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THE CHANGED TRUNK

A TRAVELER'S ADVENTURE.

(By S. Baring-Gould.)

I do not believe there exists a scene time more farcical, than the inspec-tion of the same letter. It was doubtless from a wife to her husband who was from home, tion of the passengers' luggage at Charing Cross on the arrival of the 5.15 mail in the evening of every day except Sunday. That train has brought travelers from Brindisi by express through Paris, also those who come from Germany by Cologne and Brussels, and from the Riviera, and the swarm that pours from Paris itself, as well as a contingent from other places on the Continent.

On the arrival of the train a barried is erected-over which a policeman keeps guard-between a dense mass of passengers impatient to get at their personal belongings, and the that astonished me: counters arranged like an ancient Roman dining-table, on which a swarm trunks, boxes and baskets t' con- me-to a most objectionable persontain the impedimenta of th travel- age; a personage whom we do not

moves the barrier and the passengers cation. I remain, yours truly, boil about the counters, clamoring

for their property, rattling their keys, and vowing that they have nothing to declare. The customhouse officers go through the farce of examining in a perfunctory manner, half a dozen of the trunks, and then trucks by the porters in expectation of shilling tips.

The confusion is heightened by the teau. fact that some of the passengers have halted on their way at Brussels, or Amiens, or Lisle, or Boulogne, and their luggage has come on before and not on impulse. house ... a sort of cabin in two com- I now wrote to Mr. Hope-Rush. partments on the unoccupied side of the three-sided counter.

here, my man, I have to catch a train greatly to oblige yours faithfully, at Waterloo. We are late, as usual, my trunk at once and on to a cab ply: I shall miss my train. It is in the "Mr. Hope-Rush is quite unable to custom-house, as I sent it on from comply with Mr. Maltravers' request Cologne.

"All right, sir, year follow me." All right oblics, on such a very transmit to Mr. Frederick Jones." round which the passengers were unpleasant subject.' dancing and jostling one another, and So much was gained-I had learned were clamoring and holding out their the surname of the man who presumkeys, and together we entered the ably had my trunk. But the gain off her cycle. cabin designated "Custom House." | was not much. Jones is a common It was choked up with baggage.

"Which is it, sir?" and he began to Joneses.

of lightning."

Anything to declare?" asked a Jones, and

velope, in one of the yellow paper- bel. covered novels. It was headed "No, I can't say that I do," ans- back street and I rang the bell and "Rushy Park, Swampham, Essex." wered the landlord. "She's gone a- rapped on the door. In response apcovered novels. It began "My own dearest Freddy," and ended with "Ever, darling, yours, for a new situation, and she said Mabel Hope-Rush." she'd write and give us her address I

It had been written ten days before and such communications are sacred. After turning over in my mind what letter in a note to Mrs. Hope-Rush, stating how I had come by it, and so disproportioned?" requesting to be furnished with the

Rushy Park sounded well-too well to be congruous with the shabby clothes, but I supposed that it was an old park that had been broken up into building lots and studded with semi-genteel villas.

Two days later I received a reply

"Rushy Park, Swampham. "Sir,-I am obliged to you for sendporters plant the portmanteaus, ing me a letter written -not by desire to know, and with whom we When the policeman thinks fit he ze- absolutely refuse to hold communi-

"Mary Hope-Rush."

Here was a pretty predicament into Rush, and it had fallen into the hands sufficient. of a Mary instead of a mabel.

these are shouldered or run away on it left me as ignorant as before con- Jones was through Miss Mabel, and I cerning the name and whereabouts of should encounter some difficulty in trunk is at your disposal. the individual who had my portman- doing that. I made inquiries as to

I now regretted that I had not written to Mr. Hope-Rush, instead bicycle.

"Sir,-I regret that I am compelled and down the road before the park meant. to trouble you with a letter; but I gates, but without result for three "There were other articles with my I was, on a certain occasion, in this am still without my portmanteau days. On the fourth, however, I was luggage. Would you favor me b- letsituation. I had registered my port-manteau or trunk—it was a cross be-who 'Freddy' is, who, I believe, has of the main entrance, where was the its contents, only minus what you tween them—at Cologne, and had tar-ried for a couple of days, en route at Brussels. When I arrived at Charing Cross I secured a young and it is a retaining fee of I ask you, most kindly, to favor me tween them-at Cologne, and had tar- by mistake taken mine, while I have lodge, and spin along the highway in are now wearing? active porter with a retaining fee of I ask you, most kindly, to favor me ed and then I ran on and caught up i a shiling, and said to him, "Look with the address of 'Freddy,' and so with her. We proceeded almost side by side airily.

