

Old Times, Old Friends, Old Love.

There are no days like the good old days—
The days when we were youthful!
When humankind were pure of mind
And speech and deeds were truthful;
Before a love for sordid gold
Became man's ruling passion,
And before each man grew ten times tender
Slave to the tyrant fashion!

A BOYCOTTED BABY.

CHAP. I.—THE MARRIAGE.

Twenty-five years ago Matthew Bulbous
had forsaken the plough in his native parish
and come up to London to make his fortune.
His education consisted of a good knowledge
of the value of land, and of little more;
but the deficiency was supplied by a hard
head and a determination to make all the
money he could at the expense of others;
for he had no capital to start with beyond
a couple of hundred which he borrowed to
open an office and advertise.

his wife and daughter with a bad assumption
of nonchalance.
Mrs. Bulbous, a gentle and very sweet-
faced lady, and her daughter started with
a faint "Oh!" and looked at the master in
some anxious doubt as to what was expected
of them in the way of reply.
"I just mentioned it," he said carelessly,
"because I shall ask them to dinner here
one day next week, and I expect you to be
prepared."
"Shall there be any others, Matt?" the
wife timidly asked.
"No, except Jem. It will be quite a private
family affair. You needn't be nervous
about it, because—But that's enough for
the present."
He left the room, but soon came back,
which showed that the great matter was
more in his mind than he desired them to
suppose.

at once. This was a brother, who in several
ways had been useful to him in his
career for a number of years; but who, on his
usefulness ceasing with the fuller growth of
the house, had taken to dissipation on an
allowance made to him for that purpose.
Joseph Bulbous proved of tough vitality;
but Matthew would not now have him about
London any longer.
Matthew found this brother in a lodging
in Chelsea, sitting over a fire after a late
breakfast.
"I don't think this life is doing well with
you, Joe," he said, sitting down and looking
curiously at the dissipated face of his
brother. "You asked me, once, to send
you to Canada. Perhaps I ought to have
done so long ago."
The colour rose for an instant to the
other's forehead, and faded again. "If you
had sent me, I should have been without
looking up," "it might have been different.
I don't think it matters now. I am hardly
fit to make a new start; though, if it comes
to that," he added bitterly, "I have never
made one."

doubted right, he argued; and consequently
he had looked for his son's acquiescence
in the marriage scheme as a matter of
course.
"Where should he be now?" said Matthew
to himself, "if it wasn't for me? Why at
the tail of a Bullworth plough!"
And to think of a young man who by
rights ought to be ploughing the fields, de-
fying his father by marrying a music-hall
actress, and thereby frustrating his father's
design of making him a country gentleman
and the husband of an Earl's daughter—it
was too much to bear thinking of.
Yet when he reached his son's chambers
he looked cool and quiet. There was not a
sign of disturbance in his large steady eyes.
Jem was a handsome young man, very like
his mother and sister, and rose quickly
when his father entered the room. The
latter, however, did not sit down or remove
his hat.
"I have just heard something that has
surprised me," he said very quietly. "Is it
a fact that you are married?"
James Bulbous started, changed colour,
and dropped his eyes for a moment. Then
he looked frankly in his father's face. "I
ought to have told you father. I am
satisfied both before Gertrude and you not
to have done so. Yes, sir, I am married."

alone.
The breath comes slow the pulse is faint, the
voice is no more heard.
Mortality is floating by on waters faintly
stirred.
A life hangs in the balance of ceaseless, sway-
ing time.
Eternity approaches with step and main
stride.
A world of joys and sorrows is slowly passing
by.
Hands held in farewell pressure, await the
word good-by.
A fount of tears runs over, where brooding
thoughts are resigning.
A mortal life is ending its earthly joys and
pains.
A rustle-light of drapery, a hastily drawn sigh.
A life on earth is ended—a soul goes floating by.
Out on a sea that opens upon a world unknown,
To which the journey thither must ever be—
alone.

