## Matchmaking -

It Is a Parental Duty-Some Notable Cases in Point-Lives Saved and Lives Wrecked.

\*\*\*\*

treal Witness.)

It has ever been the boast of Eng-

are as free to choose their mates as alone. And this state of things is (also from commoner stones. theoretically) supposed to secure the result of the greatest possible amount

of married happiness.

In an ideal state of society nothing more beautiful could be imagined than less and wretched. these theories reduced to practice. But in human life society is not precisely like that in bird life; for with us hawks, crows and buzzards do not flock by themselves, but mingle freely with and are very prone to seek life companions among the song birds, which thing may possibly work well for pos-terity, but is certainly hard on the gentler part of the present generation. There are many things in which the ways of the nations of continental Europe would not commend themselves as desirable models for our imitation; but in their fashion of arranging matrimonial alliances for their children there are some points worthy-not of our adoption, but of adaptation to our freer social conditions. As a woman who has seen much (and writing behind the shield of an anonymity, which I am assured will be sacredly preserved), I hope to be able to say some things which may help those who have ried modern life-to do their own unaided thinking, on a subject of vital importance to the young.

In England, with all their theories about perfect freedom of choice, there is really a great deal of restraint. Not the constraint of authority, though that, too, exists in certain cases, but the restraint of social custom. Hereexcept in certain very limited circles, where society spells its name with a big S-young people are left without safeguards. American parents, whether or not they have been happy in their own married lives, seem to think that their children must do as they themselves did, and stumble or fall into matrimony as ripe apples fall from the parent tree, without help or guidance. If they chance to fall in pleasant places, it is well, and all their friends are pleased; if otherwise, their friends pity, and now that it is too ant of nature, a man who had seen late, seek to help them; but it occurs to no one that there would not only re been no harm, but a benefit, if a oner hasket had been timely placed in a right position, and the ripened apple had been gently shaken into its safekeeping.

Permit me to give one or two inply the slightest degree of coercion, or liking to be understood by one who to interfere in the least with individual could not also admire, he finally refreedom of action on the part of sons and daughters.

In the early part of the present century a gentleman high in the counhis country had an only son, and mother. His future seemed to them to be far too precious to be left to chance. Before he was 20 years of age they had begun looking about them of note living in another State. She recommended that her nephew be sent and be introduced to several of the "suitable" young ladies of her acquaintance, at the same time naming one the affections, but they have every who would be her own choice, though right and obligation to see that those the had no prospect of wealth. The to consideration by the parents on both sides, for the parents of the young lady were also consulted at an early stage of affairs. Socially and intellectually the young people were deemed equals, and the beauty of the one was esteemed to be a fair offset for the wealth of the other. Both were "well born" and well reared" on solid foundations of religious principle. His temper was conceded to be "hasty, proud and sometimes unreasonable," but he was "affectionate, the soul of honor," and had "no bad habits whatever." young woman was said to be "cheerful, remarkably sweet-tempered," and evidently, in the opinion of her relatives, as well as the chief negotiator, had but one fault-she preferred to study with her brothers rather than sit with her sisters at the embroidery

All these things were the subjects of between the negotiating parties during period of about five months, being marked "Private," sealed and enclosed expired on the night upon which the In the customary family letters. seemed to have been perfectly under- then got drunk. At midnight screams stood that the young people were not were heard issuing from the house in to have their sensibilities alarmed by any suggestions previous to mutual acquaintance, or afterward.

In due time the young man, all uncuspecting, paid his aunt the proposed visit, and fell promptly and forever in slaughter, and was sentenced to penal love with the right young lady! Poslove with the right young lady! have directed his attention into the proper channel, but certainly in a married life of half a century of mutual happiness, neither husband nor wife had any suspicion that their union was the result of well-laid and executed plans. About the time of their golden wedding a granddaughter, who had been suffered to browse at will in a garret well stored with family papers, found the long-hidden correspondence. In the spirit of thoughtless fun she handed the little packet to her grandfather on this golden anniversary, and was at first almost frightened at the effect it produced. As the andsome old man read the letters large tears coursed down his still ruddy cheeks. Then he silently handed them to his wife, who as silently read them and turning to her husband with glistening eyes, softly whispered: "William, how good they were to us!

