THE PITTSBURG DISPATCH, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1890.



A NOVEL DEALING WITH COTEMPORARY LIFE. WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.

BY WILLIAM BLACK,

Author of "A Princess of Thule," "Sunrise," and Many Other Stories of the Highest Reputation on Two Continents.

CHAPTER XXIV. NEW WAYS OF LIFE.

But no sooner had he torn open the en velope than his heart seemed to stand still -with a sort of fear and amazement. For this was Maisrie's own handwriting that he beheld-as startling a thing as if she herself had suddenly appeared before him, after these long, voiceless months. Be sure the worthy banker's accompanying letter did not win much regard; it was this sheet of thin blue paper that he quickly unfolded, his eye catching a sentence here and there, and eager to grasp all that she had to say at once. Aias! there was no need for any such haste; when he came to read this message that she had sent to Toronto, it had little to tell him of that which he most wanted to know. And yet it was a marvelous thing-to hear her speak, as it were! There was no date nor place mentioned in the letter; but none the less had this actual thing come all the way from her; her fingers had penned these lines; she had folded up this sheet of paper that now lay in his hands. It appeared to have been written on board ship; further than that all was uncertain and unknown.

He went into the library, and sought out a quiet corner; there was something in the strange reticence of this communication that he wished to study with care. And yet there was an apparent simplicity, too. She began by telling Mr. Thompson that her grandfather had asked her to write to him. merely to recall both of them to his memory; and she went on to say that they often talked of him and thought of him, and of bygone days in Toronto.

"Whether we shall ever surprise you by an unexpected visit in Yonge street," she proceeded, "I cannot tell; for grandiather's plans seem to be very vague at present and, in fact, I do not think he likes to be ques-tioned. But as far as I can judge he does not enjoy traveling as much as he used; it appears to fatigue him more than formerly; and from my heart I wish he would settle down in some quiet place, and let me care for him better than I can do in long voyages for him better than I can do in long voyages and railway journeys. You know what a brave face he puts on everything-and, in-deed, becomes a little impatient if you show any anxiety on his behalf; still, I can see he is not what he was; and I think he should rest now. Why not in his own country?-that has been his talk for many a day; but I suppose he considers me quite a child yet, and won't confide in me; so that when I try to persuade him that we should go to Scotland, and settle down to a quiet life in some place familiar to him, he grows quite angry, and tells me I don't understand such things. But I know his own fancy goes that way. The other morning I was reading to him on deck, and somehow I got to think he was not listening; so I raised my head; and I saw there were tears running down his cheeks-he did not so I raised any down his cheeks—he did not tears running down his cheeks—he did not seem to know I was there at all—and I heard him say to himself—'The beech woods of Balloray—one look at them—before I of Balloray—one look at them—before I come he set seriously to work to make him-come he set seriously to work to make him-tear intermittent after his acceptance of Balloray—one look at them—before I come he set seriously to work to make him-tear intermittent after his acceptance of the secretaryship—brought him in, on the average, another 2400 a year. On this in-come he set seriously to work to make him-tear intermittent after his acceptance of the secretaryship—brought him in, on the average, another 2400 a year. On this in-come he set seriously to work to make him-tear intermittent after his acceptance. self a miser. His tastes had always been simple-and excellent health may have been the Scotch songs that mention places-such as Yarrow, or Craigieburn, or Logan Braes -he becomes so strangely agitated; for some at once the cause and effect of his abstemtime afterward he walks up and down, by himself, repeating the word, as if he saw the place before him; and I know that he is habits in'every way, had a very definite aim constantly thinking about Scotland, but won't acknowledge it to me or anyone. Then here is another piece of news which is all the news one can send from on board a ship; and it is that poor dear grandtather has grown very peremptory! Can you believe it? Cau you imagine him irritable and impatient? You know how he has always scorned to be vexed about trifles; how he could always escape from everyday annovances and exasperations into his own dream-world; but of late it has been quite different; and as I am constantly with I am the chief sufferer. Of course I don't mind it, not in the least; if I minded it I wouldn't mention it, you may be sure; I know what his heart really feels toward me Indeed, it amuses me a little; it is as if I had grown a child again, it is 'Do this' and 'Do that'-and no reason given. Ah, well, there is not much amusement for either of us two; it is something." And here she went on to speak of certain common triends in Toronto, to whom she wished to be remembered, finally winding up with a very pretty message from "Yours ffectionately, Margaret Betnune."

tropical vegetation? Mr. Thompson wen on to say that he himself had never been to Port Said; but he guessed that it was more a calling-place for steamers than a pleasure or health resort; and no doubt the Bethunes had merely posted their letters there en route. But were they bound east or west? route. But were they bound east or west: There was no answer to this question—for they had not given the name of their ship. So the wild hopes that had arisen in Vin-cent's breast when he caught sight of Mais-rie's handwriting had all subsided again; and the world was as vague and as empty as before. Sometimes he tried to imagine that the big steamer which he pictured to himself as lyung in the barbor at Port Said was as lying in the harbor at Port Said was homeward bound; and that, consequently, even now old George Bethune and his granddaughter might have returned to their granddaugnter might have retarded to then own country; and then again something told him that it was useless to search papers for lists of passengers—that the unknown ship had gone away down the Red Sea and out to Australia or New Zealand, or perhaps had struck north toward Canton or Shanghai. He could only wait and watch -and he had a sandal-wood necklace when

he wished to dream. But the truth is he had very little time for dreaming; for Vin Harris was now become one of the very busiest of the millions of busy creatures crowding this London town. He knew his best distraction lay that way; but there were other reasons urging him on.

