andes had already been attained. So that for a time we were at a loss. I suggested that it might be a good plan to out out the American on his own soil, by conquering any peaks of the Rocky Mountains that were not al-ready known to the Alpine Club; but, on care-hunters and trappers are familiar with them, An oblight and trappers are familiar with them, and but little kudos is gained by a second ascent. A happy thought struck Jack. 'I have it,' he oried, 'Central Africa and the Mountains of the Moc

Moon.' "The more we talked the thing over the more we liked it. Utterly unknown to all Europeans, and surrounded by a sort of halo of mystery, these, of all others, were the mountains for us. Within a fortnight we had left London, laden with everything that could by any possibility be of use to us in our distant explorations, and a good many things which certainly could not be so. My life, for a few days before we started, was made a burden to me by the enthusiasm which Jack showed for buying all kinds of strange articles which he asserted might come in handy. Among these, I remember, were a circular saw, a churn, and a barrel-organ. The last he asserted would be invaluable in appeas-ing the minds of the natives. In spite of the amount of our impedimenta, we were more suc-cessful than most African travellers. Gaining information from every possible source, and ac-companied by a perfect gang of natives from va-rious tribes, who, in spite of their assertions, knew as little as we did ourselves, we wandered for nearly four months over hitherto untrodden ground before we even came in sight of the Moon Mountains. See them, however, we did ; and there, in the midst of a mighty group, rose one glant peak, soaring far above the rest, and, in spite of the torrid zone, white with eternal oon." "The more we talked the thing over the more giant peak, soaring far above the rest, and, in spite of the torrid zone, white with eternal show.

"On asking, as well as we could, of the na-tives, what the name of this peak was, they re-

plied something that sounded like 'Mumph Jomb.' This delighted us immensely, as their name for it, corrupt as it seemed to be, was an evident confirmation of the idea contained in the incient rhyme that Mumbo Jumbo inhabited

ancient rhyme that Mumbo Jumbo inhame the Mountains of the Moon. "Well, sir, I need not trouble you with an so-cuunt of all the difficulties we encountered before we reached the top of Mumph Jomb. So often were we driven back by storms, and mists, and falling stones, that the natives were confirmed in their original impression of the mountain in their original impression of the mountain being haunted, and absolutely refused to go with us any more.

"'Jack and I were thus left alone to fight if out with the great peak, and at last we conquer-ed it. It was the third day after we had been left alone that we cut our way up the last ion slope leading to the top. I happened to be not at the moment, and as the last step was out sprang on to the clear space on the top with wild cheer. The sight that met my eyes there. however, very nearly made me stagger back over the edge. Quiety seated on the very hish-est point was our friend Zachariah Johnston, picking his teeth with his bowie-knife. (I redown you're haif an hour late, stranger,' he remarked, in a cheerful tone of voice. While you made tracks upon one side of this ere mountain, I did similar up the other ; but I guess you'l have to grease your boots better if you want to bear me at that game.' With that he took of his hat and with a low, mocking bow, wished us good morning. Three minutes later he was lost to view down the same side of the mountain that he had ascended by. "I need hardly tell you that we felt great first attempt, and it was in very low spirit in-deed that was made our way down the moun-tain and returned, after some weeks' traveling blan developed itself in our brains, more ambi-tious and more daring than anything that hat anything that he "Jack and I were thus left alone to fight it

"It was while staying there that a given-plan developed itself in our brains, more amb-itous and more daring than anything that have of mountains, why not go to the highest of all mountains, the Himslayas ? and, amongst have why not attempt the highest for them all—Monit Everest ? The highest mountain in the world We became perfectly fascinated by the idea. By day we talked of nothing else, and a might Mount Everest haunted our dreams. " At first, we facred that it would be hopels attempting it, on account of the very rare data of the atmosphere on the top; but, on exam-ning records of balloon ascents, we found to can heights without experiencing any very great dim-culty in breathing. Before starting for the Him-nilaysay we sent to England for several things which we conceived necessary for our new maler-taking ; amongst others, for a small balloon. This last was owing to a suggestion of mines, that i fancied it might in some ascense, sever mean. I also wrote to Grindelwald for two of the base work, so you may imagine my sanoyance wheat is unce that personality, and had more than once had occasion to see his skill at teo work, so you may imagine my sanoyance wheat is gaed him. This was unfortunate, but if we than once had occession to see his skill at teo are able to come, and duly met us at *har* and the After a successful voyage and a same of Northern India, we at last reached the hear of the great mountain chain containing ima-merable vast forms, beside which Moni we as able to procure in Bombary were and the after a successful voyage and a same of the great mountain chain containing ima-merable vast form, beside which Moni we had been able to procure in Bombary were and the after a substitue in the insignificant billock. Here began our difficulties; we were colliged to organize a large body of natives to at an pro-tors. I being quite uncertain how many ween and to make a number of preliminary contains, at we had been able to procure in Bombary were and to make a number of preliminary whead, from th