"Ernest Maltravers."

Miss Hope-Rush.' to furnish him with the address of "All right, sir; you follow me." Mr. Frederick Jones, and it is his sent after her from the Hall.

enough name. Wales teems with

"Which is it, sir?" and he began to tumble the boxes and portmanteaus about unceremoniously. "There you are," I said, when I The situation was puzzling; but I to me probable that there was a to me with his address, in which to me probable that there was a to me with his address, in which to him myself personally." "What is it?" she asked suspicious-goods returned." recognized mine, as I believed. "Out daughter of the Hope-Rush family with it and on to a cab like a streak called Mabel, who had become atached ly.

rifice my trunk and all its contents

I engaged a bed, ordered dinner at

a good house in it, as far as I could |

"You may well say that," he re-

"Why, what had she to do with

"A, large family"

lit?

to and engaged herself to this Fred Jones, and the parents strongly disclamoring to be restored to its approved of her conduct. That they "Nothing. I have a beastly two were justified in their disapproval, I rightful owner." ounces of foreign tobacco in my pock-et, to which you are welcome. Hang my diary with my address in it, also gry, "you are the gentleman who for you." me if I smoke another pipeful of the a letter of credit which had accom- thought it a proper thing to do to a letter of credit which had accom-panied a number of checks that I send my letter under cover to mam-look at the contents. You have moment. Take it and go with my He let my baggage pass without had cashed abroad, and my address ma. trouble, and in three minutes I was was on the letter that containthat it began and ended affectionately ed the letter of introduction. I somewhat carelessly concluded that Now, if Mr. Fred Jones had been a it was a letter from a wife to her In the evening I sat down in my gentleman he would at once have husband.

could find was a letter, without en- from the sister than from Miss Ma- Next afternoon I betook myself to it. I found the house in a shabby

> visiting her relations and looking out peared a slatternly landlady. "Is Mr. Frederick Jones at home?"

she'd write and give us her address I asked. when she was settled. She is a "He is in his lodging," replied she; I came upon it. I did not read the tidy sort of a person, and her only "upstairs, first floor, door on the drawback was the brother. She right.'

well-nigh worshipped him, and he was She did not ask for my card or vono good for anything." "But," said I, "how came this and tapped with my nuckles at the to do, I resolved on enclosing the about-I mean this entanglement? The door indicated, and heard a shout, stations in life were so different and "Entrez!"

Mr. Jones was so fresh from France "Well, sir, Cupid is a queer cus- apparently that he had forgotten that address of the gentleman who proba-bly had got my trunk in exchange for his own. school, and accustomed to go there walls and cheap showy glass brackto see how the needlework was exe- ets in the corners.

to see how the needlework was exe-cuted, and to take a class now and again. So I suppose she met Mr. Freddy there. Lie is a good-looking fellow, with a nice moustache and pleasant ways. But he has no work in him and sponges on his sister. I suppose that they met at the school and a liking came about that way. again. So I suppose she met Mr. Freddy there. Le is a good-looking fellow, with a nice moustache and burned. His boots were thrown, one and a liking came about that way. may you be?"

It went on for some months before "My name," said I, "is Maltrait was suspected and then there was vers."

a fine kick-up, I can assure you, and "Ol Mr. Freddy had to walk his chalks. tion. "Oh, blow it!" was his interjec-

He gave out that he was going to "I have come," I continued, "to re-Paris to be a tutor in a nobleman's claim my trunk, which, by an unfor-family, and the sister, Miss Jones, tunate accident, has got into your had to give up the school. We were sorry to lose her, but she ought to mine. If you will kindly allow me which I had stumbled. I had ad- have known better than to encourage to remove mine I will send you yours dressed the letter to Mrs. M. Hope- these goings-on." I had learned directly I get back to my house in Hampshire. Here is my card." It was clear that my only chance

Then it was vastly aggravating, for of obtaining the address of Mr. Fred Jones was habited in my garments.

her habits, and learned that she was have on my coat and waistcoat and wont to go about a good deal on her continuations.

of to his wife. Men act on reason, I accordingly went to Swmapham provided for, as most of my garand hired one of these contrivances ments were in the trunk you seem and spent some time in careering up to have got hold of. No offense; none Necessity knows no law."