but there were other reasons urging him on. As it chanced, the great statesman who had always been Vincent's especial iriend and patron, finding that his private secretary wished to leave him, decided to put the office in commission; that is to say, he pro-posed to have two private secretaries, the posed to have two private scoretaries, the one to look after his own immediate affairs and correspondence, the other to serve as his "devil," so to speak, in political mat-ters; and the latter post he offered to Vin-cent, he having the exceptional qualifica-tions of being a member of the House. It is

not to be supposed that the ex-Minister was influenced in his choice by the fact that the young man was now on the staff of two im-portant papers, one a daily journal, the other a weekly; for such mundane con-siderations do not enter the sub-lime sphere of politics; nor, on the other hand, is it to be imagined that Vin Harris accepted the offer with all the more alacrity that his hold on man. Surmises and conjectures in such a case are futile-the mere playthings of one's enemies. It needs only to be stated that he accepted the office with every expectation o hard work; and that he got it. Such hunting up of authorities; such verification of quotations; such boiling down of blue books; such constant attendance at the House of Commons; it was all hardly earned at a salary of £400 a year. But very well he knew that there were many young men in this country who would have remen in this country who would have re-joiced to accept that position at nothing a year; for it is quite wonder all how private secretaries of Parliamentary chiefs manage, subsequently, to tumble in for good things. Then it is probable that his journalistic extension which ecceptual the programmer is the secretary of the secret

the moment I try to do anything I am met by a challenge—and a particularly incon-venient challenge it is. Do I believe with them, or do I believe with you? I told your aunt what you said about Mr. Bethene— how you described his character, and all that; but I didn't do it as well as you; for she remains unconvinced. As you told the story, it secured natural and plausible; but as I told it—and I was conscious of it at the time—it was less satisfactory. And mind you, if you stick to hard facts, and don't allow for any interpretation—" "If you look through the blue spectaeles, in short—" the moment I try to do anything I am met

"Precisely. Well, then, you are fronted with some extremely awkward things. I don't wonder that your auntasks pertinently why, it you are to begin and ex-tend this liberal construction of conduct--this allowing for motives--this convenient doctrine of forgiving everything to self-de-ception--this looking at man from his own ception-this looking at a man from his own standpoint-I don't wonder that she asks why anybody should be sent to prison at reproachful fashion. And then she said—— "I want you to come into the house for a

"Oh, as for that," said Vincent, frankly, "I don't say it would be good for the com-monwealth if all of us were George Bethunes.

Far from it. I look upon him as a sort of magnificent lusus nature; and I would not have him other than he is not in any one particular. But a nation of George Bethunes?—it would soon strike its head

against the stars." against the stars." "Very well, then," said Lord Mussel-burgh, "you are not contending for any general principle. I don't see why you and your family shouldn't be prepared to agree. You may both of you be right. You don't insist upon having the justifications you wright to Mr. Bethung extended to every



tion-want of understanding-is that to be literal? Perhaps it is. But I thought you said something just now about Mr. Bethune and a prison; will you tell me of any one say. 'Oh, I heard your nephew speak at the say, 'Oh, I heard your nephew speak at the Mansion Honse the other afternoon,' or 'I action of his that would suggest imprisonmet your nephew at the Foreign Office last night;' and I cannot sav, 'Don't you know; he has gone and made himself a stranger to

"Your aunt was merely talking of theories," said Musselburgh, rather uneasily, for he had not intended to use the phrase. 'What I urge is this-why shouldn't both "What I urge is this—way be dont in the something of you admit that there may be something in the other's view of Mr. Bethune, and agree to differ? I stand between you; I can see now how much can be advanced on both see now how much can be advanced on both

nent?

to know more about them than auybody else. He and they have been on terms of closest intimacy, and for a long time; and you may be pretty sure that the girl Vin wants to marry is no tarnished kind of a person-in his eyes." "Ah, yes-in his eyes!" said Lady Mun-selburgh rather sadly "Well, his eyes are as clear as most folks" - at least, I've generally found them so," her busband said-trying what a little vague optimism would do.

"Ah, yes-in his eyes." said Lady Mus-selburgh rather sadly "Well, his eyes are as clear as most folks" -at least, I've generally found them so," her husband said-trying what a little vague optimism would do. One alternoon Vincent was walking along Piceadilly-and walking rapidly, as was his wont, for the twin purposes of exercise and economy-when he saw, some way ahead of him, Lady Muselburgh crossing the pay-ment to her carriage. She saw him, too, and stopped-color mounting to her face. When he came up he merely lifted his hat, and would have kept on his way but that sbe addressed him. "Vincentil" she said in an appealing, half-reproachful fashion. And then she said---

He paused for a second. "Well, sunt, you've had your way; and there's no more to be said, except this, perhaps, that you don't seem to realize the greatest of all the mistakes you have made. Your three years, even if they should be three years of ab-sence, will not be years of forget/ulness on either Maisrie Bethune's part or mine. Oh, nor, nothing of the kind; don't cherish any illusions on that score. It happened curi-ously that just before they left Brighton she and I had a little talk over one or two things; and she asked ma for a promise, which I gave her, and which I mean to keep."

her manner. "Vin, this is too dreadful! Can nothing be done? Why are you so implacable? I suppose you don't understand what you and she even admired, in a covert way, this

extend to Mr. Bethune extended to every-one else, or to any one else; you make him the exception; and you needn't quarrel with those who take a more literal view of his character." "Literal?" said Vincent, with a certain coldness. "Blindness—want of considera-

that what had been done was not to be un-done in that happy-go-lucky fashiou, even if it could be undone at all; and she was silent and embarrassed. It was he who spoke. "Well, you must excuse me, aunt; I've to be down at the House by question time." "You're not going like that, Vin!" she