MEMES OF INTEREST.
No-Shirt is the name of the new chief of
the Umattilas.
Football was a favourite game among the
Greeks and Romans.
Every person invited to a wedding is sup-
posed to make the bride present.
The United States boasts of two negro
women lawyers.
Only citizens who can read and write are
allowed to vote in Bolivia.
A turnip seed increases its own weight
fifteen times in a minute when growing.
A French soldier can earn five shillings a
month pocket money.
The Japanese Empress always dresses
after European costumes.
The cocoa-tree of the Maldives Islands
every month produces a cluster of nuts.
A law is to be passed in Costa Rica mak-
ing the sale to foreigners of Indian antiqui-
ties collected in the republic a crime punish-
able with severe penalties. A similar law
is to be passed in Ecuador.
On the 1st of January of the present year
there were 25,518 animals in the British
army, which is the largest total since the
year 1880.
People in Japan are called by the family
name first, the individual, or what we should
call the Christian name, next, and then the
honorific—thus, "Smith Peter Mr."
Seals when basking, place one of their
number on guard to give the alarm in case
of danger. The signal is a quick clap of the
flippers on a rock. Rabbits signal with
their forepaws, and have regular signals and
calls.
Wedding anniversaries are:—First anni-
versary, iron; fifth, wood; tenth, tin;
fifteenth, crystal; twentieth, china; twenty
fifth, silver; thirtieth, cotton; thirty-fifth,
linen; fortieth, woolen; forty-fifth, silk;
fiftieth, gold; seventy-fifth, diamond.
The Government of Switzerland is the
most economically managed in Europe. The
president of the Swiss Republic is paid
£800 a year.
A hippometre, to record the number of a
horse's paces, and the distance he has
travelled, has been invented by an officer
in the French army.
The longest animal known to exist at the
present time is the roqual, which averages
100 feet in length. The smallest is the
mouk, which is only 1-12,000th of an inch
in length.
In the towns and cities of Chili all the
shopping of any consequence is done in the
evening. In Santiago the stores are open till
midnight, and during hot afternoons they
are locked up.
Large heads do not always indicate in-
tellect. Professor Virchow, the German
scientist, points out that the Greeks, one of
the most intellectual of nations, are also one
of the smallest headed of races.
An ancient copper mine, which was first
worked 1183 years ago, is about to be re-
opened in Musashi, Japan. Old Japanese
manuscripts of undoubted authenticity
mention this mine. Its galleries and levels
are in some cases just as they were 700
years ago.
The difference between colour-blind people
and others is simply that owing probably to
some difference of tint in the constituent
particles of the eye, the rays of light by
which colours are recognized reach the retina
in different individuals in a different condi-
tion.
The United Kingdom Band of Hope Union
reports that 17,449 juvenile societies, with
an estimated membership of 2,112,079, are
now at work; 1,676 meetings were attended
by the Union's agents in London alone
during the past year.
During seven months of last year more
than two hundred buildings were struck by
lightning in England, including 21 churches
and chapels, 113 restaurants, 18 houses and
ricks, and nine hotels and public-houses.
During the same time 18 men and women
were killed by this cause, besides 93 cattle,
35 horses, and 153 sheep.
The Emperor of Japan, to whose sagacity
the rapid progress made by the Land of the
Rising Sun is largely due, is thirty-nine
years of age. Born in 1852, Mutsu Hito
succeeded his father in 1867, and was crowned
in 1868; a year later he married the
Princess Harnko. The Emperor is the 121st
of his race who has ruled the country. He
is a great believer in Western civilization,
and in 1889, he freely granted a constitution
to the people, whose representatives met
for the first time in the autumn of 1890.
Both the Mikado and his consort are popu-
lar, and European travellers to Japan in-
variably speak in the highest terms of
them.
A mine manager in Nevada claims to
have invented a gun of remarkably rapid
firing capacity, the implement having a
Winchester barrel and stock, with a 15-re-
peating magazine in the stock. It is a trifle
heavier than the ordinary Winchester, but
its great feature, as claimed, is that the
whole fifteen shots may be fired in one
second, a statement which has been fully
realised in practice. The shells are thrown
out, and at the end of the firing the gun is
clean as though only a single cartridge had
been exploded.
A case of extraordinary longevity is re-
ported by a Vienna correspondent, who
writes: "At Dreznica, in the district of
Mostar, lives a peasant named Anton Jurich,
who, if his documents are to be credited, is
at present 150 years old. He still works in
his vineyard, and goes to church every Sun-
day, although the church is two miles dis-
tant from his home. His eyes are still good,
and enable him to see at a distance. His
eyebrows meet over the nose and grow so
thickly that they have to be cut that they
may not obscure his sight. He likes to talk
of old times, and tells interesting stories.
His mother died aged 120, but his father
died young."
It is affirmed, and no doubt with reason,
that the Morgue of Paris is a nuisance and
a danger to the health of a densely popula-
ted locality; and therefore, it has been re-
solved to resort to refrigeration as a means
of obviating the risk. It is proposed hence-
forth to freeze the corpses that may be
taken to the institution, in much the same
way as the carcasses of New Zealand sheep
are frozen. The bodies on their arrival
will first be exposed to a temperature of 15
or 20 degrees below zero, and will subse-
quently be preserved in a chamber in which
the temperature is about 4 degrees below
zero. This, however, seems to be replacing
one danger by another. The intense cold
will, we daresay, keep the bodies sweet,
and so purify the air of the district. But
what will be its effect upon those who sud-
denly enter the cold room during weather
such as we are now having.
The London Aldermen have decreed that
"hereafter the voyages and feasts," board
the city state barge Maria Wood shall be
paid for by those who enjoy them.