The Tree of Knowledge

THE
Bible contains 3,566,480
letters, 810,697
words, 31,175 verfes, 1,189 chapters, and 66 books. The ses, 1,189 chapters,
and 66 books. The
longest chapter is the
lifth Psalm; the shortest
and middle chapter the
lifth Psalm. The middle
verse is the 8th of the li8th
Psalm. The lengest name is in
the 8th chapter of Isaiah. The
word "and" occurva 6,627 times; the
word Lord 1,855 times. The 37th chapter of Isaiah and the 19th chapter of
the 2d book of Kings are alike. The longst verse is the 9th of the 8th chapter of
sher; the shortest verse in the 35th of the
h chapter of John. In the 21st verse of the
'th chapter of Ezra is the alphabet,
The finest piece of reading is the 26th
chapter of Acts. The name of God
is not mentioned
in the
book
of Esther. It
CONTAINS KNOWLEDGE,
WISDOM, HOLINESS AND LOVE.

THE SISTERS

"We'll come without that," said Eleanor "We'll come without that," said Eleanor, walking boldly in. "At least, I will. I couldn't resist cutlets and mashed potatoes under present circumstances—not to speak of lemon cheese-cakes and meringues—and your society, Mrs. McIntyre."

And she went on—while Mrs. McIntyre, having concluded her remarks upon tomato sauce, detailed the results of her wide experience in orange marmaleds and entired.

perience in orange marmalade and quince jelly, and Elizabeth and Eleanor did their best to profit by her wisdom—playing to him alone. It did not last very long—a quarter of an hour perhaps—but every moment was an eestasy to Paul Brion. Even more than the music, delicious as it was, Patty's gen-tle and approachable mood enchanted him. She had never been like that to him before. He sat on his low chair, and looked up at her tender profile as she drooped a little over the keys, throbbing with a new sense of her sweetness and beauty, and learning more about his own heart in those few minutes. more about his own heart in those few minutes than all previous weeks and months of their acquaintance and taught him. And then the spell that had been weaving and winding them together, as it seemed to him, was suddenly and rudely broken. There was a clatter of wheels and hoofs along the street, a swinging gate and a jangling door bell; and Eleanor, running to the window, uttered an exclamation that effectually wakened him from his dreams. from his dreams.

'Oh, Elizabeth-Patty-it is Mrs. Duff-

In another minute the great lady herself stood amongst them, rustling over the mat-ting in her splendid gown, almost filling the ting in her splendid gown, almost filling the little room with her presence. Mrs. Mc-Intyre gave way before her, and edged towards the door with modest, deprecatory movements, but Paul stood where he had risen, as stiff as a poker, and glared at her with murderous ferocity. "You see I have come back, my dears, she exclaimed cordially, kissing the girls on she exclaimed cordially, kissing the girls one after the other. "And I am so sorry I could not get to you in time to make arrangements for taking you with me to see the opening—I quite intended to take you. But I only returned last night."

"Oh, thank you." responded Elizabeth, with warm gratitude, "It is treat enough for us to see you again." And then, hesitating a little as she wondered whether it was or was not a proper thing to de she

was or was not a proper thing to do, she looked at her other guests and murmured their names. Upon which Mrs. McIntyre their names. Upon which Mrs. McIntyre made a servile curtsey, unworthy of a daughter of a free country, and Paul a most reluctant inclination of the head. To which again Mrs. Drff-Scott responded by a slight nod and a glance of good-humored curiosity at them both.

"I'll say good afternoon, Miss King," said Mr. Brion haughtily.
"Oh, good afternoon," replied Elizabeth, smiling sweetly. And she and her sisters shook hands with him and with his landshook hands with him and with his land-lady, and the pair departed in some haste, Paul in a worse temper than he had ever known himself to indulge in; and he was not much mollified by the sudden appear-ance of Elizabeth, as he was fumbling with the handle of the front door, bearing her evident if unspoken apologies for having

been inside their doors until that afternoon, and how he had at last by mere accident come to be admitted and entertained. And Mrs. Duff-Scott, serene but imperious, was delivering some of her point-blank opinions

upon the subject.
"Don't encourage him, my dears—don't "Don't encourage him, my dears—don't encourage him to come again," she was saying as Elizabeth entered the room. "He and his father are two very different people, whatever they may think."
"We cannot help being grateful to him," said Patty sturdily. "He has doneso much for us."

