

ITCHING PILES—Symptoms and Cure

The symptoms are moisture, like perspiration, intense itching, increased by scratching, very distressing, particularly at night, seems as if pin-worms were crawling in and about the rectum; the private parts are sometimes affected. If allowed to continue very serious results may follow. SWAYNE'S OINTMENT is pleasant, sure cure. Also for Tetter, Itch, Salt Rheum, Scald Head, Erysipelas, Barbers Itch, Blisters, all scaly, crusty Skin Diseases. Box by mail 50 cents; three for \$1.25. Address, DR. SWAYNE & SON, Philadelphia, Pa. Sold by Druggists.

A woman has been fined \$20 in Seattle, for tending bar.

Much distress and sickness in children is caused by worms. Mother Graves' Worm Expeller gives relief by removing the cause.

Vermont has two women acting as mail carriers.

Freeman's Worm Powders are agreeable to take, and expel all kinds of worms from children or adults.

Frogs legs sell at 35 cents a pound in New York.

Is there anything more annoying than having your corn stepped upon? Is there anything more delightful than getting rid of it? HOLLOWAY'S CORN CURE will do it.

Mr. Blaine is six years older than Governor Cleveland.

In MURRAY & LANMAN'S FLORIDA WATER the most debilitated and nervous can find relief. Used freely in the water of the bath its effect is almost marvellous, so strengthening and bracing, and withal so exquisitely agreeable.

One bushel of ashes represents about two and a half tons of dry wood.

Prof. Low's Magic Sulphur Soap is highly recommended for all humors and skin diseases.

Some New York ladies hire their diamonds for one consecutive evening only.

Holloway's Pills.—Invalids distracted by indigestion and discouraged in their search for its remedy should make trial of this never-failing medicine. A lady, long a martyr to dyspeptic tortures, writes that Holloway's Pills made her feel as if a burden had been taken off her. Her spirits, formerly low, have greatly improved; her capricious appetite has given place to healthy hunger; her dull, sick headache has departed, and gradually so marvellous a change has been effected, that she is altogether a new creature, and again fit for her duties. These Pills may be administered with safety to the most delicate. They never act harshly, nor do they ever induce weakness; they rightly direct deranged, and control excessive, action.

The dentist to the court of Italy is an American.

Mrs. Mary Thompson, of Toronto was afflicted with Tape Worm, 8 feet of which was removed by one bottle of Dr. Low's Worm Syrup.

The late Duke of Brunswick left a private fortune of £15,000,000.

SERIOUSLY ILL.

A person suffering with pain and heat over the small of the back, with a weak very feeling and frequent headaches, is seriously ill and should look out for kidney disease. Burdock Blood Bitters regulate the kidneys, blood and liver, as well as the stomach and bowels.

Dakota's tribute to the New Orleans Exposition will be a pumpkin weighing 185 pounds.

A WISE CONCLUSION.

If you have vainly tried many remedies for rheumatism, it will be a wise conclusion to try Hagedard's Yellow Oil. It cures all painful diseases when other medicines fail.

Lord Dufferin will get \$125,000 a year as Viceroy of India. It is said that his finances need repair.

SURE TO CONQUER.

The most troublesome cough is sure to yield if timely treated with Hagedard's Pectoral Balm. Pleasant to take and safe for young or old.

The Metropolitan Railroad in London runs 1,211 trains a day.

A GREAT MISTAKE.

It is a great mistake to suppose that dyspepsia can't be cured, but must be endured, and life made gloomy and miserable thereby. Alexander Burns, of Cobourg, was cured after suffering fifteen years. Burdock Blood Bitters cured him.

One-third of all the banking in the world is done in the British Empire.

NATIONAL PILLS are a mild purgative, acting on the Stomach, Liver and Bowels, removing all obstructions.

A \$5,000 brick house at Empire, a suburb of Carson City, recently sold for \$105.

The history of Down's Elixir is identified with the history of New England for the last fifty years. It cures coughs and colds.

Costiveness is the cause of the intolerable "bed breath" of multitudes. Dr. Henry Baxter's Mandrake Bitters remove the cause and prevent the evil, and cost only 25 cents.