"What do you want of me?" he asked in

a coldly civil way. "I-I-want you to be as you once were, to all of us," she cried, rather incoherently. "I want you to go back to Grosvenor Place; and to accept the allowance your father has made a second to accept the allowance of accept and the second to accept the se made you ever since you came of age; and to resume the old bygone relations with us. to resume the old bygone relations with us. Surely it would be possible, with a little consideration on both sides. What we have done was done entirely out of thoughtful-ness for you; and if we have made a mis-take-we are only human beings! And re-member, it is quite possible that you may be mistaken too. Vin; it is one thing to be able to set mean and mission of the set of the set mean of th able to get up and make a clear and clever speech about some political subject, and quite another to understand some of the strange sides of human nature. You may be mistaken just as much as we-and-and-"

"What you propose, aunt," said he (for time was precious with him), "even if it were practicable, would only be temporary. were practicable, would only be temporary. I am looking forward to marrying Maisrie Bethune—in spite of your three years of forgetfulness—and when that happens, your patched-up state of affairs would all come to bits again. So what is the use of professing a sort of sham reconciliation? I have no wish to return to Grosvenor Place. I have taken some rooms at the foot of Buckingham street; and I have a key that lets me through by the Embankment gardens into Villiers street; it will be convenient for getting to the House. And I can tide along pretty well without any allowance from my father; in fact, I'm saving a little money in

a quiet way-?" "But at what a cost, Vincent-at what a cost!" she protested. "I wish you could see

cost!" she protested. "I wish you could see how worn and ill you are looking—" "Well, I've had some things to think of lately—thanks to my kind relatives," said he. "But really I must be off—" "Vincent," she said, making one last des-pairing effort to bring things back to their former footing, "when are you going to ask Louie Drexell and me to dine with you at the House?"

these believers acquire a These rooms that Vincent had taken at the foot of Buckingham street were right up at the top of the building; and commanded a spacious prospect of the river, the embank-ment gardens, the bridges, the great dusky world of London lying all around, and the dome of St. Paul's rising dim and phantas mal in the East. They were bachelor cham-bers, that had doubtless seen many tenants (the name of one, George Brand, was still over the door, and Vincent did not think it worth while to change it), but the young man had no sconer entered into possession than he began a series of alterations and improvements that bachelor chambers did improvements that bachelor enamoers did not seem to demand. Not in any hurry, however, nor perhaps with any fixed intent; it was a kind of amusement for this or that odd halt-hour . he could snatch from his multifarious duties. To begin with, he had the woodful feat; by means of a peculiar process of auto-hypnotization they succeed in suspending for the time being all the normal functions of active life. duties. To begin with, he had the wood-work painted a deep Indian red, and the walls a pearly blue-gray; while the former color was repeated in the Japanese window curtains, and the latter by the great world outside, on the lambent moonlight, nights, or sometimes in the awakening of the dawn, as he lay in a low easy chair and watche the vast, silent city coming out of its sleep This top floor was a very still place, excep ster at Labore. for the early chattering of the tree sparrows, into whose nests, swaying on the branches just beneath him, he could have tossed a biscuit. And, then his peregrinations through London, rapid though they were as a rule, occasionally brought him face to face with a bric-a-brac shop; and from time to time he picked up one thing or another just as it happened to strike his fancy. Per haps these modest purchases were just a trifle too elegant for a bachelor's apartments, the sitting room away up in that lofty situation came to look rather like a boudoir; for example, there was a music stand in rosewood and again to life. was a music stand in rosewood and ormula-a tall stand it was, as if for a violin player-which he him-selt never used. Pictures he could not afford; but books he could; and the volumes afford; but books he could; and the volumes which were one by one added to those shelves were of a more graceful and literary stamp than you would have expected to find in the library of a young and busy member of Parliament. It was not a lordly palace of art, this humble suite of apartments in the neighborhood of the Strand; but there was a prewailing out of salastice and was a prevailing air of selection and good taste; perhaps, one ought to say, of expect-ancy, also, in the presence of things not yet in use. Then the two large and low win-dows of the sitting room were all sur-rounded with ivy, of long training; but beside that, there were flower boxes; and at a moment's notice, and at small expense, these could be filled with potted geraniums, if one wished to be gay. And always outside was the varied panorama of the great city; the wide river and the bridges, the the Voghis. spires and the towers, the far mayses of buildings becoming more and more spectral as they receded into the gray and wavering mist. Sometimes the rose and saffron of the dawn were there, ascending with a soft suf-fusion behind the purple dome of St. Paul's; sometimes there ware blown and beauting sometimes there were blown and breezy days, with fying showers and watery gleams of sunlight; and sometimes the night lay blue and still and clear, the Surrey side in Black and black and still and clear, the Surrey add in Black and mysterious shadow, the white moon high in the south. This silent alti-tude was a fine place for dreaming, after all the toil and moil of the working hours were over; and a fine place for listening, too; sometimes, toward the morning, just as the leaves began to stir, you could fancy the wind was bringing a message with it—it seemed, coming from far away, to say some-thing about Claire Fontaine. (To be continued next Sunday.) Give the Ducks Time to Eat. It is the intention to introduce a bill at

The Unparalleled but Well-Established Achievement of Harides. *

MONTHS IN A SUBTERRANEAN TOMB

day morning, December 21. He is a mere skeleton now, and, as this is his thirty-eighth day, he is likely to be a mere astral body before the 45 days are up.

What is his secret? Few men are better qualified to discuss this matter than Dr. Paul Gibier, director of the New York Pasteur Institute, not so much by reason of his knowledge of bacteriology and contagious diseases as because of

questions. Dr. Gibier studied at the famous Salpetriere Hospital, in Paris, and under Prof. Charcot and Dr. Luys, both of whom are unrivaled as specialists. He is himself the author of varions standard works on psychological questions. Asked about Succi, the eminent physician spoke to a New York Herald as follows:

THE THEORIES ADVANCED. "I shall not take up your time in discuss

I shall not take up your time in discuss-ing the different theories that have been ad-vanced regarding Signor Succi. There is without doubt a little truth in each of them. Succi is certainly highly endowed with that power of resistance which is peculiar to the human race. He has great strength of will

human race. He has great strength of will and energy. He lives by the universal ether, for what is the universal ether but the energy, the anima mundi, which animates all living beings, but which must not be confounded with the intelligence. So, you see, there is a certain amount of truth in each theory, but not sufficient in any to sat-isfy the scientific mind. My explanation will, I think, satisfy you, if not completely at least better than the others.