grand-daughter to see. They had had no daughters, only three sons, and these had, in matrimonial matters, been allowed to do as they would, it being deemed by their rents (ignorant of what a kindly parental foresight had done for themselves) that love was lord of all below,

(By an Observing Woman, in the Mon- | wise providence in the way he should

The eldest son of this happy old couple was a very handsome young riage is free from all the restraints married to a woman at once strong which hedge it about among other peo- enough and loving enough to have held and directed his somewhat wandering ples. In theory, the young of the hu- nature. There are many such women man race in English-speaking lands to be found for the searching; but they they were, a thoughtless youth is not the birds, impelled and guided by love likely to distinguish the unset diamond 113 inhabitants; 1894 one for every 84. "poor John," as the family unconsciously grew to calling him-wandered gayly on, and was at last himself captured by a very vulture of a woman, who made his whole life both worth-

The second son, a good natured man, was fortunately taken in hand by a friendly clergyman, somewhat older than himself, and, without in the least recognizing the fact, either then or later, was steered safely into a marriage with one of the loveliest of her sex. Both husband and wife knew that without the intervention of their friend they would not probably have met but it never occurred to either of them that this meeting had been carefully planned for months before by the wise friend that had seen their fitness for each other, and he prayerfully brought them together, trusting to nature to complete his work.

The third son, a man beloved by all right-minded women and most men, apparently foreordained for husbandhood and fatherhood, passed on into old age unmated, because the sort of woman whom he might have loved did not appear in his limited circle, which he was too absorbed in self-sacrificnot the leisure-so lacking in our hur- ing labors to leave, and no one took the pains to find her for him.

It was the daughter of the second son who brought the old matchmaking letters to light. Well would have been for her if her parents had not seen fit to trust to chance for her future! Enthusiastic, ardent, with extraordinary possibilities of loving selfabnegation, it is wonderful that her parents should not have seen that life without love was impossible to one of her mold. Perhaps they did see it, but trusted to Providence to provide a husband for her, At any rate, they did nothing. They lived in a small country place where no one of equal culture and character was indigenous; and where strangers seldom came. the girl met the man who did his best to wreck her life is too long a story to tell, but meet him she did. cally and mentally strong and dominlife' in all senses save the best, the innocent, romantic adult child of isolation was as wax in his skillful and falsely tender hands. They married secretly, and during the years of her unrecognized bondage she came gradually to know and loathe the man to whom she was bound. But principle stances illustrative of my position that held her firm and ready to fulfill her parents are in duty bound to arrange pant of the unequal contract wheafor the matrimonial future of the chil- ever he should see fit to claim it. As dren, and that such provident arrange- time passed on he found that she had ments need not, and ought not to im- discovered his true nature, and not lieved his wife by bigamously marry-

ing another. This other poor girl was also a victim of parental neglect of what should be esteemed a duty. Had her parents shight of the eyes of both father recognized the truth, that their daughter's future was practically in their keeping, they would not only have excluded so dangerous a person from her companionship, but would have for a suitable wife for their son. The provided her with society that did not father had a sister married to a man contain elements known to be dangerous. Young hearts crave love, and in one form or another they will genermake her a visit, as soon as he ally have it. Those who wish to keep should have been admitted to the bar, a field free from noxious weeds will take care to sow it with some crop. Parents have no night to coerce affections shall have proper sustenstill existing correspondence shows ance; that the hawk shall not mate that all circumstances were taken in- with the lark; that pebbles shall not be preferred to diamonds; that the most luscious fruits shall not be suffered to fall into the jaws of swine; in short, that the most vital interest of human life shall not be left to the workings of blind chance.-The Inde-

### Notes and Incidents.

Four noble piles of architecture have been erected by women of Chicago within the past five years-four conspicuous monuments of women's work. The Woman's Temperance Temple, the Fowler Hall of McCormick Seminary, the Jones Memorial Building of the Presbyterian Hospital, and the Young Women's Christian Association build-

Michael Lawton, a blacksmith, who resided near Cork, was indicted at Munster Assizes last week for the dozen letters passing back and forth murder of his wife. The evidence went to show that a pledge of total abstinence which the prisoner entered into murder was committed, and that he which the prisoner resided with his wife, and the next morning the woman was found in bed with her head and face battered and several ribs broken. The prisoner was convicted of manservitude for life.