Arnica & Oil Liniment is the best remedy known for stiff joints.

In Victoria, B.C., a fine of \$30 is imposed upon Indians found with intoxicating liquors.

OUR HABITS AND OUR CLIMATE.

All persons leading a sedentary and inactive life are more or less subject to derangement of the Liver and Stomach which, if neglected in a changeable climate like ours, leads to chronic disease and ultimate misery. An occasional dose of McCall's Compound Butternut Pills will stimulate the Liver to healthy action, tone up the Stomach and Digestive Organs, thereby giving life and vigor to the system generally. For sale everywhere. Price, 25c per box, five boxes \$1.00. Mailed free of postage on receipt of price in money or postage stamps. J. B. McCall, chemist, Montreal.

Empress William is the oldest monarch in Europe, and Alfonso, of Spain, the youngest.

EPG'S COCOA—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful preparation of the fine properties of well selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping our system well fortified with pure Blood and properly nourished frame.—Civil Service Gazette. Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in packets; and tins (4lb and 1lb) by grocers, labelled, "JAMES EPPS & CO., Homeopathic Chemists, London, England."

ORIGIN OF CARRIAGES.

The oldest carriages, used by the ladies of England, were called whiffles. These became unfashionable after Ann, the daughter of Charles IV. and queen of Richard II. about the end of the fourteenth century, showed the ladies how gracefully they could ride on a side-saddle. Coaches were first known in England in the year 1530. They were introduced from Germany, by the Earl of Arundel. They came into general use among the nobility in the year 1605. The celebrated Duke of Buckingham was the first who rode in a coach and six horses. In Philadelphia this pomp of the Earl of Northumberland put eight horses to his carriage. Coaches let to hire were first established in London in 1625. There were only twenty of them kept at the principal inns. In the year 1637 there were fifty hackney coaches; in 1654 there were two hundred; in 1684 they were limited to seven hundred; and in 1755 to eight hundred; there are now eleven hundred.—Farmers' Gazette.

A VALUABLE PATENT.

The most valuable discovery patented in modern times is that of the best blood purifier and liver and kidney regulator known. We refer to Burdock Blood Bitters, which is making so many wonderful cures and bringing the blessed boon of health to so many homes.

South Carolina tea, cured in a fruit evaporator, has been pronounced by experts to be equal to imported teas.

A PERFECT BEAUTY.

Perfect beauty is only attained by pure blood and good health. These acquirements give the possessor a pleasant expression, a fair clear skin and the rosy bloom of health. Burdock Blood Bitters purify the blood and tone the entire system to a healthy action.

The British Medical Journal reports a well authenticated case of a canary catching the scarlet fever and dying.

MARY CUNNIFFS FAITH REWARDED.

Mary Cuniff, an Irish girl, with Mr. Edward Hoppen, No. 1206 Spruce street, has a valuable fortune. A hard-working domestic—she has \$15,000. She communicated to a reporter that months ago, she heard of the Louisiana State Lottery, and decided on an investment. Her belief in its strictly honest principles were not shaken when she drew a bank for four times subsequent, nor did she fail to invest monthly, by mail, \$100 with M. A. Dauphin, Washington, D. C. She has just been notified that the ticket, one-fifth of which she holds, No. 70,468, has drawn the \$75,000 prize.—Philadelphia (Pa.) News, September 26.

James Munroe, who was a British soldier during the Revolutionary war, died lately in the Edinburgh Poor House.

Longfellow's Birthday Book.

is a beautiful present to give any lady. But there is a little book published in pamphlet form, with no pretensions to literary merit, that would be as appropriate, and might be the means of saving a life. It is called Dr. R. V. Pierce's treatise on diseases of women, for those peculiar troubles that "Favorite Prescription" is especially designed. It is profusely illustrated with wood-cuts and colored plates, and will be sent to any address for two stamps, by the World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

There is a house in Berlin—Weberstrasse No. 16—which harbors no less than 130 families, numbering in all 1,025 souls.

A single trial of Dr. Henry Baxter's Snake Balm will convince any one troubled with costiveness, torpid liver or any kindred diseases of their curative properties. They only cost 25 cents per bottle.

