LALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Bengal Boses.

BY BRAM STOKER. CHAPTER I.

THE mail had brought from Nice a a cardboard box of flowers. The study was hot and close despite the open windows, so when I opened it the scent of the roses filled the air with a new fragrance. I took out the spray on the top, magnificent cluster of great pink Bengal roses; but the day of glory of this kind is a short one, and the journey was long; the mere motion of lifting the spray finished the work of destruction. I held in my hand only a bare stalk, whilst the moss green carpet was scattered with the great petals of the flowers.

And then a flood of memory rushed over me, sided by that best of mnemonics, a once-known perfume. I lit a cigar, and as I sat in my easy chair with the roses beside me the light of the July evening paled and paled till I sat alone in the darkness. Twenty years of hopes, strugnot merely remember; once more the neither youth nor age! Once again I remembered how these things worked into other lives, and then I lived the past * * * *

A sweet old garden of a country rec-tory, with a tredis covered with luxuriant Bengal roses. Hard by, some prim old

for such a lad as I was. Mrs. Petersen was nearly as old as her husband, and as their circumstances were not good, I have Puerorum. Our squire had in his youth no doubt that though the money that my parents paid was hardly earned, it was a There was but one servant in the house; the gardener attended to the cows and pigs and my pony, these being the only young—ame to Westoby Grange he animals kept. After a while I grew quite always managed to pay a visit to his old arrange my rambles that by degrees for his winters were spent abroad, and I came to have a local topographical he had several other estates, so that knowledge certainly not possessed by his summers were divided. He chiefly my tutor, whose age and circumstances, lived at a place nearly two hun-and whose habits of a quiet, retired lie dred miles away, where the ground debarred him from such exercises. I had no companion or my own age, except when at home in London, for at Westoby Puerorum the children were few, and of Mr. Petersen he took with him a young such a kind that I had but little in common with them. We met at Sunday school, and as I did not care for their horseplay, and got disgusted with their perpetual lying, they voted me a muff, rate I was not a coward.

I was about twelve years old when Bewith neither home nor friends.

and we are all children of His family. He will watch over her and mould all than ever in my description of the hero nately the pain and fatigue accounted for that Rails Description. And so it was to come, making him in every my pale feed and nately the pain and fatigue accounted for that Rails Description. that Beila Devanti came to us.

I do not think that anyone was so pleased at the idea of her coming as I was. The old people had concern for the future, and the maid, who saw in prospect more waiting and more cooking and washing and another bed to make, grumbled to the should be like, but she dilered with me gardener, who, though he had no prospect point by point as we went along. This of added work, grumbled sympathetically. Formethere was no concern. In those days petulance I stood up and said to her I suppose I took it tor granted, as other passionately: boys do, that beds are made and victuals cooked and clothes washed by some dislittle thought of whence or how it comes. The thinking belongs to a later period, ther tiny voices that clamour at need.

When Arabella Devanti arrived I proceeded with the simple, selfish directness of a schoolboy to fail in love hitherto she had never called me anything with her, despite the grat gulf five years fixed between us. In this right to say such a thing to-me—to any. I was not alone, for the feeling was body. You are born a gentleman, and hold. Even the maid and the gardener gave in, and, as is the wont of such, and that you were angry, though what secretiveness rendered necessary by her changed the form or cause of their cause of anger there is I fail to see. But possession of so big a secret. For ingrumbling, for of course the grumbling such a thing must never occur again! stance, towards the end of the week there was perennial. When Maria, that was You are getting old enough to think for the maid, found that Miss Devanti in-yourself." I was crushed. "Getting her own hed and leaby the stance, towards the end of the week there came a letter which made her blush and her breast heave, but she never said a mind of the week there. sisted on making her own bed and looking after herself, as she alleged that she had always done, and began straightway grown-up woman! It left me speechless. to take a part in the labour of the house- I sat silent a while, and felt myself hold, she grew almost rebellious. Finally a compromise was arranged, to the effect that Bella was to be allowed to help in the cooking if she let the rougher my eyes and ran through the fingers the door was never locked or bolted at domestic work to Maria. Her pretty which I held before my tace. In an inlittle foreign ways became a new pleasure stant Bells changed, and spoke to me tion of the rose trellis. This struck me

taught her to ride my pony, and to play self on my knees on the grass beside her, noticed. There I heard the voice I cricket, and le-gras, and other games of and, hiding my head in her lap had my pected and feared to hear and which an old-fashioned kind, which were a tradition in the rectory. We used to sit hair, silent all the time, with the instinct every day, when the weather was fine, on of a true woman. the old marble seat; and the Bengal roses, all summer long, used to keep shedding their great petals over the green moss beneath. There I learned my lessons; Bella was a good mistress, for she would not allow any triffing or inattention. I began to feel, atter a while, that her sway was a strong one, and that if I Captain Chudleigh I tacitly recognised wanted her to do anything I must begin