> An important temperance conference was held in England a few weeks ago manded a change, and yet she deliberunder the presidency of the Bishop of ately refused to accept properly the London. A representative gathering of prominent men connected with nearly self recognized as expedient. every branch of the Christian Church was present. The reforms suggested sel quiet submission to the inevitable. in the resolution include: (1) The more The very faces of those who beat their effective treatment of habitual drunk- heads against the stone wall of Fate ards; (2) further restrictions on Sun-day trading; (3) registration of clubs; even the wrinkles which Time prints (4) raising the age of sale to young upon the brows of the contented are persons; (5) penalizing the sale of alcohol to very young children; (6) which mar the foreheads of the disshortening the hours of sale on week- satisfied. It almost seems as though days, subject to discretion of local au- the hair of the contented grew gray thorities. In addition to these entirely practical points, the tentative and to prevent a calamity or to preserve

Stanz, in Canton Unterwalden, a little town in the center of Tell's coun- forehand to submission. I try, ennobled by memories of Arnold wish we had known this and had done | von Winkelreid, is at present in darkas well for our own dear boys as our ness during the long December nights; life prayed that when death should parents did for us." "So do I," he an- its inhabitants are also without their smite those whom I loved, I might be swered; and behind the branching wine. The small, energetic steamer palms which shaded them from the which plies between Lucerne and Stanz gayetles of the younger generations, made last week a comical mistake. It the loving old couple tenderly kissed was freighted with two large casks of each other, with no one but the abashed wine and oil respectively, the former for the publicans of the place, the latter to serve as an illuminant. In this death, I had never thought of. It fell case, says the Tribume de Geneve, the supercargo got confused; he dispatched from a clear sky. It took me unathe wine to the Mairie, where it was wares, and for a while I was as unhanded over to the official lamplighter reconciled as the most hardened man of the locality; and the petroleum went to the principal hostelry. The

the petroleum

The British Medical Journal says: "We have already recorded the sys-tematic efforts of the Minister of Public Instruction to combat alcoholism through the schools in France. In the direction of preventive and repressive legislation the medical profession is largely represented in the league against alcoholism, and in a special committee which has been elected to formulate a suitable measure. Among the members are Drs. Semelaigne land, and of the countries which owe man with gifts which should have Philbert, Bergeron, Lannelongue, Fleutheir origin to her, that their mar- made him a king among men, and ry, Ravarin, Guillemet, Bianchi, Lewould have done so had he been early dain, Motet, Magnan, and Cheysson. Deputy Siegfried, at the last meeting, called attention to the enormous increase of alcoholism in France. In 1830 the consumption was 1.12 litre of pure

alcohol per head per year; in 1894 it the not as plentiful as pebbles, and if was 4.04 litres. In 1830 there was one shop for the sale of drink for every The results of this increased sumption were more exemptions from military service on account of physical inaptitude and mental alienation." Mr. Henry S. Allen, of New York

city, is exploiting the idea of the purchase of Palestine by the Christian world. He has appealed to the public through the press, and personally to Lady Henry Somerset and Miss Willard for their co-operation. He thinks there is need of a new crusade by which the locality from whence the faith came that has made so many nations great may be preserved, and offers the following in support of his "The rush of modern progress threatens to put the Holy Land on a level with Oklahoma or Boom City. We may have a 'Wild West' in Bethlehem, 'Sunday Varieties' next the site of the Temple of Jerusalem, a railroad depot on Cavalry, and baseball in Sinai Park." Miss Willard says in reply that if she were a millionaire Jerusalem would soon be delivered from the hand of the Turk, and that ever since she first saw its gray walls rising through the twilight of a spring evening in 1870, she has felt that the Christian world ought to hold to its heart the beloved city of Jesus and his mother and the disciples, and that she can be counted on for anything she can do to advance the effort so full of holiest Christian sentiment.

