THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1867.

THE LATEST HUMOR.

6

MRS. BROWN'S VISIT TO THE

PARIS EXHIBITION.

WHAT THE OLD LADY SAW AND DID THERE.

BY ARTHUR SKETCHLEY,

AUTHOR OF "THE BROWN PAPERS."

TO THE READER.

It may be necessary for me to give a short explanation of the circumstances under which I ecame cognizant of Mrs. Brown's proceedings at the Paris Exhibition, and I will do so in as few words as possible. It was a remarkably hot day in the early part of last month that I encountered Mrs. Brown at the Exhibition. She was seated at one of the refreshment stalls partaking of some bottled stout, sausage, bread and butter, which she termed "a 'asty smack," though it certainly occupied a considerable time to get through. It was during that repast that she told me a small portion of her adventures, in which I naturally left so deep an interest that I availed myself of a kind invitation she gave me to pay her a visit and hear the sequel on return to town, as I was unfortunately unable to remain in Paris with her. But though not an eye witness of all that befel her, I can youch for the authenticity of all the statements made by this worthy lady, and recommend her as a sat guide for those who may desire to visit the Great ABTHUE SKETCHLEY. Exhibition of 1867. London, 1st July.

MRS. EROWN'S VISIT TO THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

I don't think, Mr. Scratchley, as ever I shall 'old up my 'ead agin, as the sayin' is, for of all the dead beat feel ns as ever 1 had, this is the wust, and do, I assure you, as now I've got onto this chair, I feels as tho' I'd took root in it, for I never did see sien a place as this Paris for knockin' any one up, as well I remembers the last time as I were here, crippled me for months, and certingly I wow and declare as nothink would'nt make me come 'ere agin; and when Brown come in and said as he was a-goin' to Paris, I says, "Well, then," I says, "leave me at 'ome;" but you see as 'uman natur is weak. and 'ere I am, tho' only arrived the night afore last, and wouldn't 'ave believed it, only Brown, he says as it would be a sin and a shame for to miss such a chance of goin' there for next to nothink !

I says, "Whatever do you mean by next to nothink ?"

"Why," says Brown, "there's a party in the name of Cook as makes escursions all over the world.'

I says, "Then I'm glad as I ain't 'is good lady; but," I says, "do you mean to say as ne makes escursions all over the world, like as they did used to take us to the Rye 'Ouse of a Whit Mon-And well I remembers poor Mrs. Alder. the butcher's lady, as pitched out of the wan 'ead foremost thro' a stretchin' out too far for to look at the wiew, and it she 'adn't stuck between the two sharits and the 'osses tails, must 'ave been trampled to death in an instant, as shows as it's a mercy sometimes for to be a lusty tigger, the same as Mrs. Beales, as trod on one of them round irons in the pavement as they lets the coals down thro', and if she'd teen a inch less round the waist wouldn't never 'ave 'ung there a-danglin', till drawed up, thro' passin' of a clothes line, under 'er arm 'oles, as cut 'er dreadful, but better any 'ow than a wiolent death.

Brown, he says, "When you've quite done a-clackin', p'raps you'll listen to reason, as am't a thing to be looked for in a woman." I says, "Mr. Brown, you're mighty clever, no

doubt; but if you're a-going to insult my sect, I don't want to hear no more about it." He says, "Oh, pray, don't 'ear if you don't like: but," he says, "as several triends of yourn is a-goin', I thought p'raps as you'd like the trip, and all done with no trouble nor espence." I says "Whoever is a goin' ?" "Well," he says, "there's Mr. and Mrs. Paine, and Miss Tredwell, and Mr. and Mrs. Archbutt, and the Wellses." I says, "I am't no objection to the Archbutts, nor yet to Mrs. Wells, but as to 'er 'usband, he's

my large 'air-trunk, as is a u-eful size, and did once 'ave bras: nuis all round, as was nearly all picked out by a cockatoo with a yaller top-knot, as was brought from sea by a captain as once lodged with me, and was kep on a perch with a chain to 'is leg, jest long enough to reach that box, only one night, and not a nail in the lop on it as he hadn't picked out afore morning mornin

I couldn't find the key of that box nowheres, so sent to the locksmith as fitled one in. I don't think as ever I did teel a 'otter morning than that Tuesday as we started; and of all the tempers as ever a man did show, it was Brown, as I says, "Really it's quite awful for any one as is goin to sea for to use sich langwidge over a boot-lace, as is enough to bring down a judgment on you;" the same as that boy as went to sea thio' a-sayin' don't care, and was tore to bits by lions, as I know it's true is found there, thro' a seein' one myself at the Jewlogical Gardens, as was that tame and foudled the sailor as 'ad ketched im for all the world like a lap-dog. Not as I should 'ave cared for 'is pasty alimy ways.