"When a man wants to do something ex-traordinary, no matter what be its nature, he can accomplish feats quite unusual and apparently entirely at variance with the laws of nature. He attains his object-here is the whole secret in a nutshell-by means of a combination of a mild sort of enthusi-asm and energy. His strength of will en-ables him to succeed. I am well aware that men, and even animals, have lived a long time without food, and yet in these cases no one would claim that enthusiasm had proved an auxiliary.

STARVATION THAT'S INVOLUNTARY. "Dogs, for example, can live for weeks without food, but not without drink, as has been fully proved by different physiolo-gists, among others by Dr. Laborde, of Paris. Men condemned to death who have raris. Men condemned to death who have tried to starve themselves in order that they might escape the gallows have lived for weeks. These, however, are isolated cases. On the other hand, Succi's case is the result of training, as I will demonstrate by facts which may appear to you extraordinary, but which are easily and naturally explained. "Six hundred years ago Ibn Kaldoun, an Arabian sayant, told in his 'Prolegomena of Universal History,' a copy of which can be seen in the National Library of Paris, of seen in the National Library of Paris, of men who surrendered themselvesto a strange enthusiasm with the object of discovering things concealed from human ken both in the present and the future, and he added that 'these men are as a rule inhabitants of India, where they are known as Yoghis.' According to Ibn Kaldoun these Yoghis wrote several books describing the method of training and containing accounts of mar-velous feats of fasting and endurance. So you see that 600 years ago, as to-day, India was considered the cradle of the marvelous.

THE INFLEXIBLE WILL. "Through a long and painful education

preparations. His body he purified exter-iorly by ablations and interiorly by fasting and the juices of sacred herbs; his stomach he cleansed, not by means of a tube, after our modern method, bat by means of long strips of linen, which he swallowed and afterward drew out through his mouth. On the appointed day an immense crowd as-sembled. Surrounded by his ditples and attended by the Rajah and his court, Harides advanced solemnly toward his chosen erays.

grave.

MONTHS IN A SUBTERRANEAN TOME The fast of Signor Succi (pronounced "Soochy") at New York is attracting uni-versal attention. He ate his last meal No-vember 5, and if he completes his 46 days without food he will take his first meal Sun-the fast of Signor Succi (pronounced "Soochy") at New York is attracting uni-versal attention. He ate his last meal No-vember 5, and if he completes his 46 days without food he will take his first meal Sun-the fast of Signor Succi (pronounced "Soochy") at New York is attracting uni-versal attention. He ate his last meal No-vember 5, and if he completes his 46 days without food he will take his first meal Sun-the fast of Signor Succi (pronounced the fast of Signor Succi (pronounced succession of the state of the succession of the state of the succession from the Greek word signifying 'death' and 'appearance.' The epithet 'lethargie' does not signify 'apparent death,' as we under-stand the phrase, but 'a deep, pathological sleep,' as can be seen from the derivation of the word. Anabiose also seems to me an immorphic this seems to me an

improper word in this sense, as it signifies 'loss of life,' whereas suspension of life is all that really takes place. "The followers of Harides then hastened to close his eyes and nostrils with linen plugs, their object doubtless being in protect him from insects. Above his head they joined the four corners of the shroud and

A DEATH-LIKE TRANCE.

his thorough knowledge of psychological tied them firmly together. The Rajah's seal was placed on the knots and the body was then shut up in a wooden casket four feet in height by three feet in width, which was sed hermetically and was also stamped with the royal seal. SIX WEEKS IN A TOMB.

"The casket was placed in a vault of exactly the same dimensions, which had been constructed for the purpose, three feet

under ground. The door was then closed, sealed and completely surrounded with earth. Thenceforth the tomb was guarded day and night by chosen sentinels and was an object of veneration to thousands of Hindoos, who had flocked from all directions, as though on a pilgrimage, to the burial place of the holy man. "At the end of six weeks, which was the

time fixed for the opening of the tomb, an immense mass of spectators gathered and waited to see what would happen, and first the Rajah caused the earth which walled up the door to be removed and was satisfied that his seal had not been broken. Then the door was opened and the lid of the casket, on which the seal also was untouched,

was raised. "Dr. Honigberger noticed that the shroud was covered with a moist substance, and naturally attributed it to the humidity of the grave. The body of the recluse, still the grave. The body of the recluse, still wrapped in the shroud, was removed from the casket by his disciples and propped against the lid; then, while the shroud was still around him, they poured some hot water over his head. Finally they released him from the shroud, after they had verified and bridge the same and broken the seals.

A REMARKABLE RESUSCITATION.