Change for the Better. Fashion, mainly under the influence of the league, has undergone change, and the grandest and most mirthful gatherings, as well as the most sedate and eventful, are now made with no demand for wine or any of its allies. I remember when a wedding feast could not have been socially completed without alcohol, when the two affianced persons could scarcly have believed themselves married or the clergyman who had officiated could scarcely have felt he had faithfully done his duty, in the absence of the wine cup. I remember well when no two medical men could have met in consultation, in the case even of a dying man or woman, without finding the decanters and their appendages, the wine-glasses or tumblers, on the drawingroom table, to be used before or after the consultation, or on both occasions. I recall an instance in which an able and conscientious colleague was severely commented upon and criticised because he would not join in the stimulating device, and an opposite instance in which a friend, a first-rate surgeon, joined so heartily in the stimulating glass just before a delicate operation that he had to defer his skill until the following day. These scenes have passed; the league triumphed over them; but it must still keep its hand above them, for alcohol, when admitted, never so coyly, still maintains its own functions and declanes itself when it gets into power. Alcohol is an enemy that gives no qurter. You are its absolute conqueror of its conquered.-Sir B. W. Richardson, London, Eng.

### Accepting the Inevitable.

"I detest this place," remarked with a lovely house in B-, arranged just to suit me—and such troops of friends! My husband's business is here now, him he might as well make up his mind first as last that I shall never be satisfied until I get back to B-."

Every circumstance confirmed this unhappy herself, and she made her ered to make a Roman holliday, as it family unhappy by her discontent, and yet she pretended to be a Christian!

It seems strange-and yet it is natural and universal-that human beings are incapable of seeing all sides of a question. It is only by study and prayerful inquiry that we become capable of estimating things aright. Thus most of us are impressed with the importance Scripture commands. These we cull out and endeavor to follow. Others, equally important, we ignore. This may be because we us not read our Bibles enough, or it may be because we do not like the ignored passages, and possess the faculty of pasing over or forgetting what we do not like. Thus the dissatisfied exile had apparently never disciplined herself to contemtment, that blessed virtue, without which even righteousness was not accounted by the apostle as great gain. She knew that it was for the best welfare of the family that her husband had removed his business from the city to which she was so warmly attached, she had admitted that their circumstances really deconsequences of a step which she her-

Philosophy and religion alike counfewer and more sightly than those more gracefully. Do all that you can modified adoption of local option is anything which you love, but when the blow falls, or the loved one is taken, the spirit should be keyed be-

A godly man, whose wife was stricken with insanity, said: given grace to bear it. I had seen such frightful rebellion against death. even among the best people, that I had determined never to insult my Maker by such wickedness toward him. But this awful sorrow, so much worse than upon me like a stroke of lightning in my parish could have been.'

God's ways of testing us are his and that he would, as surely as in wine was actually emptied into the own. They are tried upon us when their own case, be directed by an all-lamps and distributed through the dis-

trict. Now their systems are out of order, the lights will not work, and the public houses find no demand for to the unregenerate heart, cruelty, but to them which believe, they are the chastering which forms our baptism into the fold of God. That would not be chastening which did not hurt us. And whether the discipline be hard or light, it is only a fool in intellect and an ingrate at heart who will not submit calmly and nobly to the decree .-Chicago Interior.

#### Mrs. Josephine Butler on the Rise of the Salvation Army.

All the World for this month contains a tribute from Mrs. Josephine Butler to her zealous allies in the Salvation Army. The Purity movement and the Salvation movement seem to her the two great features of the age. She tells how she first became acquainted with the later and larger of the two:

"My 1. mory goes back a number of years to the time when my husband object both-get husband." and I were living at Liverpool. I re-call one evening when I drove \* \* in order to accompany him home. As he seated himself by my side in the carriage, he laid upon my knee a poor shabby newspaper, saying, "There, that will interest you. sure you will rejoice to see it." was the first number (as I believe) of the War Cry. \* \* \* My husband, a scholar, a literary man and critical, had read this paper himself, and re-joiced in what it recorded, overlooking its many and obvious defects and its peculiar style. He was right in thinking I should rejoice in it. I took it to my room and read every word of it, and thanked God.

A PREMONITION. "Some five or six years before, when resting on my bed during a slow recovery from illness, a great thirst took possession of my soul for national blessing-above all, for revival and blessing and help for the millions of the poor and suffering and ignorant, the 'submerged' in our great cities; my prayer for them went up night and day. One evening, awaking from a refreshing sleep, the words came to me with great distinctness and power, as if spoken by an angel of God in my chamber:

"O'er the gloomy hills of darkness, Look, my soul, be still and gaze! All the promises do travail With a glorious day of grace.'

And I was kept in stillness and expectancy. When the wretched little paper 'Here are the first drops of a great and gracious shower.

