

had elapsed, it was evident that she was inclined to look more favorably upon a certain five of them than on any of the rest, who, discomfited by the snubs and rebuffs they met with, retired from the contest, and left her to the more fortunate quintette. These five, as it happened, were all very well-to-do young fellows, none of whom was to be despised as a suitor in reality by a young lady in Miss Moffat's position, for she was very far from being wealthy, and as they really seemed to be in earnest in their intentions, the fair Alice was in a very perplexed state of mind as to which one she preferred, and as they were constantly quarrelling amongst themselves concerning her, and as these quarrels were no secret from her, (who ever heard of a secret on board ship?) She really began to fear that there would be serious trouble unless she chose one of the five, and put the other four out of misery. But now the question arose which one to choose?

To the English mind it may seem peculiar that the young lady contemplated so important a step without obtaining the advice of her parents; but it must be borne in mind that in America and Canada, the young lady herself, in such cases, has a great deal to say in the matter, and Miss Moffatt was no exception to this rule. Moreover, she felt fully convinced that, so long as the object of her choice was an honorable man; more especially an honorable man of means, her parents, who were exceedingly fond of her, would throw no obstacles in the way of her happiness. Who should be the one? That was the momentous question the young lady was unable to answer. One was richer than the others, but decidedly stupid; another was very good looking, but though moderately well off in the good things of this world, scarcely sufficiently so to allow his good looks to counterbalance, in the young lady's mind, the weighty purse of his more wealthy rival; a third was very clever, but decidedly plain, and so on; there was some objection to each one, and something to be urged in favor of each. So, in her dilemma, Miss Moffatt appealed to her temporary guardian, Captain Braceman, and that shrewd mariner devised a plan by which he imagined the comparative strength of the affection entertained by five suitors for the object of it, could be tested.

As it was warm weather, and as the young lady had declared that she was an excellent swimmer, it was arranged that the vessel should be stopped for a few minutes under pretense of some irregularity about the engines, and that the young lady should fall overboard, apparently accidentally. Of course, there was not the least danger, and the importance of the case was sufficient to warrant the experiment. The young lady would merely have a cold bath, and would be picked up in a very few minutes, as the ship's boats were to be all in readiness, and a number of the crew were instructed, quietly, to hold themselves ready to lower them at a moment's notice.

To be continued.

SUBLIME CHEEK.

A STRANGER entered a fashionable church lately, walked along the aisle and seeing a most comfortable pew vacant, took a seat in it. Shortly after the owner came along accompanied by two ladies, and after sitting down and casting scowling glances at the intruder took out a card and wrote on it "this is my pew" and handed it to the stranger; whereupon the latter also took a card from his pocket upon which he wrote "good pew—what do you pay for it?" and passed it along. N.B. correspondence ceased.



OH, Grandmamma! Why you have two teeth come through!

BAIT.

IN Edinboro' the cemeteries are not the extensive areas so common in American cities, they are little larger than the enclosures one might expect about suburban churches. Being small, these Edinboro' burial places are numerous, and therefore in some sort competitive. Among the comparatively new cemeteries is the Grange, devoted to the burial of members of the Free Church, whose great leader, Dr. Chalmers, lies entombed not far from the main gate. I had long lived near this cemetery, but had never looked within its borders, although I was on nodding acquaintance with the gate-keeper and gardener, Sandy.

As I passed the gate one sunny May morning I was tempted to enter by a very beautiful array of spring flowers. Sandy was there as usual, and I could not help expressing to him my surprise at the large number of graves in a cemetery I distinctly remembered being established in my boy-hood.

"Why Sandy," said I, "You have a great many people buried here."

"Aye, sir, a great many." "Dr. Chalmers was a fyne nest-egg for us."

G.

NOTES ON THE ETYMOLOGY OF THE "DUDE."

THE word "Dude" originated and was first used among our cousins across the line. What gave rise to it was this: In a certain city in the United States there appeared one day on the streets a young man, a stranger, who presented a marked contrast in appearance to that of the ordinary residents and natives of American towns, all of which latter from the chief Lawyer and the Bank Cashier down to the youth in the retail store or the gentleman in charge of the news stand, are alike in manner, in general style of attire and appearance. This stranger possessed a graceful movement and carriage, a subdued quiet address, and neat, well fitting and becoming garb, resulting from his advantages of education and breeding. His appearance was consequently deemed offensive by a people who are taught to believe that nothing in the world is better or even so good as what their country supplies, whether it be in the shape of breeding, manners or style of clothes, and it resulted in the inoffensive stranger being dubbed a "Dude," and the term, therefore, may be considered "good American" for a well-bred, refined, becomingly dressed man. It may be remarked that the stranger referred to, may be, to-day, occasionally observed on the streets of our fair city of Toronto.