I do think as them cabmen was born for torments, for if that there idjot as come to take us to the railway didn't take and drop my box slap onto my bandbox, as it's lucky I fied up in a old shawl, or it wouldn't never 'ave 'ung together, and my leghorn bonnet a pancake when look it out.

My last words to Mrs. Challin, as' ad come to take care of the 'ouse, was, "Mind as you waters the plants in the back parlor winder, and feeds my bird, not a-forgettin' of the cat," as I'm sure knowco as I was a goin', for he'd been and 'id 'isself jest like a Christshun, as many can't a bear sayin' good-bye, as I'm one myself. The 'oss went off with sich a jerk as nearly throwed me 'ead first thro' the winder, and Brown, that savage, a-sayin', "Whatever are you a-buttin'

I says, "I ain't a-buttin' at nothink, but," I says, "I do feel that faint as I must have a somethink," for I was all of a tremble, as if somethink was a goin' to 'appen, at d arter 1'd took a dram I feit better; but them railways always upsets me with their screamins, as there can't be no sense in.

I was well wrapped up, for Mrs. Challin, she says to me, "Depend on it as you'll feel the sea that chilly as might give you a cold as would lay you up," as I know'd it certingly might, for I remembers a cold as I took, when a gal, thro' a-bathin' at Margate, as is the reason as I've never took a bath since. So I wore my coburg cloth and a mitred spencer under it, with my welwet cape and a warm shawl, I'd got on a pair of them webbin' shoes and lamb's-wool stockin's, for tho' the weather was that sultry. I wasn't a-gom' to leave off nothink, a-tememberin' well the old saying,' 'a'ore May is out, ne'er cast a clout," tho' id took my muslings for to look dressy over there, for I know'd as Paris were a dressy place, and I'm sure the way as you gets stared at, nobody wouldn't credit. 1 was glad when I was sate in the carriage, and werry nice company, I must say, partickler a lady and gentleman as was a-settin' opposite me, as 'ad got my face to the 'osses. They was elderly both, but seemed for to enjoy life, and the old gentleman, he says, "Ah, mum, we couldn't 'ave done this when we was young, as steam wasn't born nor thought

I says, "Sir, you'll escuse me that it were, for I well remembers I was only a gal when a party as lived somewhere out Brompton way, as 'ad a steam cooking machine, and blow'd 'is own 'ead off thro' a-tamperin' with the taps a-showin' of it to parties as 'ad come to dinner, which in course under them circumstances he never tasted, poor feller. I was quite young that time as they opened that railway and killed the Duke of Wellin'ton, werry nigh, as was only saved thro' some one else a throwin' isself under the wheels for to save 'im."

The old gentleman says, "Excuse me, mum, but you've got 'old of the wrong story."

I says, "Well," I says, "that's what my own mother told me, as was one as would 'ave scorned a false'ood; and certingly I remember myself once being aboard a steamer a-goin' to Margate with a aunt of mine, as the biler on bust and 'ad to be took over the side aboard of another, and thought as we'd lost every rag of clothes as turned up when least expected on the Margate jetty, tho'," I says, "I'm not a-goin' to deny as steam is a wonderful inwention, for all that

"Yes," says the old gent, "and found out all by accident

I says, "Yes, and dreadful accidents, too; for Fm sure it's enough to make you trimble all over to take up the paper, and," I says, "I'm sure to read about the says. read about the way as the train run right over a bridge the other day." "Oh," says the old lady, "pray don't, mum

as they could 'ang together for a minit, and called foun accordin, 'and werry fine roins they certinaly is; yet I was werry giad to get on to Pars thro'my things bein' sent thro', and 'ada't a change of nothin' for to sleep in, as aln't pleasant in a foreign land. It's werry well for Brown, as got shaved in the moinin'; but law, I didn't feel like myselt. Of all the ram as ever I did see, it came down all the way to Paris, as is thro' green fields; and you wouldn't think foreign parts not to look at 'em; and when we got to Paris, you never did the crowds a fightin' for to get a cab was won-derful to see.

deriul to see, Talk of French politeness, I'm sure that's

rubbish, for the way as they pushed and shoved about was downright English, and as to them porters, they didn't mind nothing as I said.

