anan who is "behind"—

And the man behind the cannon has been
toosted, wined and dined;
There's the man behind the musket, and

There's the man behind the musket, and the man behind the fence;

and the man behind his whiskers, and the man behind his rents;

and the man behind the plow beam, and the man behind the hoe;

and the man behind the ballot, and the man behind the dough;

and the man behind the counter, and the man behind the bill;

and the man behind the pestle, and the And the man behind the pestle, and the man behind the pill.

And the man behind the jimmy, and the man behind the bars; And the Johnny that goes snooping on the stage behind the "stars;" And the man behind the kisser, and the

Up the rugged mountain side a thousand feet he takes his way, Or as far into the darkness from the cheer-ing light of day; Ele is shut out from the sunlight, in the

gimmer of the lamps;
He is cut off from the sweet air in the sickly fumes and damps;
He must toll in cramped positions; he must
take his life in hand.
For he works in deadly perli that but few
can understand.
The does it all in silence, and he seldom
makes a kick.

Which is why I sing the praises of the man behind the pick.

/He unlocks the bolted portals of the moun-tains to the stores His in nature's vast exchequer in her treas-ure-house of ores.

pplies a key dynamic, and the gates are backward rolled,

are backward rolled,
And the ancient rocks are riven to their
secret heart of gold.
Things of comfort and of beauty and of
usefulness are mined
By this brave and quiet worker—he's a
friend of humankind;
Who, though trampled down and underpaid, tolls on without a kick;
So I lift my hat in honor of the man behind
the nick.

-Colorado Springs Gazette.

My Strangest Case

BY GUY BOOTHBY.

Author of "Dr. Kikola," "The Beautiful White Devii," "Pharos, The Egyptian," Etc.

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CHAPTER III.—CONTINUED.

He had scarcely gone before one of my clerks entered the room and canded me a card. On it was printed the name of Mr. Edward Bayley, and in the left-hand bottom corner was managing director of the Santa Cruz company of Forzoda in the Argentine Republic.

"Show the gentleman in, Walters,"

In a few minutes a tall, handsome irreproachably turned out, entered the office. He seated himself in a chair the clerk placed for him, pu his hat and umbrella on another, and

then turned to me.
"My card has made you familiar with my name, Mr. Fairfax," he be-gan, "and doubtless, if you are at all familiar with mines and mining, you are acquainted with the name company I have the honor to repre-

"I am very much afraid the mining market does not possess very much interest for me," I replied. "I have to work so hard for my money, that when I have got it I prefer to sevest it in something a little more reliable. May I inquire the nature of your business with me?

I have come to see you, Mr. Fairfax," he said, speaking very impres sively, and regarding me deliberately as he did so, "on rather a delicate subject. Before I explain what it is, may I ask that you will treat what I am about to tell you as purely con-

dential one," I answered for the secand time in two days. "I venture to think that this room has heard more Exercise than almost any other in England. But though they say walls have ears, I have never heard it said

"It is sometimes a good thing that they have not," he replied. "And wow let me tell you what business has brought me here. In the first place, if you do not already know it, I may say that the company I repre-ment is an exceedingly wealthy one, and, as our business lies a long way from Threadneedle street, if I may so put it, it is necessary for us to trust very largely to the honesty of our employes on the other side of the world. Of course we make all sorts of inquiries about them prior to engaging their services, and it is also needless to say that we keep a sharp eye on them when they have entered our employ. Nevertheless, it is quite possible, all precautions notwithstanding, for an unscrupulous man to take advantage of us matter of fact, this is what has happened, and what has also brought me to you. For some considerable time past we have had our suspicions that our manager at the mines has been in league with a notorious raszal in New York. In proof of this, I might say that our returns have shown a decided falling off, while our manager has, so we have lately discovered, within the past year become rich enough to purchase prop-erty to a considerable extent in the United States. Unfortunately for us, ewing to a lack of direct evidence, we are unable to bring his defalca-

"That is my errand," he replied, gravely. "If you care to undertake the task, we, on our side—and I speak as the mouthpiece of the comtion," I replied, "and I took is the sanctum, which leads main office. "What can I speak as the mouthpiece of the comtion," I replied, "and I took is the sanctum, which leads main office. "What can I speak as the mouthpiece of the comtion," I replied, "and I took is the sanctum, which leads main office. "What can I speak as the mouthpiece of the comtion." pany—will be prepared to pay you may be able to help me." very high terms for your services; in "I will do all that is in my power point of fact, almost what you may ask in reason. The matter, as you may suppose, is a most serious one for us, and every day's delay is adding to it. May I ask what your terms would be, and when would you be prepared to start?"