"Then Dr. Honigberger examined him "Then Dr. Hongberger examined him carefully. The man's attitude was the same as on the day of the burial, except that his head now reposed on one shoulder. The skin was wrinkled, the limbs were stiff. All the body was cold, except the head, which had been sprinkled with hot water. Of a pulse no trace could be found, and the

utter failure to discover any sign of motion in the heart seemed to be a clear indication of death. The raised evelids revealed eves glazed and spiritless as those of a corpse. "The disciples and servants washed the

body and began to rub the limbs. One of them placed on the skull a mass of hot wheaten dough, which was renewed several times, while another removed the stoppages from the ears and nose and opened the month with a knife. Still, Harides re-

teaching, the Voghi caused himself to be en-tombed a second time, and on this occasion

his grave was six feet under ground. Earth

was piled around his coffin, the grave was

walled in, more earth was spread over it

and in this earth barley was sown. Ac-cording to the same eye witnesses Harides remained for four months in this tomb and

at the end of that period came back to life

in the same manner as on the former occa-

SHOWS THE POSSIBILITIES.

sion.

like to see them."

month with a knile. Still, Harides re-mained as a statue of wax and there was not the faintest sign of lite in him. "After opening his mouth the disciple caught hold of his tongue and replaced it in its natural position. Thus he held it for some time until its tendency to fall back on the larvary was avarcome. Meanwhile the in its natural putting its tendency to fall back on some time until its tendency to fall back on the larynx was overcome. Meanwhile the eyelids had been rubbed with grease and a final continent of hot dough had been placed on the head. Just then the body maturally is the state of the state of birds with trembling, the nostrils began to beat slowly and the limbs became riorate. It is best to pluck only once a mobile. A little melted butter was poured year. The tails and the glossy black quills on the tongue, and after this painful scene the result of which had appeared so doubt are not cut, but pulled out; this, every one says, does not burt the birds, but there is an ful, the eyes regained . their pristine brilunpleasant tearing sound about the operaliancy. tion which I think must make their eyes A SECOND ENTOMEMENT. water.

CHICKS ARE COMICAL BEAUTIES. Kaffirs Pull Out the Stubs of the Feathers "There a linen shroud had been stretched on the ground, and on it he placed himself, and turning his face toward the east cros ed his legs in the attitude Pamadzan—that is With their Teeth,

ON AN OSTRICH FARM

Growing the Big Birds in the Colonies of South Africa.

21

APPETITE OF THE SECRETARY BIED

In the early days of ostrich farming splendid fortunes were made. Then feathers were worth £100 per pound, the plumes of one bird at a single plucking realizing on an average £25. For a good pair of breeding birds £400, or even £500, was no uncommon price; and little chicks, only just out of the egg, were worth £10 each. Indeed, the unhatched eggs have been sometimes valued at the same amount. But since the supply has become so much greater than the demand things are sadly changed for the farmer; our best pair of ostriches would not now sell for more than £12. And experience has taught

us to look for no highersum than 30 shillings for the teathers of the handsomest bird at one plucking. At the same time, if a lady wishes to buy a good leather in London or in Paris, she has to pay nearly the same price as in former times

There are not many young animals pret-tier than a little ostrich chick during the first few weeks of life, writes Aunie Martin from an ostrich farm South Africa, in a very clever contribution to fiterature. It has such a sweet, innocent baby face, such large eves, and such a plump, round little body. All its movements are comical, and there is an air of conceit and independence about

the tiny creature which is most amusing. HIS FRETTY STRIPED COAT.

Instead of feathers it has a little rough coat which seems all made up of narrow strips of material, of as many different shades of brown and grey as there are in a tailor's pattern book, mixed with shreds of black; while the head and neck are apparently covered with the softest plush, striped and colored just like a tiger's skin on a small scale. On the whole, the little fellow on his first appearance in the world is not unlike a hedgehog on two legs, with a long neck.

On a large farm, when plucking is con-templated, it is anything but an easy matter to collect the birds; the gathering togeth-er of ours was generally a work of three days. Men have to be sent out in all directions to drive the birds up, by twos and threes, from the far off spots to which they have wandered. Little troops are gradually brought together, and collected, first, in a large inclosure, then in a small one, the plucking kraal, in which they are crowded together so closely that the most savage bird

Besides the gates through which the ostriches are driven into the kraal, there is an outlet at the opposite end through the "plucking box." This latter is a most useful invention, saving much time and trouble. It is a very solid wooden box, in which though there is just room for an os-trich to stand, he cannot possibly turn round; nor can he kick, the sides of the box

has no room to make himself disagreeable.

being too high. PLUCKING THE BIG BIRDS.

At each end there is a stout door, and after more or less of a scuffle he is pushed in and the door slammed behind him. Then the two operators, standing one on each side of the box, have him completely in their power, and with a tew rapid snips of their shears his splendid wings are soon denuded of their long white plumes. These, to pre-vent their tips from being spoiled, are always cut before the quills are ripe. The stumps of the latter are allowed to remain some two or three months longer, until they are so ripe that they can be pulled out-generally by the tech of the Kaffirs-with-out hurting the bird. It is necessary to pull them; the feathers, which by their weight would have caused the stumps to fall out

Then Vincent bethought him of the banker; what comments had be to make? "Dear sir, I enclose you a letter, received

to-day, from the permicious little Omahussy, who says neither where she is nor where she is going, gives no date nor the name of the ship from which she writes, and is altogether a vexatious young witch. But I imagine this may be the old gentleman's doing; he may have been 'peremptory' in his instructions; otherwise I cannot understand why she should conceal anything from me. And why should he? There also I am in the lark; unless, indeed (supposing him to have some wish to keep their whereabouts unknown to you) he may have seen an announcement in the papers to the effect that you were going to the United States and Canada, in which case he may have guessed that you would probably call on one whose name they had mentioned to you as a friend And not a bad guess either; t theirs George Bethune is long-headed-when he comes down from the clouds; though why he should take such elaborate precautions to keep away from you, I cannot surmise." Vincent knew only too well! The banker

"I confess I am disappointed-for the moment. I took it for granted you would where they arehave no difficulty in discovering where they were; but, of course, if friend George is not going to give his address to anybody, for fear of their communicating with you, some time may clapse before you hear anything definite. However, there is this to be said: I gather iron: Margaret's letter that her grandiather has at last got a little tired of traveling, and may be willing to settle down in some quiet place for good. But I think she mistakes in imagining that he would go to Scotland. Scotland would be a lonely control country for George Bethune now. I should filmentsay that nearly all the friends he has living are on this side; and if he wished to pitch his tent anywhere, I shouldn't be surprised are on this side; and if he wished to pitch his tent anywhere, I shouldn't be surprised if he chose Toronto. One might be on the look-out if it were possible to know whether they were going esst or west when Margaret's letter was posted. I lorgot to mention that the postmark on the envelope mention that the postmark on the envelope