They was certingly werry perlite over my lugginge, and well they might be, for I 'adn's nothin' smuggled; and they asked me if I'd anything for to declare. 'Yes," I says, "I can declare as they're my

lawful property." Says the interpreter, "They don't mean that,"

Says the interpreter, "They don't mean that I says, "What do they mean ?" "Why," he says, "anything for duty." I says, "In course not, and shouldn't say so if I 'ad; let 'em find it."

I do think we was over a 'our a-waitin' for that cab, and got one at last; and 'adn't to go werry far to where we was a goin' to stop, as is a 'ome as Mr. Cook 'ad prowided, and a mercy too, for of all the charges 1 never did, as Mrs. Archbutt met a friend as told her they was chargin' 'arf a crown for a cup of tea as wasn't drinkable, tho' it did ought to be, for the price is somethink frightful and I'm sure would be worth anyoue's while to to bring over a pound or two, as nobody needa't pay more than four shillin's now-a-days, as is a ligh price, and not to be 'ad decent for three times the money in Paris.

I was glad for to get a cup of tea any'ow when got to where we was a going', and fell in with the others as 'ad come on, and dead beat they was, as is only nat'ral; and there was that Miss Treadwell a-howlin' with the tooth-ache, and Mrs. Paine, she'd been and lost all 'er things, as made Paine go on any 'ow than was becomin' of a Christshun.

As to Mrs. Wells, she's one of them poor aporths of cheese as is always a goin' to faint, and did ought to 'nve stopped at 'ome; and as to Wells, he ain't no more feelin' than a cobbler's lap-stone, as the sayin' is; and 'er always a-cryin' as he didn' love her, and quite bothered me aboard the steamer, asayin' as he did used once to doat on the ground as she walked on afore she lost 'er eye, as certingly is a blemish, but not one to set a man agin 'is lawful wife; for I do believe as Brown would love me all the same, and p'raps nore, if my 'ead was to be knocked off to-motrow, as is one of them back-bone characters as never changes till you dies, as is what I call a true-'arted man, tho' a rough temper, and will speak 'is mind; and werry nigh Live a man a 'ot-un at the railway as was a shovin' of 'im about too free, as it's a duty not for to let them French trample you under foot, and they'd glory in, no doubt, but will have their work cut out to do it; leastways, that's what I thinks. I don't think as ever I did feel more fresher

than when I started for to see that Exhibition, and ad words with Miss Tredwell a-correctin' of me and saym' as it were a Exposishun. "Well," I says, 'I shouldn't think of settin' you right in a 'buss full of people as knows my way about, p'raps, as well as you, though I never was at boardin' school in France," as she kep'on a-blowin' about, and a sayin' se' er accens was quite Parishion, and yet, whenever she did open 'er mouth, there wasn't a soul as understood 'er, and that obstinate as would 'ave she were right, tho' aperient to every one as she were wrong all over, and erself that ridiculous with the 'buss man over the fate as takes your money as soon as ever you gets in, but she says, "Nong payez oncer Jammy," but 'ad pretty soon to, or out he'd 'ave 'ad her as 'ad a glary eye, and didn't seem for to care about the English, as, no doubt, many French can't a bear 'em as 'ad, p'raps, their own relations prisoners, same as them as made them little straw boxes and things as my dear mother 'ad one on 'er own self as they made, poor things, and no wonder, as must 'ave 'ad the time 'ang 'eavy on their 'ands. 'cos, when a young woman, my dear mother lived lady's maid with a officer's lady as 'ad the charge on 'em, and told me as 'er 'art bled for 'em, and so did her missusses, partikler for one grey-headed old party as were a Count, or something, and was always a-frettin' and a-takin' on, and that kind lady did used to speak to 'im gentle like, and 'is poor old French eyes would fill up with tears, but, bless proud as they dursn't im no a pinch of snuff as a lavor, but at last let out as he'd got a daughter as was a-dyin', as he'd give 'is life for to see once more; and he did, for that officer's lady she never rested till she got him changed for somebody else, and I've 'eard mother say as 'is daughter got quite well, and growed a lusty figger, and come over to England with 'er pa in long gold carrings, and 'er air done in bows, with bis-hop's sleeves, as was all the go in them days. So I always feels for them French, for who knows as they mayn't some on 'em be prisoners now, same as they did used to be, shet up till the rob bust in, burnt the Pastiles, and found one as was toolish in 'is 'ead, as, no doubt, too much on 'em would make any one, as is faint smellin' things, and I don't 'old with 'em, not even for a sick-room, as a little fresh hair wont never do no 'arm in. I'm sure, talk of the tower of Babylond, it couldn't 'ave been nothink to that Exhibition, as is a regliar contusion of everythink, and all worked by steam-ingins, as is a goin' like mad all around you, for all the world like the sausagemachine as I well remembers near Shoreditch Church, as caught the man as made 'em by the apron, and if he hadn't 'ad the presence of mind for to undo the little brass 'art as instened it behind, he'd 'ave been sausage-meat in a minit, and no one never the wiser, as in course they wouldn't, for a clean apron wouldn't give no taste, leastways not as could be unwholesome. I must say as it's downright wonderful 'owever they could 'ave got the things together, and all a-workin' away, as I see them myself a-makin' soap with the naked eye; not as I'm one to stand a-starin 'without a-encouraging the preformance, as I considers mean; and I'm sure a cake of soap is a thing as always comes in useful, partikler in France, where they ain't much given to usin' on it; for it's a thing as you never do see in a bed-room, and for that matter the washin' things don't seem made for use; not but what I've seen 'm quite as useless in England, and will say as them French beds is beautiful clean down to the mattress, as I'm sure there's many a one in Eagland as the tickin' on won't bear the daylight, and ain't never changed from year's end to year's end; and as to washin' the blankets, why, there was old Mrs. Namby as lived next door to me at Stepney, she quite blew me up for 'avin' my blankets washed, as she said wore 'em out afore their time. It's downright wondertul for to see all them savage foreigners a-goin' about that tame, as no doubt they're airaid for to come any of their wagarles, as they'res lots of solers about as would make dog's-meat on 'em in no time, and serve 'em right if they was to try it on, with their 'eathen ways; as they let's 'em ride about on the top of their camels, just to keep 'em quict, as was all werry well for them, but 1 wouldn't 'ave clomb up on one of them 'ump-backed brutes was in one of them 'umpbacked brutes was it ever so, but quite good enough for them as rode 'em. I was that stunned with the row as them steam-ingius kep' up, that I says to Mirs, Archbutt, "My 'eads that whirl, as take somethick I must.