"Dear child, that's nonsense. Girls can't

be grateful to young men—don't you see? It is out of the question. And now you have got me to do things for you."
"But he helped us when we had no one

"Yes, that's all right, of course. "Yes, that's all right, of course. No doubt it was a pleasure to him—a privilege—for him to be grateful for rather than you. But—well, Elizabeth knows what I mean"—turning an expressive glance towards the discreet elder sister. Patty's eyes went in the same direction, and Elizabeth answered both of them at once ooth of them at once.
"You must not ask us to give up Paul

Brion," she said, promptly.

"I don't," said Mrs. Duff-Scott. "I only ask you to keep him in his place. He is not the kind of person to indulge with tea and music, you know—that is what I

"You speak as if you knew something against him," murmured Patty, with heightened color.

"I know this much, my dear," replied the elder woman, gravely; "he is a friend of Mrs. Aarons'."

"And is not Mrs. Aarons—"
"She is very well, in her way. But she likes to have men dangling about her. She means no harm, I am sure," added Mrs. Duff-Scott, who, in the matter of scandal, prided herself on being a non-conductor, "but still it is not nice, you know. And I don't think that her men friends are the kind of friends for you. You don't mind my speaking frankly, my love? I am an old woman, you know, and I have had a great deal of experience."

She loooked at Mrs. Duff-Scott with a world of ardent and or in the source of the state of th

world of ardent apology in her eyes, before which the matron's fell, discouraged and

You make me feel that I am an impul sive and romantic girl, and that you are the wise old woman of the world," she said with

wise old woman of the same a proud laugh.

But at this, Patty, pierced to the heart, flung her arms round Mrs. Duff-Scott's neck, and crushed the most beautiful bonnet in Melbourne remorselessly out of shape against her young breast. That settled the against her young breast. That settled the question, for all practical purposes. Mrs. Duff-Scott went home at 6 o'clock, feeling that she had achieved her purpose, and entered into some of the dear privileges of maternity. It was more delightful than any "find" of old china. She did not go to sleep until she had talked both her husband and herself into a headache with her numerous plans for the welfare of her protegees, and until she had designed down to the smallest detail the most becoming costumes she could think of for them to wear, when she took them with her to the Cup. to the Cup. CHAPTER XIX.

A MORNING AT THE EXHIBITION.

Paul Brion was wakened from his sleep next morning by the sound of Mrs. Duff-Scott's carriage wheels and prancing horses, and sauntering to his sitting-room window about ten minutes later, had the satisfaction

about ten minutes later, had the satisfaction of seeing his young neighbors step into the distinguished vehicle and drive away. The girls, for their part, practically forgot him, and enjoyed the difference between to-day and yesterday in the most worldly and womanly manner. The sensation of bowling along the streets in a perfectly-appointed carriage was as delicious to them as it is to most of us who are too poor to indulge in it as a habit; for the time being it answered all the purposes of happiness as dulge in it as a habit; for the time being it answered all the purposes of happiness as thoroughly as if they never had any higher ambition than to cut a dash. They went shopping with the fairy godmother before they went to the exhibition, and that, too, was absorbingly delightful—both to Elizabeth, who went in with Mrs. Duff-Scott to assist her in her purchases, and to the younger sisters, who reposed majestically in the carriage at the door. Patty's quick

known himself to include my in an new sear was an anterthempt outgustness. And to the most many that the most include appears the handle of the front door, bearing her victual if unspoken apologies for having a carriage at the door. Patify outgustness, and the cherefully own on the patient of the patient

ostensible person to the eyes that looked at them; and them their three grave faces re-laxed, and in half a minute were brimming over with smiles. They felt at home with over with smiles. The Major Duff-Scott at on

over with smiles. They felt at home with Major Duff-Scott at once.