And the man behind the kisser, and the man behind the fist;
And the girl behind the man behind the grun is on the list;
And the man behind the bottle—and when they were short of men,
There was some small rhymester warbled of the man behind the pen;
But they missed one honest fellow, and I'm raising of akick,
That they didn't make a mention of the man behind the pick.

Up the rugged mountain side a thousand feet he takes his way,

The takes his way,

The feet of the way of my accepting it."

"A difficulty!" he exclaimed, raising his eyebrows as if in astonishment. "But surely that obstacle can be removed. Especially for an offer of such magnitude as we are prepared to make you."

"Excuse me," I said, somewhat tartly, "but, however great the inducement may be, I never break faith

ducement may be, I never break faith with my clients. The fact of the my clients. matter is, only yesterday I promised to undertake another piece of business which, while not being so remunerative, perhaps, as that you are now putting before me, means a very great deal to those who are, for ne time being, my employers."
"Would it be impertinent on my

part to ask at what time afternoon you arrived at this momentous decision?"

"Shortly after four o'clock," I answered, but not without a little won-derment as to his reason for putting the question. For my own part I did not see what it had to do with the matter in hand.

"Dear me, how very vexing, to be sure!" he observed. "This is certainly another instance of the contrari-ness of fate."
"How so?" I asked.

"Because it was my intention to have called upon you shortly after lunch yesterday on this matter," he answered. "Unfortunately I was prebeen able to get here, I might have forestalled your more successful varieties. Are you quite sure, Mr. Fair
Are you quite sure, Mr. Fair
"I should like to see them im
"I replied. fax, that it is out of the question for you to undertake what we want?"

"I should like to mensely," I replied.
Thereupon he cros

"If it is necessary for me to go at had unlocked ince. I fear it is," I answered. "But leather bag. once, I fear it is," I answered. "But if it would be of any use to you, I could send you a most trustworthy subordinate; one who would be quite capable of undertaking the work, and who would give you every satisfaction.

"I fear that would not be the same thing," he said. "My firm have such implicit faith in you that they would not entertain the idea of anyone else going. Now think, Mr. Fairfax, for a moment. If you are prepared to go, I, in my turn, on behalf of my company, am prepared to offer you your expenses and a sum of £5,000. You, need not be away more three months at longest, so that you see our offer is at the rate of £20, 00 a year. It is princely remunera-

I looked at him closely. It was a defaulting manager would scarcely sion. seem to warrant so much zeal.

"I am very much flattered by your offer," I said; "and believe me, I most truly appreciate the generosity of your company; but, as I said before, if it is necessary for me to go at once, that is to say, before I have completed my present case, then I have no option but to most reluc-tantly decline."

"Perhaps you will think it over," he continued, "and let me know, say to-morrow?

"No amount of thinking it over vill induce me to alter my decision," replied. "You must see for yourthat I have no right to accept a retainer from one party and then throw them over in order to favor another. That would not only be a dishonorable action on my part, but would be bad from a business point of view. No, Mr. Bayley, I am exceedingly sorry, but I have no option out to act as I am doing.

"In that case I must wish you a very good morning," he remarked, and took up his hat and umbrella. I could see, however, that he was still

reluctant to go.
"Good morning," I answered. hope your affairs in the Argentine may brighten before very long." He shook his head gloomlly, and

then left the office without another word. When he had gone I answered some etters, gave some instructions to my managing clerk, and then donned my hat and set off for the office of the

shipping company that had brought Gideon Hayle to England. Unfortunately it transpired that they were not in a position to do very much in the way of helping me. Mr. Bertram had certainly traveled home in one of their steamers, so the manager informed me, a boat that as a rule did not carry passengers. He had landed at the docks, and from that moment they had neither seen nor heard anything of him. that she was now somewhere on her way between Singapore and Hong Kong. This was decidedly disapful have had unpromising beginnings, I did not take it too seriously to heart. Leaving the shipping office, I tions home to him, though of course we are as certain of our facts as we can well be of anything."

largest firms in the gem trade. We had had many dealings together in the past, and as I had had the good

ing this man to book. Is that not chief partner, as I entered his snug little sanctum, which leads out of the main office. "What can I have the

"I am in search of some informa-tion," I replied, "and I think you

to render you assistance," he re-turned, as he wiped his glasses and placed them on his somewhat fleshy "What is the information you require? Has there been another big robbery of stones, and you think it possible that some of them may have come into our hands?"