When Mrs. Butler first attended the Army meetings in Liverpool, she found them making "a terrible noise." says, "My head ached a little, but my heart rejoiced."

"THE DEVIL TERRIBLY AFRAID OF YOU AND ME." She tells a characterictic story of the

General: "Some seventeen or eighteen years ago I called at the Army headquarters The General and chief of in London. staff were there. At the close of a conversation on the war which we. each in our own sphere, were carrying had been borrowed from the officers of on, the General took both my hands, and, looking at me with his kind but plercing eyes, he said: "The devil is terribly afraid of you and me, Mrs. I went away, pondering this Butler. saying, 'The devil terribly afraid of me!' 'Why not?' I asked myself, 'since God elects to use the weak things of this world, things that are not, to bring to nought things that are. I will cent interest for a number of years. believe it, more than I have yet dared to do.

#### Mistaken Sacrifices.

A certain woman, with a small income and a large heart, has a family of impecunious cousins-mostly girls. of the type that cannot earn their own living, and let themselves helplessly down upon the nearest available benefactor. She worried over them last winter considerably, because she was sure the necessaries of life were run- ventured out of his dominions. ning low in their little house, and she feeling a lady who had recently come to her own family, and sent the cousfinally gave up her Christmas presents to live in a certain city, "I had such ins a check instead. Two weeks later and he is very successful—but I tell in Jane!" one of them said effusively we were so grateful for your gift! We have wanted buckles for a year, and now we have got them through your kindness!' Cousin Jane's feelings, as woman's silly words. She was really sacrificed for these adornments, butchshe thought of her home Christmas

were, can be imagined. She could sympathize with another friend in New York, who gave up going to hear Patti, with her son and send the money for the three tickets-\$15-to relatives, who, she knew, were straitened by the business crisis, and in actual need of ready money. What was her surprise to hear, next day, that three of the family had treated themselves promptly to Patti on receiving the check. said, appreclatively; but of course Mrs. could not feel it as providential a happening as they

seemed to do. Three gentlemen, none of them wealthy, meeting at the seashore last summer, happened to discuss the needs of an old class-mate, and each pledged himself to aid toward a generous gift. The recipient, when last heard from. was enjoying the Atlanta Exposition on the proceeds, while his three benefactors were a trifle sore over the affair, which had cost them some troublesome economies.

We all know such cases. They are both absurd and disheartening; and yet, since true charity is more blessed to the giver than to the receiver, and since it takes all sorts of people to make a world, generous minds will go on giving to the end of the chapter and will not lose by it, after all.—

Britain's Ten Years' Drink Money. The following is the annual expenditure for the years 1885 1894:

1885 .....£123,268,806 | 1890 .....£139,495,470 1886 ..... 122,389,045 | 1891 ..... 141,220,675 124,347,369 | 1892 ..... 140,866,262 1888 ..... 124,611,489 | 1893 ..... 138,854,829 1889 ..... 132,213,276 | 1894 ..... 138,737,828 Total for the ten years, £1,326,004,999. or an average of £35 5s 6 1-2d per head

### Threads of Thought.

of the entire population.

Truth needs not champions, but fol-

lowers. Sharp sayings are not always refined. Some consciences are better goads than guides.

in hand. Keep your wound covered, and it may heal without a scar.

Sympathy and severity seldom go hand

"Specials" don't run on regular time; likewise genius. Not till the gloaming comes, can see the stars

# Missing Links\_

Gossip From Every Land Summarized for Busy Readers.

considerable historical interest, from the fact that it is believed to have been the place of meeting of the first Scottish parliament, convened by Malcolm Canmore. King Robert Bruce

had a house in Forfar. THE attempt of European ladies to form a league of native girls for the suppression of foot-binding in China has fallen through. One native girl is said to have put the case thus: "We spueezy foot; you squeezy waist. Same

THE ancient structure of Queen Margaret's Palace, South Queensferry, Linkithgowshire, is about to be sold by the proprietor. It is situated near the rock where Queen Margaret used to land when going from Dunfermine to Edinburgh, and she resided there when on these journeys.

PARIS is troubled by the fear that parrots spread consumption. Some parrots brought from Brazil died two years ago of a mysterious disease resembling consumption, and recently several persons at Versailles and Maissons-Laffitte have died of what seems to be the same disease.