by being master of my work Quite three years passed in this way, and I was now a good sized lump of a boy, and began to fancy myself a man. In schools this feeling generally finds an outlet in a plentitude of hats, and a choice of neckties; but in our rustic life there was no such outlet, and even the increase of my passion for Bella did not move me to try to add to my attractions in her eyes. She was always most kind to me, and there was between us a genuine affection. She used to tell me all her little gles, and success were obliterated and secrets, and it to tell her mine. Still, I lived again an old chapter of my boy's never felt quite satisfied. There was not life, which contained the fragments of a that complete aban tonment or effacement romance. All came back so vividly that of herself—that losing her own individutime and space were aunihilated. I did ality in that of the other—which the masculine lover, even from his cradle, things were! Ah, me! that chapter of seems to demand. There always was boyish love and of jealousy, which has for her, even in those daydreams which she shared with me, to be some order of things other than the present, something to come yet of quite a different kind to that which existed. Indeed, some unknown individual was tomake his appearance who was to charm us both by his tory with a tredis covered with luxuriant worth and beauty and the gallantry of Bengal roses. Hard by, some prim old his bearing. With a seeming generosity trees of yew and juniper, and arbor vite. she a ways insisted on giving me a But the rose trellis was, of old, the most portion of the pleasure of his society, and sweet, and is now most full of memories. on my angry remonstrance and disclaimer Beside it some former incumbent had to share at all in his hateful presence placed an old Greek marble seat. This she would laugh softly through her was always a favourite haunt of mine, blushes, and then, after a while, try to and here I mainly learned my lessons and soothe me by some added deference to also studied such romances as were avail- my wishes-my wishes regarding someable. Being a delicate child I had been thing else. As a matter of fact I grew sent to live with the rector, so that I intensely jealous, and the keen eyes of might get plenty of exercise and fresh jealousy found food everywhere and in might get plenty of exercise and fresh jcalousy found food everywhere and in air and country living. Mr. Petersen everything. Although I loved Bella down, and although never a more than ever. I began to have moments brilliant scholar, was an excellent teacher of what I believed to be hate for her also, was a very pleasant afternoon, and

It was at this time that we had a break in the monotony of our lives at Westoby been a pupil of Mr. Petersen. Indeed, it parents paid was hardly earned, it was a was after the young squire went to col-welcome addition to the housekeeping. lege that the old squire presented him to the living; and whenever the ; oung squire -now the squire himself, and no longer strong and hardy, and by myself took long walks and rides all round the country. It was my habit to study the country map which hung in the hall, and to so was high and the air more bracing. This time he had only a small party at the Grange, and when he rode over to see gentleman to whom at first I took a liking. it was only when I found that Bella had taken a liking to him also that at all events. I began to recognise in him certain evil and when I felt sufficiently recovered quaities. He seemed as frank as a boy began my journey home. It was very qualities. He seemed as frank as a boy and left me alone—after I had proved in for all that he was a captain in a crack cavalry regiment. He was sitting on that when I got into our own grounds I was thoroughly fagged out. The attermed before either of us seemed to noon sun was beating strongly down, and one or two pitched battles that at any cavalry regiment. He was sitting on there came an addition to our circle in realise the fact that he was only a the shape of a granddaughter of Mrs. stranger after all. Even after I had Petersen by her first marriage, an orphan, begun to realise his bad qualities and perhaps to invent some for him also

fore she came there were anxious dis—I could not but like him. He was such cussions between the old people as to a handsome fellow, so bright and cheery, the probable result of her coming. It and with such a winning manner, that I was evident there was some old cause for could not help it; but I could not to: give anxiety, and once I heard a remark which Bella for liking him also, and the more puzzled me. It was made by Mrs. Peter- jealous I grew of him the more unreasonsen:—

ably angry I became with her. He did she murmured an answer that satisfied it is so good of you, Edward, and, not remain very long, for the square's him, and then I heard their kiss. Boy as I my dear, I see through all your sweet for visit was but a dying one; but before he was I knew that I had no right to be bearance; but it is not right that you went he promised to ride over from Cot- there, and so I crawled away out of earshould be troubled with folk that don't terham, where he was quartered, and to belong to you. Arabella always took her bring me some flies of his own tying, own way in spite of me—and of her poor which he had found most effective in father—and may be ner daughter will want the waters of our county. When he had to do the same. We have lived too reace-gone, Belia and 1 sat under the Bengal fully, you and I, dear, all these years to roses and talked of him in the shade be willing to let any disturbance come from the afternoon sun. It angered me through someone we never saw," and the whenever Belia found new points to ad-"Nay, my dear," said the rector, "I to turn the conversation. It was now might well say, as Ruth said to Naomi, "Thy people shall be my people." And, my dear, your God and mine is hers also, sun as a garden wherein to found our sun as a garden wherein to found our romances. This evening, with some inessential the exact opposite to Captain Chudleign, even to the extent of making him a great noble instead of an "honourable" and a younger son, which the captain was. Bella would not give her own views as to what the hero made me very angry, and in my boyish

