A Modest Man's Adventure.

If there is one thing in this world that I hate more than another it is an evening party, whether it take the form of tea, music, and twaddle, or come in the more awkward guise of a regular dance. Unfortunarely, I am short and ill-favored. Indeed, I can well remember even now the rage and grief which possessed my youthful mind when I discovered that I was called "The Toad" by my school companions, and how that our old coachman, who was my ally and confident in those days, could find no better words of consolation than "Never you mind, Master Jack; you let 'em talk, a pack of young impertinences. What I say is 'andsome is that 'andsome does."

Time has but accentuated my many personal detects, of which I am pain fully conscious, and the result is that I am shy, gauche and nervous in

One fell and dreadful day (mark it O Time, with the blackest letter in thy calender) I was invited by my cousins to escort them to a dancing party at South Kensington. I made feeble excuses; they were overruled. I appealed to my respected mother; alas! she thinks I only need bringing out to become an entertaining ornament to society.

Well, I gave in. What would you have me to do? Ugly as I am, I can't help seeing that Kate is a most pleasing person. I find it difficult to say "No" to any one, and an impossi. bility in the case of this lovely cousin of mine.

Kate and Millicent are what are called "fine girls," and I am not sure that I did not catch the ghost of a grin upon the long list of flunky faces in the hall as I stumbled along in my tight boots, with Kate on my right arm and Millicent on my left, and both of them talking to one another over my head, alas!

The ballroom was a long oblong, and opposite to the end where the musicians were stationed there was a kind of alcove or bay window, in which was placed one of those large circular ottomans which have a cushjoned seat all round, and on top of the lounge a receptacle which is filled with foliage, plants and drooping ferns. Now, could anything be more enticing to a man of my retiring disposition? If I could only get behind that happy ottoman, behold me blissfully concealed until the general move to supper should drag me from my resting place. Fortune favored me for once. But just as I was beginning to realize the pleasantness of my seclusion and the relief from the shyness which assails me in public I felt a most depressing sleepiness creeping

I must have slept soundly for some time, but at last, suddenly, and with a startled and chilly feeling, I awoke. Confused at first I could not imagine where I was or how my ordinary sleeping attire had become changed into the claw hammer coat and other male habiliments of evening society. However, as I crept round the ottoman, and peering out from my corner, saw a wide stretch of white floor cloth, dimly lighted, before me, and marked the music stands at the other end of the room, the dreadful truth burst in upon me; they had all gone down to supper. Now in my purturbation at the prospect of going to the abominable dancing party I had been unable to attack my dinner with my den himself, Millie? It is too bad of usual robust appetite. I was there- him." fore, ravenously hungry. Moved by a desire to eat and drink at whatever cost to my constitutional modesty, and agonized at the fear least the supper should be over and debris obtain what I began to want with an servants, who would be constantly going in and coming out.

I slipped quietly down the stairs, and soon found myself close to them. Now was my opportunity, and I was just going to seize it, when a fiend in dass, pushed a hugh dish of strawberries into my hands, saying in that umpronounceable cockney twang. "now then Swancy, (my mother calls mind you don't spill 'em."

Not a single minutes time was given me for expostulation or explanation; other waiters were passing on behind and before I could gather my scattered wits I found myself in the brilliant ly lighted supper room, among the hired waiters and with an enormous dish of fruit in my hands. What was I to do? I had not a moment to de cide. The horror of being seen in such a too:ridiculous position terrified me, and I found myself handing round the fruit, with a waiter following me with cream and sugar. Imagine the awful state of my mind when I ap: proached my cousins! They were close together, separated only by the partner of one of them. I could seeas I drew near, that they were talking vivaciously. It was their turn next The gentleman beside Kate said, "No, thanks." Bless him! Kate refused him without looking up. Millicen, allowed her friend to place some strawberries on her plate, talking eagerly all the time; and with a sigh of relief I passed on my strange round unrecognized. No questions were asked, and not knowing what to do, I followed them or rather, went with them, to the kitchen part of the man; sion, leaving one or two in the supper room to attend on the gentleman who remained there.