starin' at 'em, 'he certingly aln't got nothin' like 'em in the way of deldmales not all over the place: tho' I must may as them French women 'as a way with them as is uncom-mon takin', and dresses well even in their shops, as it must take 'arf the mornin' for to do their 'air.

"air. I don't think as ever I did enjoy anythink more than that porter, and me and Mrs. Arch-butt was a-settia? 'avin' of our joke over some of them parties, and I says to Mrs. Archbutt, I says. "She was in the way when noses was paid out," titudin' to a party with, 1 do think, the longest nose as ever I did see a-protradin' from a 'uman counting'ensati 'in d'i I says. irom a 'uman counting'ouse: "and," I says, "'ow ridiculous young she is dressed, as 'll never see fifty no more. And," I says, "do look at the old guy as is with 'er, with 'as faise teeth, and 'd' and bicker with 'er, with 'as faise teeth, and 'air and whiskers dyed." I was a-runnin' on, and Mrs. Archbutt says to

me, "What a one you are to go on !" I says, "I can't a bear to see old fools, for they're the worst of fools." If that old woman with the nose did't turn on me and say, in English, as "I were a disgrace to settle! they are the only "I were a disgrace to

my country, a-settin' there abusin' people." I thought I should 'ave died, for if she wasn't

English, and 'im too. It's lucky as I'd paid for the porter, for I jumps up and 'uriles off a leavin' Mrs. Archbut for to foller; and if that spiteful old feller will the dyed 'air didn't tell a waiter as 1'd bolted without payin', as come arter me, and would ave ended unpleasant, only the other waiter as I 'ad paid spoke up like a man.

So I give it that old scarecrow well, and says to 'im, "I've a good mind to spile your beauty for you, and knock some of them talse teeta iown your story-tellin' throat."

Poor Mrs. Archoutt, she says, "Oh, pray, don't, Mrs. Brown." I says, "I ain't a-going' to be trampled on, mun. not if I knows it." But I pretty near was, for it them niggers on the camels didn't come by and it it any how as one of them of one by, and if it adn't been as one of them chaps in cocked 'ats pulled me sharp out of the way, I do elteve as I should 'ave been pulverized like the dust under their seet.