"There certainly has been a robhave been offered to you, but not in the way you mean. The fact of the matter is, I want to discover whether or not a large consignment of uncut rubies and sapphires of great value have been placed upon the market within the last two months."

"Uncut rubies and sapphires are being continually placed upon market," he observed, leaning back in his chair and rattling his keys

"But not such stones as those I am looking for," I said, and furnished him with the rough weights that had been supplied to me.

"This is interesting—decidedly interesting," he remarked. "Especially since it serves to offer an explanation on a certain matter which we have been interested in for some little time past. On the 16th of last month, a gentleman called upon us here, who stated that he had lately returned from the far east. He had had, so he declared, the good fortune to discover a valuable mine, the locality of which he was most careful not to disclose. He thereupon showed my partner and myself ten stones, consisting of five rubies and thereupon five sapphires, each of which weighed between 55 and 60 carats

"And you purchased them?" "We did, and for a very heavy sum. I can assure you the vendor was very well aware of their value, as we soon discovered, and he was also a good Had I hand at a bargain. Would you care to see the stones? I shall be pleased

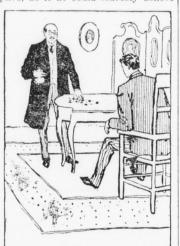
> Thereupon he crossed the room to safe in the corner, and, when he had unlocked it, took from it a wash-Presently ten superb gems were lying before me on the table.

> "There they are," he said, waving his hands towards them, "and, as you can see for yourself, they are worthy of being set in the crown of an emperor. It is not often that we are enthusiastic in such matters, but in peror. this case we have very good reason to be. When they are properly cut, they will be well-nigh priceless

> "Do you happen to know whether he sold any more of a similar kind in London?" I asked, as he returned them to their place in the safe.

"I know that he sold 15 smaller ones to Henderson & Soll, and three almost as large as those I have just shown you to a firm in Amsterdam. "If he is the man I want to get hold of, that accounts for 28," I said, plain that he was in earnest—in deadly earnest, so it seemed. Even "Originally he had 93 in his posses." "Originally he had 93 in his posses

> "Ninety-three?" the merchant re plied, as if he could scarcely believe



TEN SUPERB GEMS WERE LYING BEFORE ME

his ears. "Why, his mine must be a source of unlimited wealth. I wish I had known this before."

'So do I," I said. "And now perhaps you can go further and furnish me with a description of the man himself. I shall then be able to tell you whether my gentleman and your customer are one and the same per-

"I can describe him to you perfectly well. He was tall, but some what sparely built, very sunburnt-which would be accounted for by his long residence in the east-his hair was streaked with gray, he had dark eyes, and a singularly sharp nose."

'Did he wear a beard?" "No, only a mustache. The latter was carefully trimmed, and, I think, vaxed. Of this, however, I am not quite certain.

'And his name?' "He would not tell us that. We pressed him to disclose it, but he obstinately refused to do so. He said that if his name became known it might lead to the discovery of his mine, and that he was naturally

"But what guarantee had you that o him, though of course ration of our facts as we fanything."

I said.

The bring his defaired action of the past firms in the gem trade. We had had many dealings together in the past, and as I had had the good unlikely. In the first place, they are understand," I said.

The bring his defaired action and but had been trade. We had had had many dealings together in the past, and as I had had the good unlikely. In the first place, they are uncut; in the second, we have had the past action of the course of the stones were not stolen?"

anxious that such an event should

THE MAN BEHIND THE PICK. Or to induce me to go out to the made inquiries on all kinds of gush about the goan who is "behind"—

There has been all kinds of gush about the goan who is "behind"—

"Good day, Mr. Fairfax," said the life of bring-good day, Mr. Fairfax," said the life who have been to go out to the would now do all that they could for me in return.

"Good day, Mr. Fairfax," said the life some such few stones in Europe, and life with the properties of the closest inquiries. the closest inquiries. Besides, there are such few stones in Europe, and what there are safely in the possession of their owners. Surely are not going to tell me that they were stolen?"

In the man's voice there was a

perceptible note of alarm.
"I don't think you need be afraid," I said. "They were stolen by the man from his two partners, and all they want is to get hold of him in order to make him disgorge their share of what he got for them."