"Now its our turn to get a blowout said a long and cadaverous waiter to me, as we went down stairs side by side. "I dunno 'ow you feels, but the sight of them swells a bustin 'them: selves, and the smell of the vittles 'as made me that 'ungry as I could eat the 'ind leg of a dog raw."

I quite agreed with my gen leman, and painful as my position was I felt somewhat cheered at the prospect of food which his words opened out to

"Well," at length said my long friend leaning back in his chiar, heav: ing a sigh of repletion, and causually picking his teeth with a fork, "hall I can say is I done myself werry well, and I'ope you 'ave, too young man. I only wish I 'ad a go in like this hevery day; but life aint all beer and skittles, as the sayin' is. Been long at this trade? I aint sure if I've seed your face afore."

"No, said I, "this is the first job I ever had of the kind.

"Well said he, "yer might do wuss though the hours is trying to the and territories which does not fall under the

"I spose you know what you've got ter do, matey?" said my companion. "No," said I, "I can't say I do "

"Well, look yere," said be, "I stands ere at the bar and takes the tickets from the gents and calls out the num: bers on the 'eaps and 'ands the top' pers an ceterer to me and I gives 'em to the gents. They're all in horder, for I took 'em myself, and yer won't ave no trouble."

Just then the exodus began, and Here, waiter, No. 21; look sharp ! No. that; the brown coat. All right; this is mine." (A clink of silver.) "Thank ye, sir" from my friend. "Forty:two I tell you" (to me); "can't you find it? Clumsy idiot" (under his breath); 'do e quick. Don't keep me waiting here all night !" "Got a light waiter? Thanks," and so forth. I was trying in a confused sort of way, in the midst of the hubbub, to think how II should get out of it all, when I got sight of my topgear, with its appropriate tick: et pinned on in a convenient corner: Just then I fancied I distinguished my cousin Kate's voice, and soon I caught the words, unmistakably hers : Where on earth can Jack have hid.

Desperately I snatched up my bat and coat, and before my fellow:dis: penser, in his utter astonishment, had time to cry out "stop thief?" I was over the bar, down in a trice; and seated in the farthest corner of my thereof cleared away before I could aunt's carriage. I need scarcely add which they lie. - Chicago News. after this woeful experience and after the torture of those hours, that my increasing craving, it struck me that cousins have had to find some otehr it would be quite possible for me to escort, and society has lost an orna: glide into the supper-room among the ment (?) in the person of Mr. John de la Roche Brown.—English Paper.

-Christian Dean of Renovo, died on Friday last, of typhoid fever, and the funeral took place on Monday, Mr. Dean was an engineer and the hero of a father, and in the last stage he lies helpless in railroad collision in 1880, when with his | the corner. To get in these two stages for the leg firmly jammed against the red hot boiler of the engine, he was found with human shape, a waiter in evening hammer and chisel endeavoring to release his companion, Edward Nixon, who was in a less periless position than himself. It was the act of a brave, unselfish and devoted man, and will be long remembered to his honor. Religious services were held in the Presbymy hair auburn) look alive; Take terian church at 9 o'clock this morning those yere strawberries round and after which the remains were taken on my old clothes day express to Harrisburg for interment. - Lock Haven Democrat.

GOVERNMENT LANDS.

TWO WAYS BY WHICH FREE HOMES MAY BE ACQUIRED.

Provisions of the Homestead Law-How Land May be Acquired by Timber Culture Entry-Rights of Honorably Discharged Soldiers.

Government lands are available for free omesteads in Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Dakota, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Texas has no free lands. When she won her independence, at the saber's point, her domain became absolutely her own, and when the compact of union with the other states was formed she retained her proprietorship. The lands of Alaska are not open to settlement, and no title to any of them, save such narrowed and uncertain interests as may be de rived from old Russian grants, can be ob ained. There is a fiction that some vacant ands remain untaken in Indiana and Illinois but it has no foundation. A few undesirable quarter sections may be found in remote parts of Iowa. Within the vast public domain are found every variety of soil and climate, and every condition which men regard as conducive to prosperous rural life. The opportunity for choice is almost unlimited.