When I come to myselt, I look round for Mrs. Archbutt, and if she wasn't disappeared, as I thought werry unfeelin' for to leave me like that; but I says, "No doubt they ain't none on 'em far off." So I walks all round thro' them retreshment-places a-looking' for Brown, but not a westment on 'im wasn't wisible nowheres. Not a westment on the waar't wistore howneres. So I stops one of them police, and says to 'im, "Erown-passy ici," as I know'd was French for 'pass here." He stares at me, and then jabbers somethink about "passy," and I say, "Yes, passy Brown." So he calls one of them interpreter chaps, as come up and says, "You want Pascy?" I cause "No Loop passy mysoif but huse you I says, "No, I can passy myself, but have you see anythink of my good couleman in the name of Brown, as is a time-figgered man, in a dark surtoo, with diab pants, and a bend in 'is back like a magistrate, as many 'as often said to me, "Mrs. Brown, mum, to foller your good gentle-man any one would take 'im for a rowal feasily man, any one would take 'im for a royal family behind, as is a noble forehead with a com mandlu' nose, and any one could tell in a instant among a thousand, with a eye like a 'awk a-beamin' on you." So 1 says, "'ave you see 'im anywheres about ?" If that idjot didn't say as he couldn't comprehend !

interpreter, as understands, and call yoursen is interpreter, as understands everythink, least-ways did ought to; and," I says, "I won't come out agin without 'is photygrapht, as any one would tell 'im by, tho' only a shiftin', yet a faithful likeness, leastways

and wonderin' 'owever I should get 'ome agin with all that wilderness of people, when all of a sudden I see Brown 'sself a walkin' that leisurely as if nothink 'ad 'appened. I did feel that aggra-wated, and I says to 'im, "Your a nice man, to call yourself a 'usband."

He says, "What's the row ?" "Why," I says, "'ere you've been and lost me for 'ours, and as cool as tho' I'd never lost sight on you. "Ch," he says, "I know'd you turn up. Like a bad shillin', sure to come back." I don't think as ever I did see such a conquest of people, and 'busses, and cabs, and coaches, all a-strugglin

for to get away, and it's a wonder as they wasn't all smashed up together. l says, "Brown, 'owever are we to get 'ome ?" "Oh," he says, "all right, there's a cab been telegraphed for, as Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Arch-

butt is in, down here." I says, "Telegraphed for? 'ow is that done?" "Ob," he says, "quite easy, jest the same as callin' for it."

"I says, "I wish as they'd telegraph us 'ome,'

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STATIONERY.

and figures.) STATIONERY. Scaled Proposals will also be received at this Office until 12 o'clock M., TUESDAY, August 20, 1857, for furnishing this Depot with Sta-lionery, for a period of one (1) year, com-mencing September 1, 1867, and ending the 31st day of August, 1865, inclusive, viz.;— Follo Post Paper, to weigh not less than 38 pounds to ream; Legal Cap Paper, to weigh not less than 16 pounds to ream; Cap Paper, Plain and Rulea, to weigh not less than 16 pounds to ream; Letter Paper, Plain and Ruled, to weigh not less than 12 pounds to ream; Note Paper, Plain and Ruled, to weigh not less than 6 pounds to ream; Englong Paper, to weigh not less than 12 pounds to ream; Note Paper, Plain and Ruled, to weigh not less than 6 pounds to ream; Enclope Paper, to weigh not less than 10 pounds to ream; Common Printing Paper; White Blotting Board, size 1922, to weigh not less than 100 pounds to ream. White Envelopes; size, 35,355, 420, 45,3105, 64,309, Letter Envelopes, white; size, 35,355, Letter Copying Books; size, 10x14; 750 pages, Cap Copying Books; size, 10x14; 750 pages, Blank Books, 8 to 12 quires, demi, half-bound, patent backs, Russian corners. Blank Books, 2 to 6 quires, 9x135, half roan, 20 sheets to quire. Memorandum Books, demi, 8vo., flush, 56 leaves. Arnold's Fluid, Writing and Copying; Black

leaves. Arnold's Fluid, Writing and Copying; Black Ink, "David's;" Carmine Ink, "David's," 4-oz. hottles, glass stoppers; Inkstands, glass, as-sorted sizes; Penholders, assorted; Sieel Pens, "Gillott's," 262, 303, 404, 604; Steel Pens, "Harri-son and Bradiord's," 14, 15, 20, and 505; Lead Penciis, "Faber's," Nos, 2 and 3; Paper Fastene ers, "Hamilton's" and "Boynton's;" Office Tape, rolis, No, 23, 100 yards to roll; Order Files, assorted, as ner sample: Scaling Wax, "best Tape, rolls, No. 28, 160 yards to roll; Order Files, assorted, as per sample; Sealing Wax, "best specie bank;" Wafers, 4-oz. boxes; India Rub-ber, "Faber's Improved Artist's;" Rubber Ink Eraser, "Faber's;" Muchage, 4-oz., 8-oz., and quart bottles; Gum Bands, assorted sizes; Erasers, "Wostenholm's;" French Violet Conving Inc.