AT BLACKWELL the largest battle ship in the world is nearly ready for launching. It was built for the Japanese Government, and will be called the Fuji, instead of Fusi Yama, as originally intended. It is a battle ship with Harveyized steel armor, 400 feet long, 73 feet broad and 44 feet

DR. GASTOR has discovered in a heap of torn papers sent to him from Yemen, in Arabia, an ancient book of magic called "The Sword of Moses." It is written in a Syrian hand, the first part in Hebrew and the last in Aramaic. It will be published with a translation and fac-similes in the transactions of the Royal Asiatic So-

IN A biographical sketch, intended to be wholly complimentary, of a banker in Lamar. Kan., a newspaper of that town says the banker "has forged his way from a clerkship to a position in the firm." Obviously it would be a delicate and difficult task to undertake to explain what the use of the unfortunate figure of speech was well meant.

AN irreverent negro of Senegal recently stole at Dakar the boots and breeches of the French general, commanding in chief, who had come from St. Louis to review the troops. As the general had brought no other uniform with him, the review had to be delayed until substitutes that could

the post. A CABLE will soon be laid between Iceland and the Shetland Islands, the Dropping the cup of coffee, the faithful northernmost point of the British tele- servant rushed to the ship's surgeon, graph system. The money has been come to the captain at once! subscribed, Great Britain, Iceland and speechless, and swollen to ten times Telegraphic communication with stations in Iceland, lying as it does in the middle of the North Atlantic, will e of great value to meteorologists.

Mikado means to visit Britain next invitation. His Majesty will sail all the way in his yacht, surrounded by John Chinaman. If he carries out this him: plan, he will make a notable precedent, for never yet has a representative of the oldest dynasty on earth

LORD WOLSELEY was once on a tour of inspection in the North of always go to everything—and, to her amazement, each wore a handsome gold buckle at her waist. "Dear Cousin Jane!" one of them said officials. A fixtue gurl said to him, "Do of his letters, and am now personating them. As that is not likely, you must admit that I am the man." from?" Lord Wolseley was obliged to admit that he did not know. know everyfink, and my daddie do."

MGR.MERRY DEL VAL, the Pope's private chamberlain, denies that a book of Pope Leo's is in the Index "you're the man that murdered the Expurgatorius. The author of the book Expurgatorius. The author of the book As he paid over the money, how-on the sanctification of the blood of ever, the Philadelphia man had no the Virgin was not Cardinal Pecci, but daughter, in order that she might a canon of the Cathedral of Perugia when the Pope was archbishop, who wrote the book while insane. It was published without authority, and the archbishop did his best to suppress it even before it was put in the index. WHEN the Magnificent and Majes-

tic, England's new battleships, were came just in the nick of time," one of put into commission the other day, by an old trapper in Maine one cold crews had to be taken from two other vessels, that of the Empress of India of friends round a roaring fire in an going to the Magnificent, while the old country tavern. Several stories, Majestic the Royal Sovereign. As all the vessels are needed right away, the Empress of India takes the crew of the cruiser Blake. And a new crew has been scraped together for the Royal Sovereign.

AT A meeting lately of the home mission committee of the Presbyterian Church in England, Dr. Monroe Gibson advocated the erection of halls in place of churches in working-class neighborhoods. He pointed out that Rev. John Pugh, in connection with the Welsh forward movement, had built halls in Cardiff, seated for 1,000 people, for an outlay of £2,000. They needed a forward movement in England, and he recommended the erection of similar halls in London. The further discussion of the subject was adjourned.

THE statute of the Queen, to be erected at Rangoon, has just been dispatched from England. Her Majesty is represented in a long skirt, covered with her famous Honiton lace, the same expuisite fabric forming the handkerchief she holds in her left hand. In her right hand she holds the royal scepter, and on her head is the small crown which she has adopted since assuming the title of Empress of India. The dome-like center of this crown is formed of jewels, once in possession of good Queen Bess. Other jewels represented are in the

8000 X 0000 FORFAR CASTLE (Scotland) is of | form of a diamond necklace, which is valued at £80,000. The whole statute, with its pedestal, will stand over 13 feet in height.

SOMETHING novel in the way of a secret society has been evolved in Maine. Instead of going back to medtaeval times for inspiration, the founders took the conditions lying next their hands, and in place of loading the officers with grandiose and grotesque titles, the understandable commonplace is drawn on. The society is called the Annabessacook Hayloft, No. -, and the officers are: Chief haymaker, assistant haymaker, overseer, past chief haymaker, boss driver, hornblow-er, guard of barndoor, guard of hay-loft, and grand keeper of bundles.