Free homes may be acquired from the government domain in two ways-by home stead and by timber culture entries. The first of these ways is general in its application, while the second is available only in the prairie countries. The homestead law enables actual settlers to secure title to not more than 160 acres each, provided the home steader be 21 years old or the head of a family and a citizen of the United States, or one who has legally declared his intention to become a citizen. The settlement must be actual and for the purpose of cultivation. To complete title the homesteader must within six months after entry begin to live on the land, and must continue his residence there for five years without intermission.

HONORABLY DISCHARGED SOLDIERS. If the settler has served in the army or navy of the United States, and been honor ably discharged, the period of such service is deducted from the five years of residence but the residence must last at least one year Soldiers discharged because of wounds are entitled to deduct the entire term of their enlistment. Stock raising and dairying are construed as cultivation. The land office fees for homestead entries, payable when ap plication is made, are: In Alabama, Arkan sas, Dakota, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Louis iana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Kebraska, land within the limits of a railroad grant, for 160 acres, \$18; for 80 acres, \$9; for 40 acres, \$7; land outside the limits of a railroad grant, for 160 acres, \$14; for 80 acres, \$7; for 40 acres, \$6. In Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and Wisconsin, land within the limits of a railroad grant, for 160 acres, \$22; for 80 acres, \$11; for 40 acres, \$8; land outside the limit of a railroad grant for 160 acres, \$16; for 80 acres, \$8; for 40 acres, \$6.50. The fees for final proof in the first named states are \$4, and in the last named states \$6 for 160 acres of land outside the railway limit, and double these for land within such limit, smaller tracts being charged proportionally.

All government lands in Arkansas and Missouri, all United States lands in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Kansas, except odd-numbered sections within the limits of railroad grants, made since Jan. 1, 1861. and all government land in all other states above exception, and which is not reserved or designated as coal or mineral land, are open to homestead entry. It is not necessary that government surveys should precede settlement, although they must be made before title can be perfected. The settler on unsur veyed land acquires a "preferred right" to

THE TIMBER CULTURE LAW. Upon the prairie lands 160 acres may be acquired under the timber culture law, the qualifications of the settler being the same as for a homestead. The fees in this case are \$14 at the time of entry and \$4 when the final proof is made. No distinction is made as regards lands within or without the limits of railroad grants. The requirements are eight years' residence and the cultivation of a stated area of forest trees per year. Lands acquired under either of the above laws are not subject to the debts of the settler made prior to their acquisition. Under the desert land law 640 acres can be acquired by payment of twenty-five cents per acre down, the construction of means of irrigation, and the payment of \$1 per acre at the end of three

The entries of government land were, in round numbers, 18,000,000 acres in 1883, 26,000,000 acres in 1884, and 20,000,000 acres in 1885. At this rate the available area, including reserves, will be exhausted within

In addition to the government lands, various states offer to settlers at nominal prices, ranging from six cents to as many dollars per acre, 58,500,000 acres of desirable land. There is held in reserve by the federal government all the vast territory of Alaska, and about 82,840,000 acres of Indian reservations, exclusive of Indian territory and Oklahoma. The different territories also hold 23,500,000 acres of land for the benefit of their school funds when they shall become states. These reserve areas will be futher increased by some 5,000,000 acres which is now salt marshes, but which can be recovered from the seas. Several million acres will also be added to the free domain through forfeitures of railway grants. The lands of Alaska are of uncertain availability, but that possession will afford at least 80,000,000 acres susceptible of modified cultivation. The Indian reservations are choice farming sections, and the areas reserved to the territories partake of all the varying characteristics of the regions in

Scotch Stages of Inebriety. The Scotch are nothing if they are not good whisky drinkers, but it is not the adulterated stuff you get here, but the water it is made of comes over "twenty falls," The only two stages of inebriety with a regular Scotch whisky soaker of the lower order is to get first "greetin' fou" and finally "blin' fou"-anglice, crying drunk" and "blind drunk." At the first stage he will sit down and sob by himself, probably about the death of his grandsmallest expenditure, and at the same time drink good whisky, is the object of all soakers -New York Commercial Advertiser.

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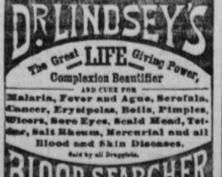
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