lph Evening Mercury

AY EVENING, DEC. 24, 187 he Foster Brother

The Orphan of the Wreck.

CHAPTER XXXI.

The difficulty, therefore, whether to turn north with the new fence, or leap it, and continue going east. If the former course was decided on the difficulty would be less, for on its les side very little snow had fallen, while the eastern route was heavily cumbered by it. But then this easier progress would be dearly obtained if it led them from the wished for goal—the "Bee Skep."

Like all moorland fences, the wall was composed of rough stones, many of which protuded and formed projections. Harry had therefore no difficulty in mounting to the top, to see if from the elevation he could better solve the problem.

Since they loft the farm house of Wullie Gordon, the darkness of the night had sensibly diminished, for the clouds had nearly vanished from the sky, which sparkled with a clear, cold, frosty light, and this, joined to the reflected lustre of the newly fallen snow, made the surrounding some wonderfully distinct. A white expanse stretched in all directions, and a universal silence rested upon it. Widewolste, and bewildering was the prespect, and Harry stood surveying it in dismay, till in a moment, and with a sudden start, he exclaimed—

"I see a light."

"In what direction?" asked George, who from his lower position was unable to eatch the gleam.

"I have lost it again," replied Harry.

"I have avanished, but yonder, nearly east from this, is the direction in which it appeared."

rom time, is greater that point the wall, and gazed earnestly at that point of the horizon whither his friend had pointed, but light he saw none, and vainly also did Harry strain his eyes towards the spot where for a moment it had appeared to

"A. mistake, I doubt." observed George.
"No, positively no. I did see a light flash out for a moment," was the earnest

flash out for a moment," was the earnest reply.

"A will o' the wisp, then," suggested the other. "I have heard of an illusory light which goes by that name. So—ha! did you see yon?"

"Yes," exclaimed Harry. "The very light I saw before. There it is again—it seems moving."

"It does," cried George. "yet it is too bright and steady to be a mere ignisfature."

"It is a carriage lamp." shouted Harry.

"It is a carriage lamp," shouted Harry

"It is a carriage lamp," shouted Harry joyfully.

"The very thing," responded George, with no less eageraess.

"Come on," roared Harry again, as with an exeited cry he took a flying leap from the wall.

Goorge did "come on" without a moment's delay, and next moment both youths were embedded in a snow-wreath of great depth, which had accumulated along the north side of the fence.

Their fall was soft enough, but the work of extrication was difficult, and it was not until after several minutes of panting exertion that they emerged from their entombmen; and could see again over the open moor.

The light still shone with a bright, steady gleam in the far distance, and though it certainly was in motion, it still kept pretty much in the same place, and seemed rather to shift to and fro than to keep advancing in one direction.

Curious Manriage Crressions.—At St. George's, Bloomsbury, London, on Thursday, there were joined together in holy matrimovy a perfectly deaf and dumb bride. Neither, however, was born deaf and dumb. The clergyman read the service very slowly aloud for the benefit of the congregation, and at the same time, with a considerable amount of gesticulation, by means of the deaf and damb alphabet upon his fingers, for the enlightenment of the happy couple. The bride and bridegroom took their alloted parts in the service by means of their fingers, and no real difficulty occurred except in those parts where, under ordinary circumstances, the hands of the two persons would have been joined. A little amusement was caused by the inability of the bride to explain that a certain gentleman who had been put forward by those of ride to explain that a certain gentleman the had been put forward by those of-ciating was not the one she had herself hosen for her partner; but the clergy-ian soon came to the relief of the discosed bride. In the more interesting arts specially concerning the bride and idegroom, the gestures were of that ving description that the knowledge of a dumb approble was required to the negregation in order to interpret them.

The rumors of Prices Breach them.

The rumors of Prince Bismarck's resignation of the Presidency of the Prusian Council excite much comment. The journals of Berlin all discuss the matter the tenor of the opinions thus far expressed being that Prussia is the hear of Germany; that the leadership of Prussia in the affairs of the Confederation is essential to the leadership of Germany in the affairs of Europe, and that Prince Bismarck's retirement from the Pjussian Council is likely to lead to an important crisis in the politics of the country.

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