Do not suppose that because it is recommended for animals that Arnica & Oil Liniment is an offensive preparation. It will not stain clothing or the fairest skin.

Down's Elixir will cure any cough or cold, no matter of how long standing.

The United States ship "Monocacy" is shut up in the Min River by the French blockade.

There is no one article in the line of medicines that gives so large a return for the money as a good porous strengthening plaster, such as Carter's Smart Weed and Belladonna Backache Plasters.

These are days of political assessments: Even the oysters are beginning to shell out.

Trial proves that honesty is the best policy in medicine as well as other things. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is a genuine preparation, an unequalled blood purifier, decidedly superior to all others.

The first watch was about the size of a dessert plate, and was used as a pocket clock.

Hundreds of letters from those using Ayer's Hair Vigor attest its value as a restorer of gray hair to its natural color. As a stimulant and tonic, preventing and often curing baldness, and cleansing and soothing the scalp, its use cannot be too strongly recommended.

A man at Cornvallis, Ore., stands 6 feet 9 inches in his stockings.

Allen's Lung Balm is the standard cure for Coughs and Colds in the States.—See Advt.

A follow down East advertises for 5,000 pairs of old rubber shoes. Is he running a chewing gum factory?

John Hays, Credit P. O., says: "His shoulder was so lame for nine months that he could not raise his hand to his head, but by the use of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil the pain and lameness disappeared, and although three months has elapsed, he has not had an attack of it since."

Astronomers and opera managers hunt for new stars.

Mr. Parpatus Boileau, Ottawa, says: "I was radically cured of piles, from which I had been suffering for over two months, by the use of Thomas' Electric Oil. I used it both internally and externally, taking it in small doses before meals and retiring to bed. In one week I was cured, and have had no trouble since. I believe it saved my life."

It's cruelty to city milkmen to talk to them about the cream of a joke.

Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites.—For Rickets, Marasmus and all wasting disorders of children, is very remarkable in its results.—The rapidity with which children gain flesh and strength upon it is very wonderful.

When a coachman marries his mistress, their positions are reversed. Before marriage he drives her; thereafter she drives him.

Premotions of approaching danger in the shape of digestive weakness, lassitude, inactivity of the kidneys, pains in the region of the liver and shoulder blades, mental depression coupled with headache, furred tongue, vertigo, should not be disregarded. Use Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Dyspeptic Cure, and avert the peril to health. It removes all impurities and gives tone to the whole system.

NEWS ITEMS.

French senatorial elections will be held on January 4.

Jean Henri Urbain, the French political author, is dead.

Yellow fever is epidemic on the Pacific coast of Mexico.

Zorilla's movements are again causing uneasiness in Spain.

The Duke of Connaught will return from India in March via San Francisco.

The Socialist vote in Berlin for members of the Reichstag shows a gain of 38,000.

The Communal council of Antwerp voted in favor of the repeal of the school law.

Engens Bail, charged with passing a "raised" bill at Ottawa, has been convicted.

The total liabilities of the National Bank of Albion, N. Y., are roughly put at \$200,000.

The Ontario government refuses to approve of the scheme for the re-division of Ottawa wards.

The contract for a branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway to Buckingham village has been let.

The Canadian boatmen have got a hundred and twenty boats over the second cataract of the Nile.

The British Government is preparing to send a force to expel the Boers from Montsion's territory.

Nine Orangemen, tried at Cumberland, England, for rioting on the 12th of July, have been discharged.

An assessment of 100 per cent. has been made on the shareholders in the failed Albion, N. Y., bank.

Lord Marcus Beresford has been committed for trial for assaulting Thos. Bowles, editor of Vanity Fair.

The man-of-war Seignelay has hoisted the French flag at Tojurah, Saggalo and Rodali on the Bay of Aden.

M. Ferry has promised that the French government will send a few convicts as possible to New Caledonia.

Paris journalists want the Press club of that city to change its name, as it is said to be merely a gambling hall.

Burglaries are of nightly occurrence in Toronto now, the detectives being apparently powerless to spot the gang.

The report that the window glass factories in the Pittsburg district will suspend work on January 1st, is denied.