Copying Ink. All of the above-named articles to be of the

All of the above-named articles to be of the best quality and to be subject to inspection. Samples of the articles of Stationery bid for must be delivered at this office twenty-four (24) hours previous to the opening of the bids. Each bid must be guaranteed by two respon-sible persons, whose signatures must be ap-pended to the bid, and certified to as being good and sufficient security for the amount in-volved, by the United States District Judge, Attorney, Collector, or other public officer. Blank forms for bids can be had on applica-tion at this office, and bidders are requested to be present at the opening of the same. The right is reserved to reject any bid deemed

be present at the opening of the same. The right is reserved to reject any bid deemed too high, and no bid from a defaulting con-tractor will be received. Endorse envelopes. "Proposals for Forage and Stationery," respectively. By order of Brevet Mai-Gen G. H. CROSMAN

y order of Brevet Maj.-Gen. G. H. CROSMAN, Asst. Quartermaster-Gen. U. S. A. HENRY W. JANES, Captain and Asst. Quartermaster, t Brevet Major U. S. A. 8 10 St

 Improvement of the Des Moines

 Improvement of the Mississippi River,

 U.S. Engineer's Office,

 Davenpoer, Iowa, July 24, 1867.

 Sealed proposals, in duplicate, will be re-ceived at this office until 12 M., WEDNESDAY,

 September 4, 1867, for excavating the prism and constructing the embankment wall of the Canal for the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi ruyer at the Des Moines

f the Mississippi river at the Des Moines

Canal for the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi river at the Des Moines Rapids. The Canal is to be about 7% (seven and one-half) miles long, extending from Nashville to Keokuk, Iowa. The width at the water surface inside the canal to be 300 (three hundred) feet in embankment, and 250 (two hundred and fifty) leet in excavation, and in low water to be 5 (dive) feet deep. All the material excavated from the prism of the canal to be used in build-ing the embankment. The latter throughout the greater part of the distance will be about 300 (three hundred) feet from the Iowa shore. Where rock excavation occurs, the bottom of the canal will have a slope of 11% (one and one-half) inches to the mile. The embankment is to be built of earth clay and rock; to be 10 (ten) feet wide on top, including the rip-rap cover-ing; to be 2 (two) feet above high-water mark, with slopes of 11% (one and one-half) base to 1 (one) vertical. The average thickness of the rip-rap protection to be 2% (two) feet on the canal side, and 1 (one) foot on top. All propositions must state the price at which each and every kind of work specified in the proposal is to be done, and no bid will be coneach and every kind of work specified in the proposal is to be done, and no bid will be con-sidered that is not definite in this respect.

827 6m "Well," I says, "you must be a born natural, not to understand, and call yourself a enough for to show what he might be.' I was a wanderin' about like any one deserted

a reg'lar hidjit, and that Miss Tredwell is a flirt," He says, "I never did 'ear such a woman to find fault as you are, Martha. Wny, you'd find out blemishes in a hangel."

I says, "That ain't Miss Tredwell, tho' you are

always, "I'm that an e and a houven, the you are always a cryin' 'er up, for she's no hangei." The the moment as I 'eard she were a-goin', I says, "I'm there," for I wasn't a-goin' to let 'er 'ave a chance of pisonin' Brown's mind agin me, as I know'd as she'd glory in, for tho' not a jealous disposition, and, goodness knows, no cause; yet it's more than flesh and blood can to think as your own 'usband's been set agin you, with nobody nigh for to take your part

So I says, "Well then, Brown, let's 'ear about it.

""Well," he says, "it's Cook's escursion, as I were a-sayin'." "Ah," I says, "let's 'ope there ain't too many

cooks, as we all knows will spile the broth;" as I'm sure, Mr. Scratchley, is true with these 'ero French, as is all cooks; and I never tasted sich rubbish as their broth, as they calls builtion, as don't taste of nothink but water and grease, as they'll lap up by the quart, as can't do 'em no good.