"I believe you're in love with him, Belia! Take him if you want to! I don't care!" I was striding off when she pensation of providence specially arranged care!" I was striding off when she for the benefit of boys. The young bird rose up and ordered me so imperiously when it opens its mouth for the provender to come back that, without thinking of provided by the parents' instinct takes any opposition to her wishes, I returned to the seat. She had sat down again; her face was very pale and her dark eyes when there are other little beaks open and were blazing. She held her bands for a not let her do the smallest service for my moment clasped over her heart, and then lame ankle. On this point I was as after a pause said to me:— dozgedly resolved as I could be about after a pause said to me:— dozgedly "Robert"—this was cutting, for anything.

of but "Bobby "- "Robert, you have no shared in common with the whole house- nothing could justify such an affront. I take it now that you do not know better, yourself." I was crushed. "Gotting old enough!"—"getting!" I who had for years been nurturing a passion for a to notice. That night I lay awake think-

grow red and white by turns; and then a the window. I heard a stir in Bella's room. gush of some feeling came over me, and which was next to mine, and in a few despite all I could do the tears came to minutes I saw her step out of the porch in the household, and there was, I am bound to say, a marked improvement in the euisine. She used to do things with eggs that I dream of yet.

Bella and I became at once great friends. eggs that I dream of yet.

Bella and I became at once greatfriends. | run away, but that she held me fight. I already told me, but I wanted to the trellis. Go and GS NEW BOND.

The helped me with my lessons, and then more marked than it ever had been, taught me music and drawing; and I for, with a sudden impulse, I threw myand, hiding my head in her lap, had my cry out, whilst she tenderly stroked my

We seemed better friends than ever that there had come some sort of chasm between us; but the recognition of such a thing was the first step to its bridging, and although I said no more of any feeling which might be between her and such a thing as possible and respected it. Less than a week elapsod before Capand when he came Bella was the one who

tain Chudleigh paid his promised visit, seemed to avoid him, whilst he and I grew great friends. We all three sat the roses after luncheon - we called it lunch to strangers, but it was in reality our dinner—and were together all the time except for half an hour when I was rummaging in the attic for an old book of etchings by Piranesi which Bella thought she had seen there some mon ha before. I did not find it, however, and when I came back they were both silent, and he was just about taking his leave. They had quite forgotten about the book. I offered to ride a part of the way with Captain Chudleigh, and he acquiesced heartily, although I thought I whim make a queer kind of a face to Bella when he thought I was not looking. He was silent for a while after we had started, but presently he grew quite gay and laughed and sang and made jokes to me as we rode along. When it was time for me to return he promised that he would ride over again some day soon. When I got back I found Bella still sitting under the roses, and so abstracted that she started when I spoke to her.

Some days afterwards I got a line from Cotterham, saying that Captain Chud-leigh would on the following day ride over to lunch with the squire; and that he would, if he might, look into the rectory on his way back, when perhaps Miss Devanti and I would give him a cup of tea under the roses. He came, and we had tea on the marble seat. Mrs. we all enjoyed ourselves. When the sun was setting Bella sent me to look if Captain Chu leigh's horse had been cared for. and I went willingly, for he rode beautiful horses. When I came back Bella and the captain sat silent at either end of the seat, he with a rose in his buttonhole which had not been there before. This gave me a new pang of jealousy, and I

The next day I went out for a long walk, taking my lunch with me, as 1 usually clid on such occasions. This experition had been planned nearly a week before, for I was to explore an old ruin which I had never visited, and Bella had taken much interest in it. When I got so far as I could on the high road I went to strike across country; but in leaping my first ditch I turne i my ankle, and had to abandon my expedition, for that day at all events. However, I ate my lunch, tiring, and my ankle pained me much, so the shade of the trellised roses, with the cool, green moss, looked so invit ng that

I lay down and forthwith fell asleep. I waked to hear voices on the other side of the thick trellis—Bella's voice and Captain Chudleigh's! They were whispering; but, low as their voices were, I could hear distinctly, and what I heard made my heart beat and my ears tingle. He was telling Bella of his love for ner, and shot, being careful to keep the treis between us, and reached my own room without anyone seeing me. I lay down on my bed, with my heart and my temples throbbing, and felt anow all the pangs of jealousy with despair added. I waited there till the evening fell, and then, when I knew I would meet no one, left the house and came round to the front door, making what noise I ressonably could, and limped in to where the family were at supper. They were all concerned when they heard of my accident, which I took care not to say had wanted herself to bathe my ankle, but I insisted that Maria should do it. She was looking so radiantly happy that I could not bear the sight of her.