"Some things," replied Mr. Jones

for a little way, and then I came "What articles are short, and how by half an hour. Unless I get out To this note I received a curt re- up quite level with her, and turning came they to be not in my trunk?" my head, said, "I have a message for "Well, several articles-guess. Con-"From mamma?" she asked, think- earlier?" found it all! Why did you not apply

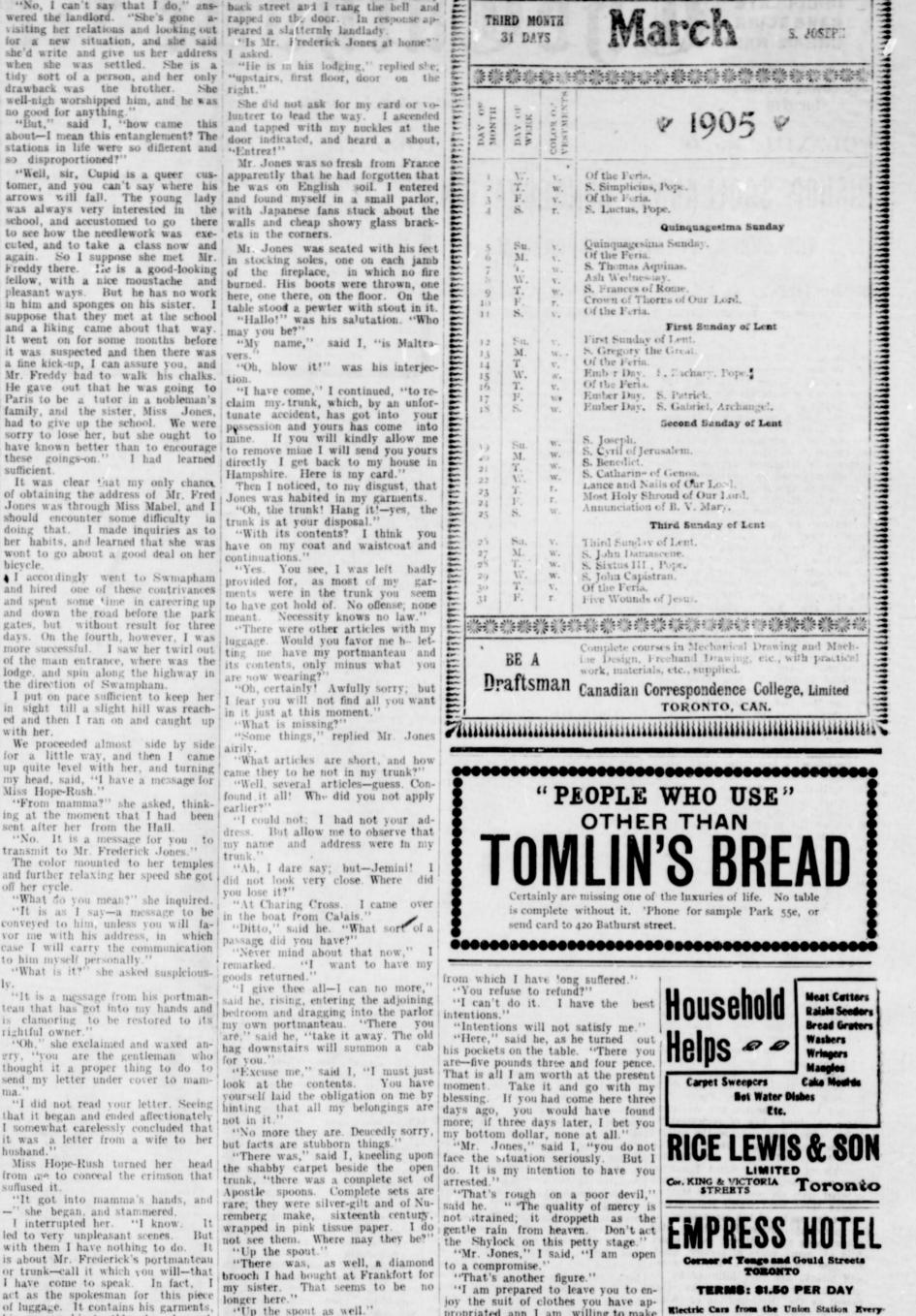
ing at the moment that I had been "I could not; I had not your address. But allow me to observe that "No. It is a message for you to my name and address were in my

The color mounted to her temples trunk. "Ah, I dare say; but-Jemini! and further relaxing her speed she got off her cycle. Whet do not look very close. Where did you lose it?"