Brown, he was a losin' 'is temper, and says to

me, "Are you agoin' to listen or not?" I says, "You needn't be down my throat, jest

cos I opens my mouth." He says, "Take and read it yourself." "No," I says, "you esplain it clear to me." "Well, then." he says, "you can go and see this 'ere Exhibition in Paris, and stop a week,

for about five pounds, as is cheap." "Yes," I says, "but none of their dirty 'oles to live in, and all manner of beastliness for to eat,

as the werry sight on gives me the 'orrors." He says, "I've heard say as everythink is fustrate, and as Mr. Cook looks arter it all 'isself, as

"Well," I says, "I should 'ope so, or else you won't ketch me a-filanderin' about Paris with him, as is a bold place; and you do ought for to be werry careful 'ow you goes on, for them foreigners is a lot as makes uncommon free."

"Well," says Brown, "I don't think as you'll ketch, any one a-makin' too free with you in a urry.

"Ah," I says, "Brown, there was a time when you wouldn't 'ave spoke that light about it."

"Yes," he says, "that were alore you took to a front," and bursts out a-lardn', as 'urt my feelins', though I wouldn't let 'im see it, "Well," he says, "are you agreeable for

to go?"

I says, "I am, Brown, thro' 'avin' wowed for

''Oh," he says, "don't mind that; stop at 'ome

if you likes." I says, "No, Mr. Brown, I goes where you goes, and stops where you stops." "Well, then," he says, "he ready by Satur-

day. And so I was, tho' not a day as I likes to leave

ome. Somebow I didn't feel as I were a-goin' on Saturday, and so it turned out, for on Friday evenin' Brown said as we wasn't to start till the

evenin' Brown said as we wasn't to start till the Tuesday follerin'. I was werry glad to 'ave the time for to get ready, and certingly I must say as Mrs. Porter, as is the laundress, 'ad got me up two musilngs beautiful, as was lovely dresses—one a orange striped with green, and the other a blue, with large yaller leaf a-runnin' all over it. I wouldn't 'ave no scarcity of clothes, so took

for I'm that nervous, as any allusions to accidents, and must get out at the fust station." "Ah." I says, "some is so; but, law, it's no

use a thinkin' about it, for my part, whenever I goes out anywheres I gives myself up for lost, and then don't think no more about it, tho'," I

says, "for to end piecemeal ain't what any one would like." Brown, he says, "Drop it, can't you, don't you see as you're a-makin' this good lady quite faint, so drop it."

I did; and talkin' of droppin'. I thought as I must 'ave been melted down with the 'eat, tho' a-facin' of the wind as blowed things into my face constant, and a somethink got in my eye, as was hagony till the old gentleman got it out with 'is gold ring, as I've 'eard say is a fine thing for the eye, partikler for to cure a sty. 'Owever Mr. Cook could manage to 'ave the

sea that calm as it were a lookin'-glass. I could never make out, till a young gent as were a-sectim' by me says, "Why not?" I says, "Because we all know as them ele-

I says, Because we all know as them ele-phants is outrageous when let loose, as I knows well, for when I come afore I thought as every moment was my last, and looked for ard quite

nat'ral to a briny grave." Says the young chap, "Would you try 'omypathy ?"

"Well," I says, "I'd owe any one a good deal as would save me from them suffrages."

as would save me from them suffrages." "Oh," he says, "one of these powders will keep it off." "Well," I says, "I wish as you'd 'ave kep' it off me;" for he was a-goin' to take a powder, and it the wind didn't take and blow it all into my face, and a lot went into my eye, as was quite throw'd away, thro' not bein' a part as sea-sickness is a trouble to. I don't think as I should 'ave 'ad a qualm, only some nasty blacks was a-settin' near me as give way to their teelin's disgustin'. So I says, "You dirty black beast," I says, "'ow dare you to do it." He says, "Me no go for to do it. No me

says, "Me no go for to do it. No me He

fault." I says, "Yes, it is." I says, "Why can't you turn your nasty black face away from any-body?" As is always a unpleasant sight, for if there is a thing in this world as I 'ates it's a black man; not but what of course they've got their feelin's, only they always gives me a turn some'ow, not but what I've know'd em that affable as you'd quite take to 'em, and as to cookin', they're wonderful clever, tho' I don't quite tancy the wittles.

wittles. I've 'eard a deal about their ways over there in "Robinson Crusse," the' certainly that Friday were a kind-'arted savage, as seemed fond of his pa, as is 'uman natur still, tho' black.

I felt a hitle bit squeamy once, but only for 'art a minit like, and wouldn't touch nothink but a glass of bitter ale; and all I've got to say is, that it could be and all I've got to say is, that it ever any one did rule the waves, it's Mr. Cook's escursions.