All the next day Bella was very sweet, and we sat on the marble seat, I with my ankle bandaged on a chair in front of me. As the day wore on I expected that Bella would make some confidence, and I was by that time prepared—after some up-braiding—to give her my sympathy and approval. Self-love demanded that the occasion should not pass unnoticed. But the confidence never came, and I grew resolved that if she chose to keep her secret she might, and that-I also would keep mine. The only satisfaction I had —and when I look back on it I think it was a pretty mean one-was that I would

Bella's secrecy seemed to me not a negative but a positive thing. I almost began to think that she had told me a falsehood, and to imagine all sorts of things. Being ever on the watch I did detect now and then some small acts of ing of it, and as I lay awake I heard a very low whistle. I rose softly and looked out of

There was a yellow moon, and the shadows were black, so I came close unpected and feared to hear, and which if I had not heard would have disappointed me.

Captain Chudleigh's voice was resonant and resolute, and there was in it something of triumph, but Bella's voice was after that night. I could not but feel faint and tremulous. Nevertheless it was sweet, sweeter than over, with a thrill in it which I had never heard before, and which made me as I listened grow cold with despair, a though my heart flamed anew with jealousy. I heard Captain

Chudleigh say:

"I have got it—the bishop's secretary got it for me—and now we can be married where and when we will!" There was where and when we will!" There was no auswer; but she evidently drew close to him, for I heard the sound of a kissa long one. Then she said :--

"Oh! Reggy, is it necessary that we keep it a secret? It will pain my grand-father and my grandmother so much, and they have been so good to me!" answer was given with decision.
"My dear Bella, it is necessary. My

father would not allow our marriage if he knew of it in time. You see, neither of my two brothers has any family, and the governor says that as I have no fortune I must marry money, and as I might succeed I must marry rank." said, shyly :

Then, Reggy, we had better say good-bye. Here! Now! If all our parents are against us, where can our happiness lie? Reggy evidently drew Reggy evidently drew her to him as he whispered, tenderly :

"But we love each other, Bella; and the governor will forgive us when we are married." and there was much more to the same effect. Then Captain Chudleigh took out a paper and read it to her in the moonlight. I could see that his arm was round her as they stood in the moonlight, hidden from the house by the yew tree behind the marble seat. When they showed signs of going I lay down close, cose behind the trellis, for I was afraid to stir lest they should see me. After some efforts and many good-byes Belia toro herself away, but not before Reginald Chudleigh had secured her promise that she would meet him at Mirkenfield church at seven in the morning on the second day following.

When Bella had stoen back to her room her lover stood looking after ler, and I heard him mutter a low curse—an angry, dissatisfied curse on himself-and then as he turned away I heard aim say :-

Poor little girl! Poor little girl! It is too devilish bad! So sweet and tru-tful! If I didn't love her so; or if I had more money!" and then I lost sight of him as he passed into the shadowy darkness of the trees.

After a while I, too, stole back to bed. My mind was in a turmoii, but through ail its murkiness I remember a fixed reof so doing. Bella and I said but little solution in my heart—that I, too, would be to each other that evening. was intended to Bella. I knew the place, for I had two or three times been over there. It was a tiny virlage, which time and desertion rom economic causes had made tinier still. The church was an old one almost in ruins, which was left always open since no one ever went into it be tween Sunday and Sunday.

(To be concluded in our next.)

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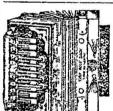
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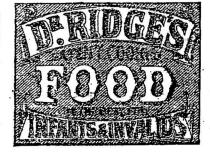
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BY BRAM STOKER.

A box of flowers, with a rich and fragrant cluster of Bengal roses, called up memories of a chapter of boyish love and jealousy. In a sweet old garden of a country rectory the lad became cnamoured man's professions of love. With jealousy, trellis of roses : and on overhearing a plan for a secret marriage at early morn in the village church, resolved to be present.

CHAPTER II.

THE next day when we sat together on the old marble seat Bella was very tender with me. I was full of emotion myself, for, now that I was assured that she loved another-vanity is so great in boys that I still held myself to be a rival -I could find it in my heart to be very tender to her. Once or twice I mentioned the name of Mirkenfield, but when I saw that she hold her peace, though the quick blush betrayed her somewhat, I said no more, but waited.