"I am glad indeed to hear that," was the reply. "I was beginning to grow uneasy. And now is there any other way in which I can serve you? If so, i shall be only too pleased to do it."

I informed him that if I had anything else to ask him I would call upon him again, and then took my While I was in a great measure satisfied with the information; I had gained, I was not alto-gether easy in my mind. The question to be answered was, was the man I was after the same individual who had sold Jacob and Bulenthall the stones? The description given me varied in several particulars to that furnished me by Kitwater. declared him to possess black hair: the merchant had said gray; the one had declared that Hayle possessed a beard, the other that he had only a waxed mustache. The figure, how ever, was in both cases identically the same.

Having satisfied myself that he had no more to tell me, I thanked him for his courtesy and left the office. A fresh idea had occurred to me which I thought might lead to something, and I resolved to put it into practice without any further waste

[To Be Continued.]

DOCTORS HAVE TROUBLES.

Some of Which May Be Avoided by a Judicious Use of Discretion.

As a rule you can never take a woman at her word. A Louisville woman and her husband went on east for recuperation. It was their intention of interviewing a leading physician before they came back in order to get his opinion of the wife's health. She had been far from well, and finally concluded nothing would satisfy her but the verdict of this medical celebrity, relates the Louisville Times.

Accordingly, husband and wife called by appointment upon this specialist. "Now, doctor," said the woman, "I want your honest opinion. I like candor and don't wish to make the trip here to be told any falsehood about This sounded very open and coura

reous, so the expert went to work. He looked at her well, asked questions, made a minute examination of the case and finally inquired: "Did any doctor ever tell you you had so and so?"

"Only one, the horrid brute," was the reply. "I have been to ten or twelve, and he was the only one who was so ignorant and rude as to tell me such a thing, and I discharged him at

"Discharged him!" exclaimed the expert. "Why, madam, he was the only one of the lot who told you the truth.

Speaking of Wet Blankets. When a miserable, selfish, unsocia-ble person joins a party and puts a damper upon their spirits he is described as a "wet blanket." Literally, however, a wet blanket can do far days of the old muskets the Indians of North America used them to stop the flight of bullets. This is hardly to be believed, but it is said that the Mexicans were once defeated by this plan. Their general was trying to put down a rising of Yaquis. At first he was amused to see the Indians advance under cover of their blankets, held up like shields. Finding that their progress was not stopped by his men's fire, he was at last forced to retreat, but not till the Vaquis, in their turn, had till the laquis, in their turn, had poured into his ranks a terrible fire at close quarters. The Indians, it was thought, had found out by accident that a wet blanket, when held up clear of the ground-allowed to hang, so tospeak, as on a clothes line-could not be pierced by a bullet. Dry blankets were useless, and of course wet blan-kets would also be useless against the rifles and bullets of the present day .-Chicago Tribune.

King Oscar Asks Stranger to Lunch, A more simple and homely king than he king of Sweden it is impossible to find. M. Gaston Bonnier, the celebrated botanist, tells of how once, when he was botanizing near Stockholm, he met a stranger similarly oc cupied. The two botanists fraternized and M. Bonnier suggested that they should lunch together at an inn. "No come home and lunch with me instead, said the stranger, leading the way to-wards the palace gates. M. Bonnier was naturally astonished, but his new acquaintance was most apologetic. "I'm sorry," he said, "but I happen to be the king of this country, and this is the only place I've got to entertain anybody in." So they went in and unched, and talked botany together all the afternoon .- Chicago Tribune.

To Be Envied.

Castleton—I envy you! Clubberly—What for?

"Didn't you say you were obliged to attend a deep philosophical discussion lasting several hours?

"But I don't see that's anything to "Well, I've got to go to a society function and talk about nothing." Detroit Free Press.

Astonishing.

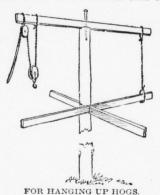
It is astonishing the number of relatives of a rich man bob up after his ** Kaue business with me is he endear a signal service, I knew that they them in our possession for some death.-Washington (Ia.) Democrat.



AN EXCELLENT DEVICE.