A RUSSIAN girl had her way at Kharkhow recently. Her relatives forced her to consent to marry a man she disliked. When the wedding party appeared in church, however, and the priest asked her if she would take the man, she said "No." She would not yield to remonstrance, so the party returned home and argued with her. First her parents beat her, then the bridegroom's friends beat her. was taken back to the church weeping, and the service was begun again. But she again said "No," and this time the priest saved her from her relatives.

THE Empress Eugenie is so charmed with Deeside (Scotland) that she contemplates building a small residence at Braemar. The site which pleases her best is on the Duke of Fife's property, hidden away in a birch wood, but near to the Roman Catholic Church. The Empress always attends mass at this church on Sunday morning, driving from Abergeldie-a distance of quite ten miles-in a wagonette; and any one seeing her sitting in the corner of that homely vehicle would scarcely recognize the woman who once led the world of elegance and fashion, and had so much to do with the destinies of France.

A GOOD story is told of Sir William Harcourt. During his holiday at the seaside he paid a visit to a man-ofwar lying off the Hampshire coast. After dinner, the weather proving rather tough, the captain (an unusually small and dapper man), suggested that Sir William should sleep on board, and thoughtfully surrendered his own berth for the night to his distinguished guest. Next morning, at the early hour when the captain usually rose, the latter's sailor servant, who knew nothing of the change of berths, brought a of coffee to the cabin door, and knocked once or twice without receiving an answer. Somewhat alarmed, the servant popped in his head and asked: "Don't you want your coffee this morning, sir?" The only reply was in the nature of a growl, and the terrified sailor beheld a gigantic figure turning over under the bedclothes, exclaiming: "For heaven's sake,

#### Matter-of-Fact.

A Philadelphia business man tells a story to one of the papers of his own IT IS believed in India that the city which, he thinks, indicates a want of humor on the part of the people year, and that the Queen, having of Chicago. The Philadelphia man was heard of his intention, has sent him an in Chicago. He expected a moneyorder letter in a day or two, and to avoid trouble about identification, he the victorious fleet which crumbled up went to the postoffice clerk and said to

"I am expecting a money-order to the amount of - dollars, and my name is --. Here are a lot of letters addressed to me from a good many places, with all the postmarks on them; so that you see if I am not the man I claim to be, I must have mur-Ireland, and visited the garrison dered that man and possessed myself

phian came around to get it cashed. He expected to find the clerk all ready know," said the child, "then 'oo don't for him, but at first the clerk did not recollect him. Presently the Philadel phia man succeeded in recalling himself to the clerk's memory. "Oh, yes," he said, quite seriously,

cause to complain.

### The Very Point.

Any story so remrkable as to merit the name of "yarn" is pretty sure to have its weak point which the hearers must strengthen by an effort of the imagination. Such a story was told winter evening, as he sat with a party received the men from more or less incredible, had been told, and at lat the trapper, Samuel Higgins by name, took his turn.

"Well, boys," he said, stretching out his hands to the blaze, "I reckon I've been trapper in these parts long enough to tell some pooty fa'r-sized stories, and not stretch things any to speak of, either. "I'd come over into Quinset t' get an

inch auger 't I needed-'twas two years ago come Feb'uary, if I'm not mistook-an' as I was trampin' home acrost the lake, it come over me wa'n't scursely anythin' in my cabin t' eat, exceptin' potatoes an' such "Well, thinks I, a mess o' fish would

relish good. No sooner said 'n done! whipped out my line, bored a hole in the ice with that auger, an' in less'n half an hour I'd ketched eight fish, an' one on 'em must 've weighed nigh onter ten pound." There was a short silence, and then

withered individual known "Gran'ther Pep'rell" cleaned his throat and leaned forward in his chair. "How'd you git it up through that inch hole, Sam'l?" he inquired, not with incredulity, but as one anxious to be instructed about the particulars of a new and interesting phenomenon. "Why, gran'ther," said Sam'l Higgins, in a cheerful roar directed to-ward the ear at which the old hunter held his wrinkled hand, "that's the very thing; that's the whole p'int o' the story, gran'ther!"