Said-and not so long ago either? Instantly there sprang into the vision of the place as he remembered it—a poor enough place, no doubt, but now all lit up by this new and vivid interest: he could see before him the rectangular streets of pink and white shanties, the sandy roads and arid asquares, the swarthy Arabs and yellow Greeks and Italians, the busy quays and repairing yards and docks, the green water and the swarting boats. And did Maisrie and her grandfather—while the state and her grandfather—while the state and her grandfather—while the state and her grandfather.

iousness; but now the meager fare he al-lowed himself, and his rigidly economical in view. He was saving money; he was building up a miniature fortune-by halfcrowns and pence. Food and drink cost him next to nothing; if he smoked at all it was a pipe the last thing in the morning before going to bed. Omnibusses served his turn-unless some urgent business in behalf of his chief demanded a hansom. He could not give up his club; for that was in a way a political institution; and oftentimes he had to rush up thither and find someone who was not in the precincts of St. Steph-en's; but then on the other hand, in a good club things are much cheape than in any restaurant or in the members dining room of the House of Commons. It was remarkable how the little fortune accumulated; and it was a kind of amuse

acted as they have doneagain urged. ment in a fashion. He pinched himselfand laughed. He debated moral questions -for example as to whether it was lawful tended to those othersto use club stationary in writing articles for newspapers; but he knew something of the up hotly. "To whom?" "To Mr. Bethune, then," was the pacific ways of Government offices, and perhaps his conscience was salved by evil example "I don't think Mr. Bethune ever con-

What the manager of the Westminster Palace Hotel thought of his manner of liv-Palace Hotel thought of his manner of liv-ing can be imagined—if so august an official cared to inquire into such details. His solitary room, breakfast and washing: no more: those were small bills that he called use crying peace, peace, when there is no peace. Let them undo some of the mischief for week by week. And so his little hoard of capital gradually augmented-very gradually, it is true, but surely, as the rate of they have done, first; then we will see. And look at this silly affectation of secrecy!

interest on deposits rose and fell. In the meanwhile Lord Musselburgh had They told me too much when they told me they had paid money to get George Bethune not been very successful in his endeavors to bring about a reconciliation between Vin Harris and his family; nor had he been able to obtain the information that Vincent demanded. "You see, Vin." he said (they were again

walking up and down the lamp-lit terrace by the side of the deep-flowing river), "my wife is awfully upset over this affair. She thinks it is entirely owing to her misman-agement. She would never have told you about the £5,000 if she had not been certain that that would be conclusive proof to you of the character of those two people; now that she sees what has come of her telling you so much, she is afraid to tell you any more. Not that I suppose there is much to tell. Mr. Bethune and Miss

Bethune are no longer in this country; but I doubt whether anyone can say precisely

yon imagine that George Morris handed over that £5,000, as a lump sum, without making stipulations, and very definite stipu-tations? Do you imagine he would be con-tent to take the word of a man whom he considered a thie!? It is absurd to think so. Do ut facias would be his motto; and he would take precious good care to keep control over the money in case of non-falcent's sake. "The real question," she continued, "th thing that concerns the most of all to think of is this: Can a girl who has been so dragged through the mire have retained her purity of mind and her proper self-respect? Surely "But there is the receipt!" put in Lord

byoung man's mind a what is to prevent his returning to this country to-morrow? Where would be the penalty for his breaking his covenant? You

and repairing yards and docks, the green water and the swarming boats. And did Maisrie and her grandfather—while the great vessel was getting in her coals, and is in the sense is incut. I've been to him; he declines; refers me to your family. And then, you see, Via, I'm rather in an green the sunblinds and the half-burnt want to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the sunblinds and the half-burnt was to be a partian; I would affer the sunblinds and the half-burnt w

him. "The mistake I made was in letting you know. But I took it for granted that "And so you would patch up a truce," said Vincent. "How long would it last? Of course I do not know for what period of as soon as you were told that those people had accepted money from us to go panishment my kind relatives stipulated;

"Those people? What people?" he de-£5.000 is a considerable sum to pay: I suppose they bargained that Mr. Bethune and his granddaughter should remain away from manded, with a sterner air. "Oh, I meant only Mr. Bethune himself,

England for some time. But not for ever? said she, hastily. "Oh, yes, certainly, only Even then, is it to be imagined that they him; there were no negotiations with any cannot be found? Very well, then. Either in this country or abroad, Miss Bethune and "Negotiations!" he said, with a touch of

In this country or abroad, saiss bethune and I meet face to face again; and she becomes my wife-I hope. It is what I live for. And then? Where will your patched up truce be then? Beside, I don't want any scorn. "Well, perhaps you can tell me what those negotiations were? How long did Mr. Bethune undertake to remain out of this country?" "Three years, Vin," said she, timidly re friendships with people who have

garding him. "Three years?" he repeated, in an absent

"I wonder who it was who made a stranger

"It was in your interest, Viu," his friend gain urged. "Why not give them a little Way. uient judgment you so freely ex-