For Hanging Up Hogs the Contrivance Here Described Has But Few Superiors

Erect a strong post about eight or nine feet high and attached to it four stationary arms, as shown in the cut. The post should extend about two feet above the arm and at its top an iron pin 11/2 inches in diameter should be driven in the post. The top piece that the through is a piece of scantling three four with a pulley wheel at one This end should extend out four or five inches farther than the



The rope is fastened in the arms. scantling back from the pulley wheel, then passes through the movable pulley over the pulley wheel drops to the ground, where it ready to lift with. The back end of the scantling is fastened to the arm below by means of a rope tied just the right length, which can be shifted from one arm to another as needed. The hook on the movable pulley is hooked on the gambrel when the hog is raised to the arm, and the pulley is then turned to the next arm, and so on as needed. A hog weighing 450 pounds can easily raised by this method.—Meritte Atkins, in Agricultural Epitomist.

FEEDING SCRUB CATTLE.

It Is Largely a Speculation, and One That Rarely Pays a Satisfactory Profit,

In an able article written by Mr. T.

F. B. Sotham, and published in the annual report of the Kansas state board of agriculture, he says: "Highly satisfactory results have been recorded from feeding the grades of all the beet breeds. .What a significant lesson i taught by the preeminent fact that not one single instance of a profit with scrubs is recorded. Men who feed scrubs do not care to advertise their methods; a profit from them savors too much of sharp practices. Men who claim to have made money feeding scrubs are few, and they are sly in their operation. They buy anything cheap; bulls, which they castrate and dehorn; cock-horned, stunted threeyear-olds are dehorned, in the expectation of palming them off as yearlings—anything to improve a ances. Yet the operations of feeders, if carefully investigated, will show that they never get above market price for their corn, and men who have borrowed money to buy this sort of cattle and fed purchased corn invariably lost money, while for every dollar profit made on scrub feeding the same would have yielded far greater results if fed to good stock. If in isolated cases any real profit has been made from feeding scrub cattle, it has been invariably by owners of large tracts of rich corn ands feeding their portion of corn, which is mainly raised by renters. In a majority of years it is safe to say they do not receive through their cattle the market price for this corn, and in profit-yielding years they have such large numbers that a small average profit realizes a large sum. In this these big feeders of cheap cattle are like the packers. who, killing thousands of cattle per day, are satisfied with so small a profit that a small slaughterer cannot live in competition. Feeding scrub cattle is largely a speculation. Where feeder does not own the corn, debt free, he runs a dangerous financial risk. Scrub cattle should be allowed to fill the tins, off of grass, and that grass must be cheap grass, in a country where it is so plentiful and valueless that cattle can be kept the year round for a pit-tance. In such a section they may be kent with only the loss of the profits stock been kept in their place. Distemper Among Horses.

Distemper is a disease common to horses that, as a rule, requires no treatment, as it runs out and the animal gets well in about ten days. It is recognized by swellings under the jaw and sometimes below the ear, that form abscesses containing pus, and if not lanced will in time burst of themselves. The animals should not be worked, but fed on good food, with plenty of fresh water, and if bowels are constipated a quart of raw linseed oil should be given carefully as a drench by the mouth, never by the nose, and if the kidneys are sluggish give a teaspoonful of powdered saltpeter once a day for several days. Midland Farmer.

If tempted to let the cows' stable go without being cleaned out every day just because the cows are in a shorter time than in the winter, don't yield but clean it out more thoroughly than

SURGICAL OPERATIONS

How Mrs. Bruce, a Noted Opera Singer, Escaped an Operation. Proof That Many Operations for Ovarian Troubles are Unnecessary.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM: -Travelling for years on the road, with irregular meals and sleep and damp beds, broke down my health so completely two years ago that the physician advised a complete rest, and when I had gained



MRS. G. BRUCE. sufficient vitality, an operation for ovarian troubles. Not a very cheerful ovarian troubles. Not a very cheerfulprospect, to be sure. I, however, was
advised to try Lydia E. Pinkham's
Vegetable Compound and Sanative Wash; I did so, fortunately
for me. Before a month had passed I
felt that my general health had improved; in three months more I was
cured, and I have been in perfect
health since. I did not lose an engagement or miss a meal.

"Your Vegetable Compound is certainly wonderful, and well worthy the
praise your admiring friends who have
been cured are ready to give you. I
always speak highly of it, and you
will admit I have good reason to do
so."—Mrs. G. Bruce, Lansing, Mich.
\$5000 forfeit if above testimonial is not genuine.
The fullest counsel on this

The fullest counsel on this subject can be secured without cost by writing to Mrs Pinkham, Lynn, Mass. Your letter will be Lynn, Mass. Your leentirely confidential.







ENRY C. BLAIR, Philadelphia TEETHING NECKLACE

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