Yarmouth, N.S., is excited over a mysterious disappearance, supposed to be a case of murder, of Mr. H. J. Beener.

It is reported that Germany will offer a Brunswick succession to the Duke of Cambridge and that he has refused it.

A Dublin jury has declared Police Inspector French sane, and he will be tried on Friday on a charge of felonious practices.

Baron Rothchild's loan of £50,000 to the Egyptian government, which is due Oct. 31, has been renewed for three months.

A true bill has been returned against the city of Ottawa for the disgraceful condition in which some of its streets are kept.

The police force sent to Michipicoten is said to be inadequate to quell the riots, the whisky men being armed and determined.

Several train loads of munitions of war have been despatched to Hamburg for shipment to the German stations in West Africa.

Girdwood and Forest, wool brokers, London, Eng., with houses in Bradford and Glasgow, have failed with liabilities of £306,710.

A race quarrel over the dedication of a South Carolina church has resulted in the murder of one man, and further trouble is feared.

Negotiations are said to be in progress between England and the United States for improving the commercial relations between the latter and the West Indies.

Portugal and Spain are reported to have combined to oppose the right of the Berlin conference to enquire into the former's territorial rights on the Congo.

The Agricultural Society of France is about to hold a convention in Paris for the purpose of considering the causes of the present agricultural depression in France.

The coroner's jury in the case of the death of Conductor Shayer, killed on the C.S.R., near Niagara, have censured the switchman and conductor of the colliding train.

The contract for the lighting of the city of Ottawa by electric light has been signed by the Montreal Electric Company and will be ratified at the next meeting of the council.

The recent changes in the Belgium ministry will not affect the agreement between Belgium and the Vatican, and diplomatic relations between the two courts will be resumed in November.

Wm. Liddle, a manufacturer of linens in Ireland, and James Girdwood, of New York, have been arrested on a charge of defrauding the U. S. Government of a large amount by means of false invoices.

The report of the chemist of the department of agriculture in reference to the sugar industry of the United States, says the total yield of sorghum for the year will not exceed a million and a half pounds.

ILL-WON PEERAGES

—OR— AN UNHALLOWED UNION.

By M. L. O'Byrne.

CHAPTER VII.—Continued.

Meanwhile, unconscious of the animadversions and imenaces of which they were the subject, and the clique whose eyes were fixed ominously upon them with no friendly interest, Miles and Hugh O'Byrne gave all their delighted attention to the gay scene around them, and to the pleasant conversation with Foster and Hussey Burgh, applied themselves to make deeper inroads into the favor of Lady O'Driscoll; and, strange to say, reciprocated merely by a cold, courteous smile and bow the very marked and flattering notice of Flora Esmond and Ethel Courtney, whose eyes seemed to beam more brightly, and whose cheeks bloomed with deeper radiance, as from their remote positions they exchanged gracious recognition. Unheeded, too, of the more overt addresses with which the less reticent Caroline Damer sought to woo their attention, the eyes of the young men often turned steadily and wistfully to the more distant and abstracted, with pensive brow and anxious eye, watching with absorbing interest every look and gesture of Alphonse Fitzpatrick, as in attitude of unconscious grace she leaned forward in low, earnest converse with Guildford Colandisk, with pleading aspect and voice, engaging his sympathy in favour of the poor woman Lanigan and her family, and by-and-by, broad expanding in sunshine, and lips wreathed with gladness, attested that her petition had not been vain, while deeper glow suffused her cheek as Colandisk, in turn, with eager and impassioned look, appeared to urge in whispered tone some suit which her downcast eyes and mute tongue did not seem to repeat or even to discourage.