"Come, come," said the fairy godmother rather impatiently, when something like a fine aroma of badinage was beginning to perfume the conversation, "you must not stop us now. We want to have a long morning. You can join us at the Exhibition presently, if you like, and bring Mr. Westmoreland." She indicated the young man who had been talking to her while her spouse made the acquaintance of her companions, and who happened to be one of the three husbands whom she had selected for those young ladies. He was the richest of them all, and the most stupid, and therefore he seemed to be cut out for Patty, who, being so intellectual and so enterprising, would not only make a good use of his money, but would make the best that was to be made of him. "My dears," she said, turning towards the girls, "let me introduce Mr. Westmoreland to you. Mr. Westmoreland, Miss King—Miss Eleanor King—Miss Patty King."

The heavy young man made a heavy boil to each, and then stared straight at Eleanow and studied her with calm attention untr, the carriage bore her from his sight. She, with her tender blue eyes and her yellow hair, and her skin like the petals of a blush rose, was what he was pleased to call, in speaking of her a little later to a confidential

rose, was what he was pleased to call, in speaking of her a little later to a confidential friend, the "girl for him." Of Patty he took no notice whatever.

Mrs. Duff-Scott, on her way to Carlton stopped to speak to an acquaintance who was driving in an opposite direction, and by the time she reached the exhibition she found that her husband's hansom had arrived before her, and that he and Mr. Westmoreland were waiting at the entrance to offer their services as escort to the party. She did not know whether to take him as a joke or in earnest, but either way he was amusing. He strolled heavily along by her side for a while in the wake of Mrs. Duff-Scott and Patty, paying no attention to the dazzling wares around him, but a great deal to his companion. He kept turning his head to gaze at her, with solemn, ruminating eyes, until at last, tired of pretending she did not notice it, she looked back at him and laughed. This seemed to put him at his ease with her at once. she did not know whether to take hi at his ease with her at once.

"What are you laughing at ?" he asked, with more animation than she thought him capable of.

apable of.

"Nothing," said she.

"Oh, but you were laughing at some"Oh, but you were laughing at somehing. What was it?
Was it because I thing. What was it? was staring at you?"
"Well, you do stare," she admitted.
"I can't help it. No one could help

staring at you."
"Why? Am I such a curiosity?"

"You know why. Don't pretend you don't." She blushed at this, making herself look prettier than ever; it was not in her to pretend she didn't know—nor yet to pretend that his crude flattery displeased her.

"A cat may look at a king," he remarked, his heavy face quite lit up with his enjoyment of his own delicate raillery.
"O yes, certainly," she retorted. "But you see I am not a king, and you are not a

"'Pon my word, you're awfully sharp," he rejoined, admiringly. And he laughed over this little joke at intervals for several minutes. Then by degrees they dropped minutes. Then by degrees they dropped away from their party, and went straying up and down the nave teie-a-teie amongst the crowd, looking at the exhibits and not

"But the Murano Court is not upstairs is it?" she asked, hesitating.
"O no," he replied; "it is over there,' giving a little backward nod.
"And are we not going to look at the

glass ?" present,"

"That will keep. We'll look at it by and-bye. First, I am going to show you the pictures. You are fond of pictures, are you bye. "I am, indeed." "Yes, I was certain of it.

then, I can show you a few tolerably good ones. Won't you take my arm?" then, I can show you a few tolerably good ones. Won't you take my arm?"
She took his arm, as he seemed to expect it, though it would have been more reasonable if he had taken hers; and they marched upstairs, slowly, in face of the crowd that was coming down.
"My wife," said the major, sententiously, "is one of the best women that ever breathed."

"I am sure she is," assented Elizabeth

with warmth. "No," he said, "you can't be sure; that is why I tell you. I have known her for a long time, and experience has proved it to me. She is one of the best women that ever lived. But she has her faults. I think I ought to warn you, Miss King, that she has her faults."

"I think you ought not," said Elizabeth,

"I think you ought hot, said Enzabeth, with instinctive propriety.
"Yes," he went on, "it is a point of honor. I owe it to you, as the head of my house—the nominal head, you understand—the responsible head—not to let you labor under any delusion respecting us. It is under any delusion respecting us. It is better that you should know the truth respecting us at once. Mrs. Duff-Scott is energetic. She is fearfully, I may say aborately appropriate.

normally, energetic."

"I think," replied Elizabeth, with decision, "that that is one of the finest qualities in the world."

ties in the world."

"Ah, do you?" he rejoined sadly.