As she said good-night that evening Bella's voice and manner were full of tenderness, and as she lay in her room I heard her more than once sob. That night was like a never-ending nightmare to me, and I sometimes wondered whether it was not all a dream.

It was nearly ten miles to Mirkenfield. so at the earliest glint of dawn I rose, under the impression that I had not slept, and stole downstairs. I heard the clock strike four as I stopped out of the porch, Receping out of sight of Bella's window. As I had not heard Bella sur I took it that she was cill asteep. I went into the fields, for I did not want anyone to see me, and at length struck the road beyond the rine clump. There, before me en the rine, I saw hurrying along none other than Belia! I slipped into the wood spain, and ran and walked as outlookly as I sould so that I might get well afread without her socing me. As I knew the short cuts I easily effected this object, and within some two and a half hours arrived within eight of Mirkenfield. Then I sjipped into the fields and woods again, and came round to the back of the church. Reeping round the corner I saw two men waiting, carefully hidden behind a great clump of yew trees from the sight of any casual stranger passing on the road. One of them was Captain Chudleigh, and the other was the groom whom I had seen with him when he rode over to Westoby Grange.

Captain Chudleigh had only just arrived, and was making inquiries from the groom. From their secretive manner. however, and the mysterious way they looked round them, I came to the conclusion that there was some mischief on foot, and so I stale softly behind the yew trees and listened. I heard the master

Is he here?"

"Yes, sir; in the vestry. I was afraid he might be seen, and it would not do as he is a stranger. Has he all the properties which he

i es, sir; his surplice and bands and didn't want no credit but the spondoolieks down. Them was his very words."

and he threw disdainfully to the groom along with the groom, and said, as he abag which chinked as the latter caught asked them to sign:

of you if it should come out afterwards.

My eye, sir, but he's a clever one at

fixing things." Take care it is all right. Be here to the clergyman:

the biggest of them!"

I began to realise to the full the cruel wrong tast was intended, and my mind was made up what I should do. I stole away from the yews, and when I was out of earshot ran up to the parson's house, which was across the graveyard from the church. I rang the bell softly and waited with my heart in my mouth. The door was opened by the parson's locum tenens, a tall, powerful, fresh-coloured young man, with a frank eye and a strong,

resolute isw. I gasped out, "May I see you at once, and privately?" He eyed me for a moment with a look which began with a smile and ended with a frown, and said, quickly:

'Come in here, my boy!" and threw open the study door, which he shut carefully behind him. "Now," he said, "tell me frankly what it is, and without

him. He opened the westry door quickly have you no shame-no remorse? The parson strede forward, and with a go down on your kneed and thank the wrestler's grip caught him by the throat, Almighty that He has vouchsafed in His and motioning me to open the door took mercy to save you from the actual combinm and pushed him before him right mission of such a grievous sin—though across the churchyard and into his own the moral guilt he heavy on you all the study. At first the man tried to struggle; same." but he very soon gave up the idea as he For a half minute Captain Chudleigh

down, and then said :-Now tell me all about it." The fellow threw himself upon his knees and began a confession of how he had been employed to take a part in a mock marthe mantel chimed the quarter to seven, so the parson stopped him :-

"There is no time to lose. I shall tie you up and leave you here for a while. If you try to a ruggle or cry out I shall of the seventeen-year-old heroine, charmating Bella Devanti. When the squire, Cappolice-station, and give you in charge. In the meantime I shall see how matters feelings were arousel, for Beila pushed go, and then decide how I shall deal aside the boy's admiration to listen to the with you." He then got some cord and man's professions of love. With jealousy, tied up the rellow most scientifically, tinged by hate. Bobby listened behind a garging him with a gag extemporise from a handkerchief. He then put on his surplice; and, coming out, locked the him thanks," study door behind him. He called to his "You can housekeeper, and told her to come quietly He is only a boy now."

"Boboy? God bless him!" hour, and to bring the gardener with her. Then, telling me to come with him, he went back across the churchyard. He straight with not the marriage. I shall deal with manual :— Pronch.

Took of the carried through the door held those scoundress of yours so that they

M.s. SKURTZ: Good bye. Pen. don't partially open, and to remain unseen as long as I could.
Presently 1 saw Bella and Captain

Chudleigh come into the church, followed a little after by the groom, who sat in a get rid of him as soon as you can. He is Business was Dull.—Tramp (to lady corner behind a pillar. Then, but a a dangerous man. But Chudle:gh would of house): Business in my line is very groom saw them he sheered off a little, so as to keep the pillar between them and himself. The parson stepped out from the vestry. When the groom saw him he started and grew very pale. He half rose as if to move off, but the purson, who had to pass close to him, said:—

You are a witness, I suppose. Come And thenceforward he kept up clese! an eye on him to see that he did not run away. When the bridal pair stood before the Communion rails the parson said :-

"You have a licence from the bishop, I understand; shew it to me." Captain Chudleigh took it from his pocket and handed it to h.m. He read it through carefully and then asked him :-

"Are you the Hon. Captain Reginald Chudleigh, bashelor, mentioned in this decament?"
"I am." Then turning to Bella he

asked: Are you the Arabella Devanti, spinster,

mentioned herein?