But the curtain rose, and every other thought for the moment suspended was merged in the opening scene. From beginning to end, to judge by the hurricans of plaudits that greeted each favourite actor, the play was a success, and marked by an absence of the tumult and riotous outbreaks too often created by the gods—colleagues in the galleries—and responded to with vigor by the demigods in the pit, to the no small annoyance as well as displeasure of the occupants of the stalls and boxes, the audience retired pleased and orderly, without further confusion than the clamor of coachmen that stopped the way, the cries of the orange vendors, and the usual hubbub of the *canaille* swarming the narrow street. Miles and Hugh O'Byrne, Hussey Burgh and Foster returned to supper with the O'Driscolls, the Dammers pouncing upon Guildford Colandisk, whom the Misses Higginboggan considered they had honored enough by accepting a loan of his box, did not invite to go home with them, carried the smiling youth, whom Caroline irreverently designated in their *soubriquet* of "Little Dandy," off in their chariot to Merrion square. The sad-looking parson, Nathaniel Lamb, having been elected to the favor of accompanying the Misses Higginboggan, and their niece to their residence, with a meek humility that proved his worthiness of the compliment conferred upon him, handed his patronesses into the chariot, then with the timid, beseeching glance of a mendicant craving alms, he offered the tips of his fingers to Alphonse, who stopped lightly in, with the airy grace and careless gaiety of one whose life, like that of Alphonse, was passed in song and sunshine upon the topmost boughs of pleasant woodlands. In vain the rebuking visages of the severe aunts in glowering silence chided the fresh, joyous expression of heart, rushing happiness dimpling every feature, tinting the cheek, and giving lustre to the eye, seeing not in these visible signs and tokens the evidence of youthful spirits, a peaceful conscience and a guileless mind, but awful indications of guilty levity, and a worldly spirit doomed to perdition.

The Rev. Nathaniel also, who quite sharing the same sentiments, placarded his sanctity in his physiognomy by the outward symbols of sandy hair combed smooth and sleek from off a pale, retreating forehead, behind enormous projecting ears, eyes bleared and hungry, that never dare a bold, straightforward look into any face, yet wary and wise as that of a serpent, watched and noted all; scraggy nose and cheeks that betrayed palpable marks of ascetic mortification that delighted the godly, who would not believe the assertion of some detractors who gave out that the parson was of penurious habits, or of others that went further and insisted he was a miser, who, preferring to hoard his gold, grudged himself the bread he eat, the voice of Nathaniel, too, by nature thin, hoarse, and strong, his piety had toned down to a nervous, husky, vibrating quaver, save when in the pulpit denouncing judgment upon popish sinners, when it rebounded with elastic energy that appalled; but it was soft and unctuous when, seated down at supper between the Misses Higginboggan, and in-avoidably to laughing Alphonse, he meekly endorsed their opinion while masticating a morsel of roast duck and bread sauce, "that the world was a hot-bed of iniquity; the beauties of creation allurements to iniquity; that genius and talent were the devices of Beelzebub to ensnare souls to ruin; that scenic representations were diabolical mimicry; music an evil whose measure had no limits; sculpture a revival of heathenism; dancing an accursed snare of the Evil One to trip the unwary into the gulfs; painting and poetry sheer absurdities and waste of time; literature he did not quite condemn, conditioning it were restricted to pious reading, and not the vain effusions of rhapsodists, ranting about the glory of the sun and moon, the beauty of the stars, the color of the clouds, the sky, the landscape, balmy breezes and floral gems, and all such romantic twaddle, which he never could understand to see the sense of."

"Nor I, Nathaniel," dogmatically exclaimed Miss Higginboggan. "Let me send you some lobster salad. I never read a novel, or the production of any crack-brained poet in my life, she glanced with a look of self-commendation round the table. "Fanny, I think Nathaniel would like some of that Welsh rabbit. No, I haven't the sin of mispent time to lay to my charge like some I could name"—she darted an accusing eye at Alphonse;—"but the young people now are not like the young people of my day—obedient, docile, and modest;—their heads are turned astray, and filled with notions that won't help them to choose good husbands, or become proper mothers fit to have the care of a family like those our respectable grandmothers reared."

"My dear lady," drawled Parson Lamb, "you are a notable example of the truth of your remarks. Where, indeed, shall we find nowadays sense and wisdom like yours, embodied and condensed in the general-ality of human specimens; but though as

applied to the generality of the sex, the falling off is lamentable, there are yet some" he sighed profoundly, and cast an amorous eye at Alphonse, sipping a cordial with much apparent satisfaction. "Yes, some," he exploded in an oratorical flourish, "some who are an honor to their gender, of whom I may be said to unconsciously have benefited." "blessed is the man who can," read his wife, blessed the child who shall challenge a mother! And such a one in your amiable niece, Miss Alphonse."