When we got to Dieppe, Brown says to me, "Old gal, it won't never do for us to get to Parls in the middle of the night or towards mornin', so I tell

middle of the night or towards mornin', so I ten you what it is, we'll go on to Ruin." "Weil," I says, "I don't 'old with goin' to Ruin, as we could 'ave gone to long ago at once but for care and a lookin to the main chance, but if you're a-goin' there I'll foller." He says, "I'm areeable." I says, "I'm areeable." I ain't got nothink to say agin Ruin, as cer-tingly is a fine town, but I'm sure the fall as I got

tingly is a fine town, but I'm sure the fall as I got a-gettin' into bed with them spring mattresses. as is wobbly sort of things, and thro' me not bein over active in climbin', is a buster. I got into the bed and slipped off again in au instant, and

So she says, ' 'I'm a-famishin'." And, jest then, up come Mr. Wells, and says as he'd 'ad a glass of pale ale, as 'ad done 'im that good, and

made a man on im. So I says, "Wherever did you get it?"

He says, "Jest out at that door," I says, "We're sure to find you somewheres

about.

He says, "All right," And off we goes for to get a little beer, and come right on to a English refreshment-place, where there was a lot of lovely gals certingly, but looked that 'aughty as you'd 'ave thought they was royal families.

don't think as ever I should 'ave got up artin if Brown 'sdn't come in to 'elp me, and no bones broke, only a good deal shock. It certingly is wonderful for to see them old hurches that crumbly as you wouldn't think

for my leet was that hagony as I could 'ardly bear to put 'em to the ground

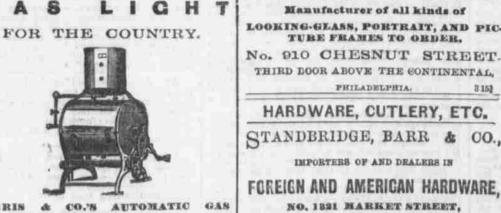
I was a-tryin' for to get along as well as I could, when we got up to where the cab was a comin' along with Mrs. Archbutt and Mrs. Wells in it, as is both full figgers, and there was Miss Tredwell in, too; as filled it chuck full, as the savin' is.

So as soon as Miss Treadwell see me, she says as she'd get out and walk, as she should prefer, as is 'er bold ways a-likin' to be always a-charfin' and talkin'. I was that dead beat as couldn't say 'er nay, for walk I couldn't, and three was as much as ever that cab could 'old, and squeezy work it was; but we managed it, and off we goes, and 'adn't got 'arf a mile when, in turnin' the corner preity sharp, I 'eard a crunch, and then came a bump, and over we was. There was Mrs. Wells a-yellin' and Mrs. Arcubutt a-ravin,' and there came a crowd, and them police, as got the door open and begun a-pullin' at me like mad, a-tearin' my clothes off my back and agoin' on like anythink in their langwidge. 'Ow they did get us out I don't know, and a deluge of rain a-comin' down as drenched us pretty nigh. [To be continued in THE EVENING TELEGRAPH

to-morrow.]

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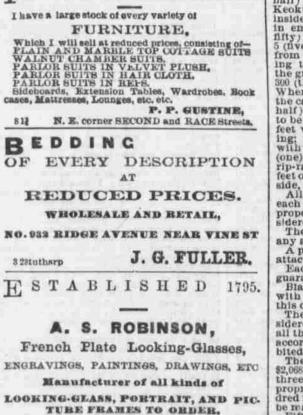
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8 153

The Government reserves the right to reject

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids. A printed copy of this advertisement must be statched to each proposal. Each bid must contain a written or printed guarantee signed by two responsible persons. Blanks for proposals of the form required, with form of guarantee, will be furnished at this office on application. The price or prices in the contract will be con-sidered as including the expense of furnishing all the materials and performing all the work, seconding to the plans and specifications exhi-bited at the letting. The entire cost of the canal is estimated at \$2,068,345 (two million sixty-eight thousand three hundred and forty-five). The amount ap-propriated by Congress is \$700,000 (seven hun-dred thousand dollars)—the contract can only be made to cover this amount.

be made to cover this amount. Fifteen (15) per cent. of the amount of any work done or materials furnished, at the con-

while the of materials infinished, at the con-tract price thereof, will be reserved until the whole work which is the subject of contract shall be entirely completed. Persons desiring further information can obtain the same by calling at this office, where maps, plans, specifications, and form of con-tract can be consulted.

Tract can be consulted. Proposals must be addressed to the under-signed, and should be endorsed "Proposals for work on the improvement of the Des Moines Rapids." J. H. WILSON, Lieut.-Col. 35th Infantry, 7 30 4w Byt. Major-General U. S. Army.

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