Then he proceeded with the marriage service. As there was no one to give away the bride he performed that tunetion himself. As Caudieigh answered "I will' his voice faitered and he grew very, very pale, but Bella's voice was low and clear and fraught with love as she made her acceptance.

When the service was over the parson said a few brief words, hoping that the marriage performed that day might lead to peace here and hereatter, and exhorted the married pair that they should trust each other and be ever true. He finished with a solemn warning that they had that day undertaken a new life, and that whatever wrongs and faults had been should light and a warning against evils to come. Whilst this short nomily was being delivered Captain Chadleign looked ill at ease and impatient, and now and again bit his lips; but he controlled himself, and was

silent. Then they came into the vestry, and I the bogus registry book, and all. He is hid behind a surplice hanging on the aily one, sir, up to every move on the wall. On the table were the great board. But beg pardon, sir. He says he wolumes of the registry which the parson must have the cash beforehand. He had taken from the chest, and in the one of marriages the young parson proceeded to write the new marriage. He had "Here it is. You share it, Isuppose?" beckened the two old people to come and he threw disdainfully to the groom along with the groom, and said, as he

"Witnesses are necessary by law, so I "There," he said, "take it and be sure have asked these two who were present you clear out as quick as you can. Reto add their names." So they toth member it is penal servitude for the pair signed, Captain Chudleigh again repressing his impatience. Then the groom and All right, sir. No chance of any-the old people went out, and Captain ing going wrong. No one ever goes Chudleigh, who had begun to have an into the old church, and it being a church anxious look on his face, turning to

the the lady won't have no suspicion. Bella, said:

We are sir but he's a clever one at "Will you wait a moment in the church, my dear, whilst I say a word to the clergyman? Beila smiled at him witness as the clock strikes. In the lovingly, and saying as she shook her meantime look after the horses while I finger at him archiv, "Don't be long." go up the road to meether. Then he murmared again as he had done that night:

Soon as she was gone Captain Chudleigh

All right! indeed. All wrong! And closed the vestry door, and, coming close nice park of scoundrels we are, with me to the clergyman, said to him in a low VOICE :--

" Isit all right?"

"Yes; it is all right!" answered the other, with an exceedingly firm, not to say aggressive, manner.

"All is as arranged?"
"All as it should be."

"Then my man will pay you the sum agreed on. He has the money. The books, are they all right?"
"Quite right!" Captain Chudleigh began to move to the door, but he looked

ill at ease, and his manner was a hangdog manner. As he put his hand on the latch to open it the parson spoke: "Captain Chudleigh!" He turned and

raised his eyebrows interrogatively.
"Captain Chudleigh, are you satisfied that you are duly and solemnly mar-

Chudleigh let go the latch and came close as he asked, angrily, in a low voice:

I told him who I was and then what I what the devil do you mean?"

"I mean this," said the other, unconsciously throwing himself into a lighting attitude, for his college days. The socuadrels, and in the very recent to be easily forgotten, "that you chunch, too. Well, we shall see!" When came here wish the intention of commit-I had finished he said:

'You have done very wisely in coming and innocent woman, and of committing to me, and at once. Come with me now, it by the help of the machinery of the and do not say anything unless I askyou. Church and the law, and in the very This is a case when we must both be shadow of God's own filouse. But God allent and discreet for the present at all be praised! Your wickedness was known events." He harried across the courch- in time, and you are now as surely and yard, walking on the grass so that his securely married as can be by the Church's footsteps would not sound. I followed law and the law of the land. Oh, man, and we went in. As the door o ened a are young! You cannot be all hard man turned round to us, a clean-shaven and bad! It is not too late! You man, who had on a surphee and pands, and have a sweet and good wife, though whose face had an evil, crafty look, He grew in not confiding in her relatives say very pale when we came in, and glanced has run a fearful risk, and for her around hurriedly as for a way of escape. sake I shall be silent so far as I can. But

felt how poweriess he was in the grasp hung his head, and a dark scowi spread of the athletic young parson, and he was over his face; but then the man in evidently atraid to cry out. When we him asserted itself, and with a fierce

"You are right! I am a black-hearted scoundrel, and unfit to the the shoe of that sweet woman. But, thank God! it has not been too late. Let me tell you As he was speaking, the clock on —though I can't expect you to believe me-that I was as miserable over this dastard act as a man could be, and to the last day of my life I shall thank you for having saved her—and me!