"That is because you are young. I used to think so, too, when I was young. But I don't now—experience has taught me better. What I object to in my wife is that experience doesn't teach her anything. She won't learn. She persists in keeping all her youthful illusions, in the most obstinate and unjustifiable manner."

Here they reached the gallary and the

Here they reached the gallery and the pictures, but the major saw two empty chairs, and, sitting down on one of them, bade his companion rest herself on the other until she had recovered from the

other until she had recovered from the fatigue of getting upstairs.

"There is no hurry," he said wearily;
"we have plenty of time." And then he looked at her with that twinkle in his eye, and said gently, "Miss King, you are very musical, I hear. Is that a fact?"

"We are very, very fond of a hobby with

We are very, very fond of a hobby with smiling. "It is rather music," she said, smiling. us, I think."

us, I think."

"A hobby! Ah, that's delightful! I'm so glad it is a hobby. You don't, by happy chance, play the violin, do you?"

"No. We only know the piano."

"You all play the piano?—old masters, and that sort of thing?"

"Yes. My sister Patty plays best. Her touch and expression are beautiful."

"Ah!" he exclaimed again, softly, as if with much inward satisfaction. He was sitting languidly on his chair, nursing his knee, and gazing through the balustrade of the gallery upon the crowd below. Elizabeth was on the point of suggesting that they might nowgo and look at the pictures, when he began upon a fresh topic.

began upon a fresh topic.
"And about china, Miss King? Tell

"O no, she does not. The moment she sees them—the moment she casts a serious eye upon them—that moment she will be a lost woman, and I shall be a desperate

man."

The major shuddered visibly, and Elizabeth laughed at his distress. "Whenever it happens that Mrs. Duff-Scott goes into philanthropy," she said, a little in joke and a great deal in earnest, "I shall certainly be proud to accompany her, if she will have me." And, as she spoke, there flashed into her mind some idea of the meaning of certain little sentences that were breathed into her ear vesterday.

certain little sentences that were breathed into her ear yesterday.

"There's Westmoreland and your sister," said the major. "And one of those strangers who are swarming all about the place just now, and crowding us out of our club. It's Yelverton. Kingscote Yelverton he calls himself. He is rather a swell when he's at home, they tell me; but Westmoreland has no business to foist his acquaintance on your sister. He'll have my wife about him if he is not more careful than that."

Elizabeth saw them approaching and for

Elizabeth saw them approaching, and forgot all about the crowd under Cologne Cathedral and the crowd that went to see the man hanged. She remembered only the crowd of yesterday, and how that status continues and the crowd of the crowd of yesterday. the crowd of yesterday, and how that stately gentleman—could it be possible?—had stood with her amid the crush and clamour, holding her in his arms. For the first time she was able to look at him fairly and see what he was like; and it seemed to her that she had never seen a man of such noble presence. eyes were fixed upon her as she raised hers to his face, regarding her steadily, but with inscrutable gravity and absolute respect. The major rose to salute him in response to Mr. Westmoreland's rather imperious demand. "My old friend, whom I met in

Mr. Westmoreland's rather imperious demand. "My old friend, whom I met in Paris," said Mr. Westmoreland; "come over to have a look at us. Want you to know him, major. We must do our best to make him enjoy himself, you know." "Didn't I tell you?" whispered Eleanor, creeping round the back of her sister's chair. "Didn't I tell you he would be have?"

And at the same moment Elizabeth heard some one murmur over her head, "Miss King, allow me to introduce Mr. Yelverton —my friend, whom I knew in Paris—"

—my friend, whom I knew in Paris—'And so he and she not only met again, but received Mrs. Grundy's gracious permission to make each other's acquaintance.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE "CUP."