"But there is no reason," she added quickly, "why he should not return at any moment if he wishes; so I understand; of "To those others?" replied Vincent, firing course, I did not make the arrangement-

but I believe that is so." "Return at any moment?" he said, slowly. "Do you mean to tell me that you put £5,000 into that old man's hands, on consciously wronged any human being. But they-were they not aware what they were dition he should leave the country for three doing when they played this underhand trick?-sending that girl out into the world years, and that all the same you left him iree to return at any moment?" "Of course he would forfeit the money,

again, through her devotion to her grand-father? I have told you before, there is no said she, rather nervously. "But how could he forfeit the money if he

already has it? He has not the money; you showed me the receipt. Come, aunt," said he, in quite a different tone, "let us be a little more honest and above-board. Shall I tell you how I read the whole situation? out of the country; then I understood why You can contradict me if I am wrong. But Maisrie went; then I knew I must have that receipt you showed me; wasn't it pro-duced for merely theatrical purposes; wasn't it meant to crush and overwhelm meas a piece patience until she came back-in the same mind as when she left, that I know well. I of evidence? The money wasn't handed over like that, was it? Supposing I were to conjecture that somebody representing you or representing my father has still got conwas puzzled before, and sometimes anxious; but now I understand; now I am content to wait. And I have plenty to do in the mean-time. I have to gain a proper loothofd-and make some provision for the future as trol over that money; and that it is to be well: already I am independent of anybody paid in installments as it is earned-by and everybody. And perhaps, in time to come, when it is al. over, when all these absence? Well, isn't that so?" He fixed his eyes on her; she hesitated-

and was a little confused. "'I tell you, Viu," she said, "I had person-ally nothing to do with making the ar-rangement; all that was left in George Morris' hands; and, of course, he would take whetever presentions he thought things have been set right, I may be able to forgive; but I shall not be able to forget." This was all the message that Lord Mus-selburgh had to take home with him, to his setourgn had to take nome with him, to his wile's profound distress. For she was very fond of her nephew and very proud of him, too, and of the position he had already won for himself, and what she had done she had Morris' hands; and, of course, ne would take whatever precautions he thought necessary. And why should you talk about theatrical purposes? I really did not think that when I could show you Mr. Bethune was ready to take money from strangers to for himself, and what she had done are had done with the best intentions towards him. Once, indeed, she confessed to her husband that in spite of herself she had a sort of aneak-ing admiration for Vincent's obdurate congo away from England you would change your opinion of him. But apparently, in sistency and faith, insomuch, she said, that —if only the old man and all his chicaneries were out of the way—she could almost find it in her heart to try to like the girl, tor Vinyour eyes, he can do no wrong. He is not to be judged by ordinary rules and standards. Everything is to be twisted about on his behalf, and forgiven, or even admired. Nobody else is allowed such latitude of con-

struction; and everything is granted to him -because he is George Bethune. But I don't think it is quits fair: or that you should take sides against your own family." This was an adroit streke, following upon a very clever attempt to extricate herself she must have known that her grandfathe from an embarrassing position; thoughts were otherwise occupied. but his

was wheedling people out of money right and left, and he took her about with him to enlist sympathy? thoughts were otherwise occupied. "I should like you to tell me," said be, "if you can, what moral wrong was involved in Mr. Bethune consenting to accept that money. Where was the harm-or the ignoabout with him to enlist sympathy? Do you suppose she was not per-fectly aware that Vincent invariably paid the bills at those restaurants? When trades people were pressing for money, do you iancy she was in ignorance all the time? Very well: what a life for any one to lead! How could she hold up her head among ordinarily honest and solvent people? Even supposing that she herself was all she ought to be the humiliation must have sunk deep. money. Where was the harm-or the igno-miny? Do you think I cannot guess at the representations and inducements put before him, to get him to stay abroad for three years? Why, I could almost tell you, word for word, what was said to him! Here was years? an arrangement that would be of incalcula to be, the humiliation must have sunk deep. And even if one were to try to like her, ble benefit to everybody concerned. He ble benefit to everybody concerned. He would be healing up family dissensions. He would be guarding his granddaughter from a marriage that could only bring her disappointment and humiliation. Three years of absence and torgetfulness would put an end to all those projects. And then, of course, you could not ask him to throw up his literary engagements

And even it one were to try to fixe her, there would always be that consciousness between her and you. You might be sorry for her, in a kind of way; but you would be still sorrier for Vincent; and that would be dreadful." "My dear Madge," her husband said—in his character of multicer and pacemaker

the next session of the Legislature prohibit ing night shooting on the waters of Coo

w nature, and are in consequence enabled to exercise the psychic powers of which Ibn Kaldoun psychic powers of which Ibn Kaldoun speaks, their great aim, I say without hesi-tation, being to attain an ideal which is at once most beautiful and most lofty. It is astonishing what feats a man can perform when impelled by an inflexible will, which nothing can swerve from the proposed goal. We hear of fasters who, like Succi, remain "The resurrection of the Voghi was ac for several weeks without taking into their complished, and as his own eves met the system any substance except pure water. In India there are men who go to even greater extremes. There can be found fasters who Rajah's he said to him simply, 'Now do you believe me?' Half an hour sufficed to revive him and in another half hour, though remain for several years without taking anystill weak, he was sitting at the royal table thing except some grains of rice and a little clothed in a rich garment and decorated with a necklace of pearls and bracelets of water. Some perform a still more wonder gold. Some time afterward, doubtless be-cause the Rajab had paid no heed to his

WHAT DR. HONIGBERGER SAW. "How great is the will power of these Voghis, and how horrible are the torments which they callously inflict upon their bodies, you can see from the following account of an extraordinary feat, witnessed by Dr. Honigberger and confirmed by Sir Claudius Wade, the English Resident Min-

"After long meditation and thinking it high time that he should join Brahma in an eternal Nirvana, Harides, the Brahmin, became a hermit and began that series of religious, physical and intellectual exercises by which men are fitted for that state, which Dr. Reyer calls anabiose, and which the Hindoos call Vog Vidya, Bu Stambha or Vaju Stambha, which means the art of pro-ducing, by means of ecstacy and a complete withdrawal of the elemental forces of life, an entire and harmless suspension of the vital functions. While in this state a man may be buried for a long time and brought back

HARIDES, THE FASTER.