"Do not thank me," said the young clergyman, moved. "Thank Almighty God, and hereafter in your life show by your deeds that you are grateful for so great a mercy. And thank also one other, only for whose quick thought and energy this evil would have been Chudleigh turned quickly. 'Tell me who it is, so that I may give

You can thank him when he's a man.

"And now, Captain Chudleigh, join your wife; and take my advice — go went back across the churchyard. He straight with her to her uncle, and tell liow you must have frightened your me presently; and, let me advise you, Me-Up.

teil her ail, and then, it she will forgive here me.—. many U. is.
me, we can begin like atresh. How to no IT.— I wish I could ac-

So the parson took me into the graceyard, and we stayed there nearly hair an bour, till Bella came and called me in. Her eyes were swollen with crying; but despite it, she looked happy, and Chudleign's face was also not without its thing clever .- Larks. traces of deep emotion. Beila thanked the parson, and held his hand whilst she did so : and then she took me in her arms and kissed me, but said nover a word she knew that I understood. Then the Captain came and held out his hand, and said with a tremor in his voice:

"Won't you shake hands, Bobby?

Then Bella and her husuand drove back to Westoby Puerorum and I walked back as quickly as I could; but they had gone | libustrated ints. before I arrived, and Mr. and Mrs. Petersen were beginning to realise what had happened.

I suppose the young parson took strong measures with the rascals and trightened then effectually, for they went away and were never troublesome.

And now Bella is a countess, and her husband and children adore her. And on the anniversary of her wedding day site and her bushand always send me a bunch of roses from wherever they may be. If there are no roses then they send some other nower that has memories-perhaps lest any of us should forget.

THE SOLDIER, THE STATE, AND

be now forgotten, except to afford them a | the reception of convaiescent and dying soldiers is being so eagerly taken up. Time was when the co.d shelter of the village werkhouse was officially regarded as a suitable place in which the seider, who had served his country for the best ears of his life, should end his days. The obloquy of the "parish" funeral has frequently been his lot, and on too many occasions has the pauper s shroud been the winding sheet of a brave soldier. No amount of protest thereto seems to have impressed War office officialdom with the idea that this is discreditable to the nation whose interests have been so taithfully served by the rank and nie of her Army. Possibly, they have considered such procedure "consonant

to military tradition. Now, however, there seems to be a chance of a new order of taings being put into practice, and hopes are entertained that the once half-whispered proposal that the resteration to health of lead tell my wie that I eaught em. I her soldiers should be undertaken by the nation is to become un fait a compli. It is more than time that this should be the case, and that it has not been done before is a cause of shame. The manner in which ex-guidiers, snuttered in health and broken down in constitution, have, over and over again, been calmly discharged from minitary hospitals to fans the bitter struggle of the outer world as best they may would be discreditable to a community of Kanrs. The poorest patients of almost every civilian hosp tail have extended to them the advantages of a convaiescent home, where they are iree to recuperate. The soldier, however, whose enteebled constitution, after months of s.ckness engendered by wounds or service in unhealthy climates, finds, on return to civil life, but the casual ward

awaiting him. While on the subject, it is interesting to note the provisions made by other nations to prevent such a state of alignes. in no Army but the English one is known the scandal of an ex-soldier, who has borne a good character, being comveiled to depend on charity for subsistence. In Germany, for matance, Piper Findlater s gallantry would have entitled him to a pension of some 2001. per annum, while even the least distinguished solder-provided his military record be good-receives, if incapacitated on account of wounds or disease; a sufficient annuity to keep him if comfort. In staly, too, poverty-stricken though the country be. half-a-dezen large Army Conva:escent depots are maintained by the State. At the date of the last return, nearly 2,000 ex-soldiers had been received in these different institutions during a single year. In addition to this, a considerable number were also sent, at Government expense, to

various medicinal springs or treatment.
in the "Fatherland" a large proportion of Army invalids are annually received at Wiesbaien. Others again are perm tted to go to their own families, ob-terning special allowances until able to rearn to military daty. The French seldier, too, who is discharged from the Army on account of ill-heaith, is relieved by the State from all financial anxety. In England only has this procedure not been recognised as that to which the numblest soldier is justify entitled. The proposed establishment of convalescent homes where he may regain his health and strength is, therefore, a seasonable one. Now that the iron is het, it is to be sincerely hoped toat "the authorities' will not fail to strike.

H. W. C. Brown. Balliol House, Toynbee Hall, E.

HOME MADE.

OLD LADY: Throw that nasty cigarette away, me good boy. It makes me quite ill to see una smoking!—Boy: It ud make you wass if yer smoked it yerself, mum !- Punch.