"Yes, if she doesn't throw herself away on a fool," cried Miss Fanny, taking a pinch of snuff—old ladies and young young ones, in those days, were fond of stimulating their factories with the pungent. Alphonse looked up and smiled; she looked so pretty, simple, innocent, and merry, the duenna's bosoms and temper suddenly thawed. Yielding to the inspiration of the moment, Miss Higginboggan impressively said, with a frosty smile, meant to be coaxing, twinkling in her hard eye: "If Alphonse would only be said by us, and marry the man we would choose for her—a good, sensible, fatherly man, who would live soberly, and lead her on the way to salvation by word and example—she would not make a bad wife, and how blessed we should be."

"Ah, surely, my dear lady, surely," returned Nathaniel, and this time his voice changed to a whine. "If Miss Alphonse would only hearken to the promptings of the Spirit of Wisdom"—meaning to look devoted, he hesitated, stammered, laid his hand on his heart, and quavered, "if she would but only love the most devoted slave that ever sued for grace, what a blessing, what a helpmate, how the cause of religion and charity would prosper. Oh, dear Miss Alphonse, do, do speak; say but one word, one little sentence, and make me the happiest of men!"

Now, if the simple, engaging Alphonse had conceived or entertained for any being a feeling of dislike, which was only alloyed with that of contempt, it was for the Rev. Nathaniel Lamb, the personification, to her mind, of all that was hypocritical, mean, base, cruel, cowardly, deceitful, and treacherous, and impressed with which opinion, she had ever shunned his society, as far as lay in her power, and ever maintained towards him a most chilling reserve; but to-night, too happy to be stern, and secure, as she thought, from the consequences of the wrath of rejected overture, she was in a playful mood; so feigning to misunderstand the suitor's drift, she replied, with much humor: "I should be very glad to make you happy, Mr. Lamb, I should, indeed, or to help you in any charity that will benefit the poor, in whom you take so great an interest, and to whom you are such a benefactor."

Nathaniel was in ecstasies. He always admired Miss Fitzpatrick, now he thought her an angel. Such appreciation of himself, such eulogy from her dear young lips! He could scarcely contain his rapture. The aunts, too, were immensely gratified, and smiled complacently upon the maturing fruit of all their labors, developing such unlooked-for result. Nathaniel smiled obliquely, and hastened to rejoice: "This even so as I expected; the sweetness of honey flows in wisdom from her lips!" His voice, as we have seen, could be flexible, so he now modulated it to a cooing murmur: "But my precious, my dear one, it is not of the poor or of their concerns I now would speak; heaven knows, at least I have ever found them an ungrateful pack of lying knaves, greedy and sticking at leeches, and who, like the bottomless pit, would swallow up all your substance without making a single return."

"That's very true," chimed in Miss Fanny, with stuttering vehemence; "and I'll engage all your charity and benevolence makes but few converts among them."

"My dear madam," responded the parson, waxing eloquent under the combined influence of delightful sympathy and prosperous love, "you do not know, you cannot estimate the amount of my suffering, my sacrifice, and exertion for these 'ingrates.' Have I not been flannel petticoats, getting my subscriptions for and bound in masses, to entice them to read the Word? Did I not, with my friend Waddy Butcher and Gammon for an unlimited supply of sheep's heads and hairy bacon to feed the aged and the sickly; and did I not even expend some of the funds placed in my hands by the charitable in bribes of shillings and half-crowns to lure the wretches to church on the Sabbath—all in vain? A few humbuggers, indeed, dropped in and off, but the mass stuck to their beggarly priest; and it would bring the tears to your eyes to see the chapels thronged to suffocation and the house of the Lord desolate and empty. But I've turned over a new leaf—and the parson became sublime and severe—'when the papers come now to me for alms I tell them I give none except on Friday. That, you see, my dear madam, is a masterpiece of policy; for on that day I have a table in an outhouse laid out with soup and meat, and them that won't partake of the viands go away fasting; besides, it gives me an opportunity to preach the Word. Yes, it is an admirable plan."