"Harides first built a sort of semi-subter-raneous cell and, aided by his disciples, he entered through a narrow door and stretched himself on a soft bed of wool and cotton. though it is quite possible that by rigid training and the exercise of that will power, with which he is unquestionably endowed, he may ultimately arrive at the same re-His servants then closed the door with earth and left him within, seated in the attitude "Whether he does or not, the examples which I have cited prove, I think, that pe-culiar powers which are apparently at vari-ance with all laws of physiology, may be of Brahma or reclining on his couch and either reciting prayers or meditating profoundly on the Divinity. At first he only secluded himself for some minutes, then for acquired by training and that just as men sectuded himself for some minutes, then for some hours, but fically, by gradually ac-customing himself to live without air, he acquired the power to remain in his narrow grave for several days. At the same time he began the exercise of Pranayama, or holding the breath, and at first for 5 min-ter for for then for 21 then 43 then acquired by training and that just as men can become boxers, runners, swimmers and morphine maniacs, so, too, men can become adepts at fasting. All they need is to grad-ually acquire the habit until it becomes, as it were, their second nature." ARE THE DOCTORS CRIMINALLY LIABLE ntes, then for 10, then for 21, then 43, then for 84 minutes he did not suffer a breath to Complications of an alarming character escape him. Don't ask me why he abstained from breathing for exactly so many minare likely to arise in connection with the long fast of Succi. A dozen doctors may be

indicted for manslaughter. That is, if the Italian dies, and he is faiting very fast. Of ates on each occasion, as that is a secret of the Voghis. "He also caused several incisions to be cut under his tongue—one incision each week. The object of this operation was to enable him to turn his tongue back into his course, the doctors deride the idea, but it is a course, the doctors derive the idea, but it is a novel question and may give them serious trouble. The report that Succi had goue insane has been followed several times by statements that he was at death's door. His weight is at about the hundred mark now, which are a several times of enable him to turn any longue mack into his pharynx in such a manner that the opening of the glottis would be closed during the period of his anaboise. And while all these preparations were being made the recluse observed all the rules of Voghism. He nourished himself with vegetables only and kept himself unspotted from the world. and his average daily loss of avoirdupois since his fight with starvation began has

been about a pound and a sixth a day. At the rate he has been dwindling in bulk he will weigh about 94 pounds if he is alive at the end of 45 days. This will be a loss of A WONDERFUL EXHIBITION. "Finally, when he was ready to make the 531/ pounds to an undersized middle-weigh

"Finally, when he was ready to make the great trial, he presented himself at the Court of Lahore. Why did he present himself be fore Rajah Runget Sing? I presume his object was either to couvert him, if he was a Mussulman, or, following the example of the prophets of Israel, who were also Vozhis in their own way, to reproach the King with his faults and predict that he and all his courtiers would come to a speedy and lamentable end if they did not straightway repent of their sins. In any case, in order that they, might feel assured of his divine mission, he offered to prove that he could re-main for weeks and mouths under ground in

a coffin and then resume bis natural life. "His proposition was secepted. "Then Harides, the Yoghi, made his final

SWALLOWED EITTENS ALIVE.

Among the numerous pets on the farm from which I write, says Mrs. Martin, 18 a secretary bird. He was like a boa-constrictor in his capacity for "putting himself outside" the animals on which he fedlizards, rats, tonds, frogs, fat, juicy locusts, young chickens, alas! and some of the smaller pets, if left incautiously within his reach, even little kittens-all went down whole. The last named animals were his invourite delicacy, and he was fortunate enough while at Walmer to get plenty of them. His enormous appetite, and our difficulty in satisfying it, were well known in the neighborhood, and the owners of several prolific cats, instead of drowning the superfluous progeny, bestowed them on us as offerings to Jacob. They were killed and given to him at the rate of one a day.

Once, however, by an unlucky accident, one of them got into his clutches without "These achievements are as much at variance with all that physiology teaches us about the ordinary conditions of human life that one cannot refrain from saying: 'Yes, these strange things may be true, but I'd like to set them: the preliminary knock on the head, and the old barbarian swallowed it alive. For some minutes we could hear the poor thing mewing pitcously in Jacob's interior, while he himself stood there listening and looking all around in a puzzled manner to see where the noise came irom. He evidently thought there was another kitten somewhere, and "Still, as the writer, from whom I borrowed this story remarks: 'It would be rash for us, simply because we cannot yet exseemed much disappointed at not finding it.

SNAKES OF SOUTH AFRICA.

plain them, to assume that such facts are impossible.' I could tell you of many other Snakes are, it seems, indeed, one of the greatest drawbacks to South African life. marvelous deeds of a similar nature achieved in India, but I think I have said There are so many of them, they are of such deadly sorts, and the obtrusive familiarity enough, at any rate you can see that Succi is yet far from being the equal of Harides, and utter absence of ceremony with which they come into the houses reader the nerves ot newly arrived inmates liable at any moment to receive a severe shock. After a time, of course, finding that every-

one you meet has some startling experience to relate of the discovery of intrusive snakes in all sorts of places where they were most unlooked for and least observable, you be-come somewhat inured to this undeasant feature of colonial existence, and move about your house with the caution of one who would not be surprised to find a snake anywhere.

MADAME A. RUPPERT



Mms. A. Emppert's world-r leach is the only face tonic in T positively removes freckles, plackheads, pimples, birthmar all blemishes of the skin, an n can only be bleach can only Nr. 55 Fitth avenue, Hamilton output 203 and 204, Pittsburg, or sent to any a 203 and 204, Pittsburg, or sent to any a receipt of price. Sold at \$2 per bottle bottles, naually required to clear the bottles, naually required to clear the bottles, and 4 cents postage for full p