"What do you mean?" she inquired. "At Charing Cross. I came over "It is as I say-a message to be in the boat from Calais." conveyed to him, unless you will fa-"Ditto," said he. "What sort of a

vor me with his address, in which passage did you have?" "Never mind about that now," I "I want to have my

"I give thee all-I can no more,"



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Then I noticed, to my disgust, that "Oh, the trunk! Hang it !- yes, the "With its contents? I think you "Yes. You see, I was left badly

custom-house officer.

filthy stuff!"

spinning away to Waterloo. I just caught my train.

snug little box in the country to such communicated with me and told me a dinner as I had not tasted in fore- that he was in possession of my lugign hotels; a leg of Welsh mutton, gage. He had done no such thing, not baked, but roasted before a fire. and I set him down as a "howling Mutton! They do not know what cad. mutton is in France or Germany. All the more necessary was it for Muton! We do not know what it is me to get my property out of his in England if we persist in having it hands. But how was I to do it? Very possibly Mr. and Mrs. Hopebaked

And then I had out a bottle of my Rush did not know the man's address old port. I never even venture to and they were too proud and angry ask for such a thing over the wa- to ask their daughter for it, so as to Not even in Oporto do they oblige me. ter: know what good old port is like.

ed on my dessert, "I don't think, sir, doing this by letter. I was driven that you have got your portman- to a course which was repugnant to my feelings; but the obstinacy or

not. Have you the key, sir?"

only knocked out of shape. That sideration resolved on paying a "Oh, dear! I am sorry," said Miss or disfigurement to all luggage." Swamphare It more Rushford, by "I most it "What can I do?"

my glass again.

manteau. A valet is all very well to the chapter of accidents and enfor coats and trousers and vests and deavor to meet her and extract from linen; but when one returns from the her the address of "Freddy.' continent there are a score of Accordingly, I took the train to things that had best be handled by town, and thence to the nearest staone's own fingers; little bits of china, tion to Rushy. There I hired a trap antiques, lace-presents for friends. and drove to the village, and was de-However, on this occasion, I was posited at the little inn, the Rush weary, and willing to let my man Arms. take out and arrange the contents of my travelling trunk, though I knew half-past seven, and asked the landthat on the morrow I would not lord to do me the honor of sharing

know where to look for what it had my dinner with me. contained. "I beg pardon, sir," said my valet, fellow. entering again, "but the portman-

teau is not yours." "Not mine!" I exclaimed, and judge from the road," I said. started up. "Not mine!" I repeat-

"Why, good heavens! then some- marked. "It belongs to the Hopeed. one else must have laid hold of my Rush family. They were Hopestrunk

"I have opened it, sir-the key fits Miss Ruth, who was the heiress"--but I am quite sure that the con- he pronounced Hope as 'Ope-' and tents cannot belong to you." now they call themselves Hope-Rush.

I ran upstairs to my bedroom and He is a quiet, harmless sort of man viewed ay portmanteau. It certain-ly resembled mine very strongly—it was its twin sister; but it was not mine. Mine had been sealed with leaden balls at Cologne to ensure its passage unopened, through the cus-tom-house on the Belgian frontier. sure, Miss Mabel; I have heard of passage unopened, through the cus-This was deficient in these seals, some entanglement there; it is the Moreover, when opened it disclosed talk of the town." contents I should have been ashamed "Well, sir." said the landlord, with to acknowledge; shabby suits, frayed a knowing look, "I'm not surprised linen and a score of French novels.

well," said I, "this is awkward." But she's young and foolish, and there There was, indeed, no address on was a 'egular bust-up over it." mine. An address is not needed at "A Mr. Frederick Jones was mixed loreight stations when you book your up in the matter," said I with a luggage through. "This is, most wink, uredly, not mine, and, what is "Yes, Mr. Freddy, the brother of worse, mine-that has fallen into oth- the village schoolmistress as was. hands-contains things of value. But, owing to the row, she has had There is no address on this trunk, is to leave."

None whatever, sir.'

None whatever, sir. By hook or crook I must discover has mine." said I. "It contains only my dress-suit, but also my wand twenty pounds in German cnotes, besides things that I ""Well, she thought her brother equal to mate with any lady—she did. But the 'Ope-Rushes they are proud and kicked up a bobbery, and she had to go." "Do you chance to know where she is now?" I asked. It would be merge

Miss Hope-Rush turned her head from me to conceal the crimson that suffused it.

