

invented a report that he was entitled by a clause in a will to certain money so long as his wife 'remained above ground.'

"His was a queer household: but little meat and no fermented drink was allowed; at all events, he partook of none of the latter, though he may have winked at the consumption by his wife, for he made it a rule to take his dinner alone, and whistled when he wanted anything.

"He was twice married, and on each occasion gave his wife the choice of wearing either white or black clothes from that time thenceforth. The first chose black, the second white, so that he had an opportunity of discovering which was most becoming; but neither of them appeared in colors. His own appearance was not a little singular, and, as at one period he took a fancy for selling cakes, nuts, apples, and gingerbread at his street-door in Mount street, Berkeley Square, he became, perhaps, rather more notorious than famous, although there was really a certain dignity about his fine flowing beard in days when everybody shaved clean. Imagine him, however, on a gray pony untrimmed and undocked (for his objection to hair-cutting extended to the clipping of animals), with a shallow, narrow-brimmed hat, rusty with age, a brown coat, and unblackened boots; his steed, not only decorated with streaks and spots of black, green, or purple, but furnished, by way of head-gear, with a sort of spring blind, which could be let down over the animal's eyes in case of his taking fright, or to conceal any particular object at which he was likely to shy.

"Van Buchell was said to be really skilful, and might have attained to a first-rate practice but for his extraordinary whims; one of which was that he would never visit his patients. The motto which appeared in all his advertisements was, 'I go to none'; and it is reported that he once refused a fee of five hundred guineas offered by an eminent lawyer who desired him to come and prescribe for him.

"His advertisements were even more whimsical than his appearance, and yet they had in them flashes of humorous common sense. One of them was in the form of an address to George the Third, and set forth that 'Your majesty's petitioner about ten years ago had often the high honor, before your majesty's nobles, of conversing with your majesty, face to face, when we were hunting of the stag in Windsor Forest.' It was certainly true that the ingenious eccentricities of the doctor very often attracted the notice of his sovereign. He was, in fact, just the person to whom George the Third was likely to be communicative on a chance meeting; and it is easy to imagine that the king was curious to discover the effects of the long beard, and willing to admire the little mechanical contrivances of the robust doctor. One of the favorite advertisements of Van Buchell was the quotation from an essay on the subject of beards. It was headed, 'Beards the Delight of Ancient Beauties,' and went on to say, 'When the fair were accustomed to behold their lovers with beards, the

sight of a shaved chin excited sentiments of horror and aversion'; and so on, narrating the story of the cropping of Louis the Seventh, the consequent divorce of Eleanor of Aquitaine, her marriage with the Count of Anjou, and the subsequent wars which ravaged France for three hundred years. In another public announcement he says, 'Let your beards grow long that ye may be strong in mind and body; leave off deforming, each himself reform.' In another and much madder effusion, he speaks of himself as having 'a handsome beard like Hippocrates,' and as 'a British Christian man, with a comely beard full eight inches long.'

"Probably few men have made more capital out of a beard than Doctor Van Buchell, though there are still many men who owe much to the appearance given to their faces by this appendage, and who would sink into comparative insignificance if they were once to be induced to shave. Their strength, like that of Samson, is in their hair, which may be said to be a preface without which they would not be able to assume so confident an address. Whether his beard or his temperate manner had most to do with it, it is certain that Van Buchell enjoyed a robust old age, and his venerable figure was well-known at the Westminster Forum, a sort of debating society of some note; but which, during the agitation caused by the writings of Paine, was suspected of having deteriorated through the opinions of some of its members. The doctor, however, always exercised the right—claimed by every individual according to the rules—of reading a chapter of the New Testament; and at that period he frequently visited Newgate for the purpose of consoling the prisoners confined there on account of seditious practices. In 1803, Doctor Van Buchell suffered a great domestic calamity in the loss of his eldest son; but he lived for some years afterwards, and there are still people who remember, as children, hearing of the house in Mount street, with its motto of, 'I go to none.'

"Do any of my readers remember Sir John Dinely, Knight of Windsor? It is scarcely probable, and yet his is a grotesque shadow not altogether disconnected with a tragedy. His father was Sir John Dinely Goodyere, who had taken the name of Dinely in consideration of the estate he held from his mother's family, and who, being on bad terms with his younger brother, Captain Samuel Dinely Goodyere, of the 'Ruby' man-of-war, threatened to disinherit him in favor of his cousin, John Foote, the elder brother of Samuel Foote the comedian. Domestic disagreements and a case in the Divorce Court had already issued in the unfortunate knight disowning his wife; and it was the fear that he might re-marry, and that an acknowledged heir should be born to the estate, that first led to the animosity of his younger brother. In order to make some attempt to reconcile the two men, a good-natured friend took the opportunity of Captain Goodyere's ship lying off Bristol, and invited them to his house to dinner. They met without quarrelling, and parted with seeming