A JOCULAR DOCTOR.-Little Innocent: Is it really true, doctor, that champagne will bleach people's hair?-Doctor: Well, rather, my dear. I've seen lots of people made light-headed by

champagne. -- Mortu's Comic.
MORE CRUELTY TO A MOTHER-INLAW. -- Wife (emphatically): That dog of Smith's across the way bit mother a, a n this morning, and I want to know what you intend doing about it.—Husband (brankly): I think I shall buy that dog. -Coloured Comer.
DOLLY: I wonder, grandpapa, how you

came to have such long eyebrows:— Grandpapa: Don't know, Dolly. S pose I was norn so.—Dolly: Oh, grandpapa!

may not try to blackmail you. Your congo hear any cows.—Miss Kational: Good duct—your later conduct—has made me bye, but why not?—bliss Skurtz: Because willing to help you. Send the groom to cows run after caives. Ta, ta. -Pick-

Business was Dull.-Trampito lady minute later, there came, mobserved by not go at once.

Belia or Captain Chucleigh, an old man and woman, who I surmised to be the my wife; and it had better begin now. I you're in: — iramp: I'm a professional housekeeper and the gardener. When the shall have no secrets from her! Let me snow-shoreller, mam, but nobody will

> quire a reputation for being bright, 'said Wille Masnington,—'There's nothing caser," answered Miss Cayenne. 'All you need to do is to say you have heard it before, whenever anyone else says any-

> OVERHEARD ON AN ATLANTIC LINER. -She (on her first trip to Euro, e): I guess you like London?—He: Why, yes. guess i know most people in London. I was over there last all .- Punch.

KOMANOE AND REALITY. -- Mrs. Wiggins: I wonder why it is that those men who write the best poems on love are Bella has lergi en me, or I would not single men?—Wiggins: For the same dare to ask!" So we shook hands. reason, I suppose, that a man does not reason, I suppose, that a man does not asasily seel meaned to write poetry on the scean after he has been seasick .-

LITTLE WILLIE had been spanked, and he hadn't had time to lorget it. You will never go to Meaven and be an angel, Willie," said mamma, "if you are so maughty."—"I don't want to be an angel," sobbed will.e. "I shall be a ohernb, so that you can't spank me."—
I'mk Mr-Up.
SHE: Well, how did your shares in the

Danas gold mane turn out: "-lie: ()h, I-er-l've lost all interest in them.-Punch.

Eva went to a penny reading and when she returned she was not pressed. think that new curate is not a gentieman, ma. He sang 'The last rose of summer

THE SOLDIER, THE STATE, AND
THE WORKHOUSE.

It is gratifying to observe that the idea of establishing State institutions for the recention of course event, and drive it in a cold oven, o' course!"—r'un.

AUSTIVALIAN.

APPROPRIATE .- I homson : I have just oined a beginners' cyclingciub. -- Emith: that are your colours .- Thomson: Black and blue. - Metoourne Weesty Limes.

Miss ELDERLY: I am deeply interested in the study of premistoric man. - Miss Custing: He was a near relation of yours, I suppose, Town and Country

MUTUAL FRIEND: It really is shocking, dear, the way in which you and your husband quarrel and carry on. I women you don't separa e from him.—injured Wife: What, go away, and leave him alone to do just as he akes? Not me :-Methourne Wresty Times.

"Just thros me half a dozen of the biggest treut," said the citizen to the use dealer.—"Throw them?" queried queriod the desicr .- "Yes; and then I'll go nome mas be a poor fisherman, but i m no har.

- foun and Country Journal. DOCTOR lafter a hasty examination): Prepare for the worst .- Patient . on, I dai that when they to d me they were going to send for you. — Madourne treekty L'imes.

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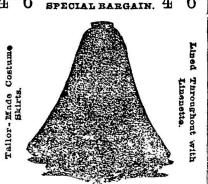
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were in the study his captor made him sit stamp of his foot, as if he was crushing 30kes of the 370, 48 60 special bargain. 48



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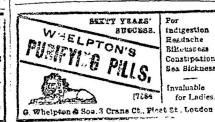
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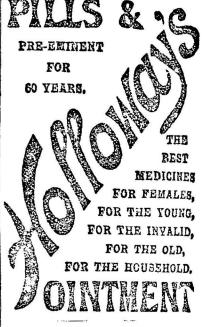
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A lady was suffered seven years entirely cured with one pot. Its Cures are Wonderful.

It Acts Like Magic This wonderful remedy. ECZOLINE, is sold in rots, is 11d, 2a 95, and 4s 6d, Post free 3d extra of the Magufacturer, EUNTER, SWINDON.



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