Out of the many Cup Days that have gladdened the hearts of countless holiday-makers on the Flemington course assembled, perhaps that of 1880 was the most "all round" actions as the most "all round." perhaps that of 1880 was the most "all round" satisfactory and delightful to everybody concerned—except the bookmakers, and nobody grieves much over their disasters (though there are several legitimate and highly respected lines of business that are conducted on precisely the same system as governs their nefarious practices). It was, indeed, considered that the discomfiture of the bookmakers was a part of the brilliant success of the occasion. While a full half of the crowd was being conveyed to the course by innumerable While a full half of the crowd was being conveyed to the course by innumerable trains, the sunny road was alive with vehicles of every description—spring-carts and lorries, cabs and buggies, broughams and landaus, and four-in-hand coaches—all filled to their utmost capacity, and displaying the sweetest things in bonnets and parasols. And amongst the best-appointed carriages Major Duit-Scott's was conspicuous, not only for its build and finish, and the excellence of the horses that drew it, and the fit of the livery. the crowd, looking at the exhibits and not much understanding what they looked at; and they carried on their conversation in much the same style as they began it, with, yang companion to the German tent, where the Hanau jewels were, by way of in as in the same style as they began it, with, where the Hanau jewels were, by way of its with the some thousands of pounds) which he should hell her which necklace she liked the best, therefore, the court have the content to be sheep the some thousands of pounds) which he should have selected for his wife, had he had a wife—declaring in the same breath that seen elsewhere. Then they strolled along in the gallery, glancing at the pictures at key went, Eleanor making mental notes for the sudy anything in Mr. Westmoreland is the sight of whom she gave a little start of delighted recognition.

And about china, Miss King? Tell me, do you know anything about china? "
"You don't know the difference between in much the same style as they began it, with, much the same style as they began it, with, much the same style as they began it, with, with, some the Hanau jewels were, by way of giving her the greatest treat he could think some thousands of pounds) which he should have a liked the best, and what they call Limoges now-adwars, "No."

"And about china, Miss King? Tell me, do you know anything about china?"

"You don't know the difference between in much the same style as they don't know the difference between in much the same style as they began it, with, "No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"And about china, Miss King? Tell me, do you know anything about china?"

"No."

"No the the cand mounts the best appointed out him, the same style as they began it, with, "No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"And about china, Miss King? Tell me, do you know anything about china?"

"No."

"No the the same style as they began it, with, "Impered the same style as they best and the fit of the livery of the coachman and the fit of the livery of the coachman on the same style as they best app am very sorry to have to confess it, but I don't believe I could."

The major softly unclasped his knees and leaned back in his chair, and sighed.

"But I could learn," suggested Elizabeth.

"Ah, so you can," he responded, brightening. "You can learn, of course. Will you learn? You can't think what a favor it would be to me if you would learn. Do promise me that you will."

"No, I will not promise. I should do it to please myself—and, of course, because it is a thing that Mrs. Duff-Scott takes an interest in," said Elizabeth.

"That is just what I mean. It is because Mrs. Duff-Scott takes such an interest in china that I want you to cultivate a take for it. You see it is this way," he proceeded argumentatively, again, still proceeded argumentatively, again, still proceeded argumentatively, again, still proceeded. The work of the work of the work of the subduced richness of her own fine one lace, and wearing a delicate French bonnet and ward wearing a delicate French bonnet and warrance in match, with a bunch of Camille de Rohan roses at her throat for and wearing a delicate French band and perasol to match, with a bunch of Camille de Rohan roses at her throat for and wearing a delicate French and warrance in match, with a bunch of Camille de Rohan roses at her throat for and wearing a delicate French and warra elect—designed for a sunny morning, and to be set off by the subdued richness of her own olive-tinted robes—was all that Mrs.

Duff-Scott anticipated. The two girls were exquisitely sylphlike, and harmonious, and refined—looking prettier than they had ever done in their lives, because they knew themselves that they were looking so—and it was confidently expected by their chaperon that they would do considerable execution before the day was over. At the back of the carriage was strapped a hamper containing luncheon sufficient for all the potential husbands that the racecourse might produce, and Mrs. Duff-Scott was prepared to exercise discriminating but extensive hospitality.

"Dear me, what a crowd!" exclaimed Mrs. Duff-Scott, as her horses drew up on the smooth gravel, and she glanced eagerly up the steps. "We shall not be able to find anyone."

(To be Continued

Cricket Champion.

The celebrated Australian Cricket Team, The celebrated Australian Cricket Team, of which Mr. David Scott is a noted champion, is safe against field injuries. Mr. Scott writes: "The effects of St. Jacobs Oil are magical. I used it for a terrible bruised leg. The relief was surprising." Members of all athletic clubs would be alike surprised at the results of its use.

Over \$2,800,000 worth of gold is used yearly in Birmingham for jewelry manufac-

The bee lulls himself to sleep buzz'em of his family.