"It got into mamma's hands, and she began, and stammered. I interrupted her. "I know. led to very unpleasant scenes. But with them I have nothing to do. It is about Mr. Frederick's portmanteau or trunk-call it which you will-that I have come to speak. In fact, I act as the spokesman for this piece of luggage. It contains his garments, The only way in which I could pro-"I beg pardon, sir," said my ser- cure it would be by application to his razors, his toothbrush and comb

that Mr. Jones must be in great distress for want of these necessary articles. In addition, there are his the pride of the parents obliged me slippers in the trunk, so that the "What? I brought it with me." the pride of the parents obliged me "I am very sorry, sir, but I think to do it, and really I could not sac-to do it, and really I could not sac-to do it, and really I could not sac-to do it, and really I could not sac-doors as well as out. Conceive the My letter-casediscomfort to him!"

The man took the key and I filled might there gain what I desired, his garments, slippers, toothbrush and contents. There were German banky glass again. As a rule I unpack my own port-Hope-Rush. If I failed, I must trust his garments, slippers, toothbrush and sundry other articles forming the contents of the trunk." "Did you write to mamma for the

address?'

"I did, and she did not send it to me. "She does not know it. Freddy but he is now in London. I-I think I have been very foolish, and now I

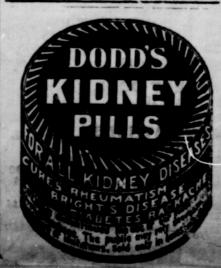
I found him a genial, consequential "Then you really regret this engagement?" "That was a fine park I passed, and

"I-well, I think I was very indiscreet. If it were to come all over again I would act very differently. "Give me his address, Miss Hope-Rush," said I, "and let me see what

that is to say, a Mr. Hope married I can do with him." She took out a pocket-book and wrote on a blank page the address that I required and handed it to me. "Thank you," said I. "Now for

at Rushford and that same evening I paid my bill at the village inn and "No; only a daughter, Miss Mabel." departed for town. The address with which I was furn-

ished was a street in Shepherd's Bush.



my own portmanteau. "There you

" said he, "take it away. The old are, "Oh," she exclaimed and waxed an- hag downstairs will summon a cab his pockets on the table. "There you

not in it."

but facts are stubborn things.

trunk, "there was a complete set of arrested." Apostle spoons. Complete sets are

not see them. Where may they be?" "Up the spout."

"There was, as well, a diamond to a compromise." brooch I had bought at Frankfort for

"Up the spout as well." "And a peculiarly rare piece of vant, coming to me as I was engag- Miss Mabel herself, but I shrank from and a little box of tooth powder, so Meissen china that cost me a pretty penny.

"Spouted," said Mr. Jones. "Really," said I, getting angry, this is going too far. You were absolutely unjustified in doing this. Hope-Rush, renouncing all claims on

"Oh, that's all right! The case is at your disposal, free, gratis, and for nothing.

" said I, opening it, "I see "Yes. said I, "so that I may restore to him that the case is here, but not the letters to you." notes to the tune of 500 marks.' "Pray don't mention it."

"But I must mention it. Where are could see, living from hand to mouth they?

"Well, I changed them for English sovereigns. I am deucedly sorry. I must. The gods bow to necessity, will surrender to you the pawnbrok- so why not Mr. Frederick Jones ? I mean Mr. Jones-has been in Paris, er's tickets for the spoons, the china What shall I write?" and the brooch. Cohen & Co. gave I placed before him paper and a pen me precious little for the lot. I was and brought a penny ink-pot from wish that I had never met Fieldy; hard up; my dividends had not come the chimney-piece. but we became engaged, and I am in. Be a good fellow; you look it. "Now," said I, "write from my pleasure of a visit at Rush Fark. tied-I cannot help myself; he can You carry amiability in your coun- dictation and legibly:

must be endured.

strongly.

"I must not only speak, but act."

"I tender you my most abject apo-logies. What more would you have?" Mr. Jones. "How in the name of myself with a triple surname: Malthis matter very lightly; but I can- "I found her photograph in your nal.

that if you will, and as to the pawn- eleven. On eleven pounds I shall pull

"This will not do. I shall have to at my dictation.

"Excuse me," said I, "I must just That is all I am worth at the present yourself laid the obligation on me by blessing. If you had come here three "I did not read your letter. Seeing hinting that all my belongings are days ago, you would have found

> "There was," said I, kneeling upon face the situation seriously. But I the shabby carpet beside the open do. It is my intention to have you

> rare; they were silver-gilt and of Nu- said he. " "The quality of mercy is remberg make, sixteenth century, not strained; it droppeth as the wrapped in pink tissue paper. I do gentle rain from heaven. Don't act

propriated ann I am willing to make you a present of the twenty pounds you have so, fraudulently obtained, but on one condition."