"Admirable!" re-echoed Miss Warbeck Higginboggan, eyeing Alphonse askance, to see what impression such display of zeal and piety made upon her. "Do you win many to Christ by that plan?"

"Not as yet," sighed the parson. "A few just come to nibble the bait, and they are not exactly the class we want, being mostly drunken vagrants and bad characters, who infest the streets, and would go to the devil himself for a sop—but the decent poor hold aloof. But patience, patience, it is my motto, and it is turned up with beguiling smiles to Alphonse, and added, in his most insinuating accents: "But when I shall have a helpmate in this dear young lady—"

Alphonse tossed her head with a saucy smile. "You forget, Mr. Lamb, I am myself a Catholic, so I could be of no use to you."

"Tush, tush, my dear child!" responded the suitor, with the good-natured tone and manner of an indulgent father humoring a wayward offspring. "You are a Catholic in name, 'tis true; but do I not know the principles that have been instilled by your exemplary preceptors, these charming ladies, your aunts—and any little shortcomings, any little defect they may have overlooked, trust me, whose office it is to teach and guide, to amend and set right in you. Suffer me, sweet girl, to salute this fair hand." He extended an immense bony fist; but Alphonse, feeling that the fun had gone far enough, retreated a pace or two, and with eyes downcast, and visage rather abashed, yet resolute, she said, in accents half-shy, half-bold: "I'm sorry for your disappointment, Mr. Lamb, but—but I can't be your wife." She glanced furtively at her aunts.—"I'm engaged to—Mr. Colandisk," she exclaimed, with desperate resolution to face the worst, and have it over: nor did she calculate amidst the effect of her denouement.

For an instant all stood petrified and spell-bound; then Miss Higginboggan, recovering breath and self-command, exclaimed austere-ly, as sternly she envisaged the culprit: "Engaged to Colandisk!"

"Engaged to Colandisk!" reiterated Miss Fanny, with gesture of awe. "Without consulting us?"—soliloquized Miss Higginboggan.

"Without consulting us?" reverberated Miss Fanny, chattering with emotion. "Why, may I ask, did you commit this unparalleled act of disobedience and wickedness?" demanded her Higginboggan, now "mistress of herself, through China fall, and glaring upon the offender with a pretty much the aspect and effect of a high north-east wind upon a shivering hot-house plant. Alphonse heaved a sigh, and blushed: she had expected some such scene, and had been arming herself with fortitude to bear—the hunt; yet now, somehow, her nerve and spirit seemed to forsake her, her lip quivered, her voice trembled, a tear dimmed her eye, and almost with a sob she answered: "To-night, aunt, at the theatre—"

"There, madam! Did I not say," vociferated Parson Lamb, lifting his voice in the pause that ensued, and looking daggers at each one—"that the theatre is the devil's own workshop!"

But Alphonse's voice rose, interrupting him, with passionate appeal she drew near to her aunts, and said, caressingly: "Aunt Sophy, don't be angry; Aunt Fanny do say a Guildford Colandisk, and said if he asked me I would marry him; and you know you have nothing to object against him, in reality: he has a little independence, is a nice young man, moves in the best society, and is of a respectable family. I have not disgraced myself or you by my choice, you cannot say I have, aunty."

"Oh, no, of course not!" sneered Miss Higginboggan. "If you be content with the miserable income you term independence, of the ape with whom you have fallen in love, and choose to starve with him, we have nothing to object against his respectability of family—that's your own affair."

"And let me tell you, my dear girl," cried Parson Lamb, who now considered it incumbent upon him to interfere in the business, and if possible reclaim this exceedingly in judicious young person to better thoughts, by a piece of his mind bestowed upon her, with a few salutary maxims, "let me tell you, respectability alone, not based upon ingredients of substance, won't boil the pot; there is not a man living who has a greater source of contempt than I do of those babbles called titles, and what the world, forsooth, prizes under the name of good family, high birth, ancient pedigree, and snob bombast. Show me, I say,—his voice waxed vigorous—"the man who has boxed his ears up in the world, from the gutter to the top of the hill—that the man to be proud of, to boast of, not your pampering puppies, swaddled in fine linen, and—"