"Name it, sir." "That you sit down at this table

and write a letter to Miss Mabel her hand.' "I say, that is rather tall.".

"Either the police court or that. There is no other alternative. You must also hand over to me all her

He screwed up his mouth and debated. He was a good-looking fellow; a thorough scatterbrain, as I and acting on momentary impulse. "Well, blow it! What must be

another."

not meet you in the same mood. portmanteau with her name on it."

"How many are there?" "Upon my life I cannot say." "Here is a sovereign for every

'Pon my soul," said Mr. Jones, "I'll one you can produce and deliver over squeeze water out of a stone. I "By ginger! you overwhelm me. I received Cardinal Newman into the haven't much cash about me-some think there are six. I wish there Catholic Church. thing like five pounds. Bleed me of were a hundred. Five and six make

Three Minutes.

RICHARD DISSETTE - PROPRIETOR

Then I took the train to my little place in Hampshire, and was please, to think that I had done a good deed in relieving a nice girl I supfrom her embarrassments. posed that this chapter of my life was concluded, but I was mistaken. A few days later I received a letter from Mrs. Hope-Rush, couched in very different terms from that I had previously received from her. She informed me that her dadghter had shown her the letter from Mr. Jones, and had told her of the interview she had with me, and that both were satisfied that they had to thank me for my intervention.

lady apologized for her previous curtness and trusted that I would testify to her and Mr. Hope-Rush that I pardoned it by giving them the

I could not refuse an invitation schold me to not promise. So I am in the and in the addition and legibly: and so kindly meant, and a cleft stick." give and forget. What can't be cured regret that I was so foolish and so a week later saw me a guest at the "This will not do," said I. "I affections. Now I write to relingreatly regret to have to speak quish all claims upon you and to re- her humiliation and feeling very lease you from any engagement you much indebted to me-altogether re-"Oh, speak strong as mustard; I may have contracted to me. You markably agreeable, and I found my-don't mind." have your freedom. I am engaged to self, in time, installed in the place have your freedom. I am engaged to self, in time, installed in the place of "Freddy" and with a possibility

"Mr. Jones," said I, "you treat wonder did you hear about Louise?" travers-Hope-Rush .- Chambers' Jour-

the portmanteau, to send it flying to Here is the letter of change in my its true owner." "Well, go ahead. It is not an en-its true owner." "Well, go ahead. It is not an en-gagement exactly, but I will call it symptons of inetrnal disorder. Par-melee's Veretable Pills should be resorted to immediately. Two or followed by known.

> It is proposed to introduce at Rome the cause of canonization of Father Dominic, the Passionist, who

It Will Prolong Life .- De Sota, the tickets I cheerfully surrender them. along a bit." Spaniard, lost his life in the wilds of You can get your goods out of Co- He produced the letters. I put Florida, whether he went for the them along with that he had written purpose of discovering the legendary at my dictation. "Fountain of perpetual youth," said

I had a cab summoned and drove to exist in that then unknown coun-"Hang it! Be a brick; don't do away with my trunk. I released my try. While Dr. Thomas' Oil will not "Hang it! Be a brick; don't do away with my trunk. I released my hat." "Under the circumstances I must." "I would satisfy you if I could; but im generunious—it is an infirmity one cover, registered, to that young aged into untimely graves."

dress on it, and in common honesty what you like. Anything to oblige melee's Vegetable Pills should be you ought to have written to me and a friend." informed me that you had my proper- "Now proceed with the letter: "I three of these salutary pellets, taken ty in your hands. And, mind you, am engaged to another. We shall ne before going to bed, while you had it, knowing it was ver meet again.' Subscribe date and doses of one or two pills for two or mine, you were bound to respect it. give address at this house, and now three nights in succession, will serve You knew whose things, whose mon- write below: 'To Miss M. Hope- as a preventive of attacks of dyspepsia ey, you had become possessed of, and Rush, Rushy Park, Nr. Swampham.' and all the discomforts which follow vou took no steps to return them. Next-her letters." As I spoke I in the train of that fell disorder. The On the contrary, you appropriated drew my purse from my pocket. means are simple when the way is

them to your own use "I confess it. Awfully penitent cover my head with dust and ashes. give you what I can. But you can't to me.'

hen & Co. for a trifle."

