

"HELD UP!"

BY HUAN MEE.

THE groaning and creaking of the Italian vehicle struggled upon its upward course, and those who sat within swayed, and jerked, and jolted as the almost springless wheels bumped upon the uneven roadway.

Now and again a particularly deep rut gave the carriage such a shake that the passengers all swung forward toward one another, as though the conversation had become of such a character that it must be whispered with their cheeks almost touching. And then the recoil flung them back, and some groaned, while others, who were younger, laughed.

The day was stifling, and the sky as blue as steel, with a blazing heat that seemed to have become solid in its intensity, and could be almost grasped and poured through the hand like burning, blistering sand. Away in the distance stretched the marvelous panorama of the Bay of Naples, and ahead there rose the swelling sides of Vesuvius, over which hung in the sultry air an almost motionless plume of smoke.

The road lay all uphill, and the driver puffed at his foul-smelling cigar and called upon his patron saint to help him and his beasts as they struggled onward with the heavy, lumbering carriage behind them.

The sun flung its scorching rays upon the dusky road, and the road flung them back. The carriage jolted and jarred onward, ever upward. The beggars whined and gnarled. The travelers laughed or grumbled, according to their age, sex and tendencies toward lumbago, and the driver, still invoking the aid of his saint, thought of what he would charge for such a journey, having his arguments on the theory that only foreigners or fools would go sight-seeing in such weather.

Yet the occupants of the carriage were not all fools. They consisted of five travelers, whom chance and circumstance had thrown together in the pleasant but distinctly tiresome occupation of globe-trotting.

The most distinctive member of the party was a good-tempered American, who had kept them all comparatively cheerful with his quaint comments upon Continental customs as compared with the States.

He was a tall, well-built man, a shade under forty, with clear-cut, sensitive features, a full mustache, and eyes in which there was always a world of kindness, and often a twinkle of sarcastic amusement as he talked of the follies of life.

There were four other travelers—two Englishmen, of whom little need be said, except that they represented the antipodes of manhood, and two girls, who, being pretty and in the flush of youth, shone vividly by contrast with the exotic beauties of Italy.

Colonel Hanbury commenced talking, and when he talked the other two men were generally silent—Lawrence Barton, the American, listened because it amused him to listen, and Edward Denby because it was too much trouble to contradict anybody. The latter individual counted himself fortunate in being brother to the two lady members of the party, and willingly left all plans and arrangements to them, and allowed them to spoil him to their hearts' content.

Colonel Hanbury was talking, and, as befitting a colonel of a select militia corps, a self-made man, and a man who had been so busy making money that he had forgotten to look anywhere around the world except in his own villa, he was, to use the apt expression, "laying down the law."

"Don't talk to me, sir," he exclaimed, in a stentorian voice. "It's utter rubbish! It's simply a Yankee yarn!"

"This true, I assure you," the American answered, with a good-tempered laugh. "Our train was held up, and a dozen men boarded it, and in ten minutes they had cleaned every valuable out of the lot of us. The job cost me \$500—I ought to remember it."

"What a country!" the colonel shouted. "What a country! And you call America civilized, I suppose, Mr. Barton?"

"Fairly civilized, colonel. Of course, we're younger than England, so we can't expect to be so far advanced."

"Got you there, colonel," Edward Denby murmured, softly.

"What do you mean, sir?" Colonel Hanbury bawled, fixing the indolent young man with a glare in his eye. "How has he got me? Where has he got me?"

"Something about holding up trains in America, wasn't it?"

Then he replaced it upon his head and sprang upon the step of the carriage.

"The pleasure is over, signori—your purses and jewels! Each of you is covered by a rifle—the road is lonely, and I have no time to waste. As your countrymen put it, 'Your money or your life!'"

"Any good making a fight for it, Barton?" Teddy Denby asked, in his accustomed indolent voice, glancing across at the American.

"Not a bit of it, my lad. Throw your watch, and chain, and your gold into the gentleman's hat, and let it go at that."

"How about the girls?"

"I don't rob women," the brigand interjected. "It is your beautiful—"

"None of that!" Teddy exclaimed, as he dropped his purse, and his watch and chain into the man's hat. "I've no doubt you're a credit to your profession; but don't lay it on too thick."

The American's valuables followed those of the Englishman, and the Italian carefully thrust them into the pocket of his jacket.

"And you, signore?" he cried, looking toward Colonel Hanbury. "You will contribute, for it is really for you I have waited so long. These trifling gifts are so small, compared with the value of your diamonds."

"I was afraid those deceiver stoppers would be seen," Teddy murmured, softly.

The Farm

Raising Pigs.
Pig raising is, of course, a very profitable business where cheap food can be had from city garbage, else so many of the extensive farmers near the cities would not persist in swine breeding year after year; so well, in fact, does the business pay that the nearby farmers sometimes express wonder that more is not done in the pig raising line on the back farms, where the food can be raised very cheaply and the swine pastured a good part of the time, and all without the annoyance to neighbors sometimes caused in thickly settled districts. A good market can be found almost anywhere for young pigs of common stock, while pure-breds can be sold at correspondingly better values by those who have the knack of working up a trade in such lines.

Soil Feeding Experiments.
Two years' experiments at the Oregon Station gives the following results: Twenty-five logs and seven-and-a-half head of cattle have been kept from the middle of May to the middle of August on a very small acreage of ground. Crimson clover was first fed to the herd, then a first crop of alfalfa was used, followed by peas and green oats. After this a second crop was fed, and just a third crop.

An account of the cost for cutting and feeding has been carefully kept, which has aggregated three cents per cow. Based on present prices the income from the dairy products during this period is expected to be \$284.20.

Salt in the Poultry House.
Salt is very cleansing and purifying, as well as sure death to some forms of insect life, and used judiciously in the poultry house it will be found very beneficial.

For cleaning houses where there has been chicken cholera, it is one of the best things known. After cleaning out the house, and removing perches and nests, make a very strong brine and spray it thoroughly in every part of the house. Scrub perches and nest boxes with it, and see that every crack and crevice is filled with it. If it can be applied hot it will give still better results.

Stirring Cooking Food.
Where more or less food for stock is cooked, some handy way of stirring it ought to be devised. Of course, the old-fashioned laddle, or the great wooden spoon, is always available, but if the quantity is large, to use these instruments means aching arms and shoulders. A stirrer which will save much labor is readily made in the following manner: Make a shaft of a strip of wood two inches thick and long enough so that it will extend three or four inches above the top of the kettle.

At the bottom of this shaft make paddles by crossing two thin boards two or three inches wide. Fasten a crank to the top of the shaft, and to this crank fasten a pole, or not, as preferred. Then prepare a strip of board six or eight inches wide, bore a hole through the middle, through which to pass the shaft, match both ends to fit over the handle of the kettle and at one end fix a slide and a set screw to hold it in place. If the cooking of the food for stock is done away from the house, as it ought to be, one should build a fireplace of bricks and cement in which to set the kettle. The illustration shows both the fireplace, or pot, as suggested, and the plan for making the stirrer.

Eggs in Waterglass.
It is believed that in waterglass we have a preservative which will, when used for preserving eggs, give better satisfaction than any other method available for those who desire to keep eggs for any great length of time. Eggs put down by this method have kept for three to nine months, and the eggs have some out in better condition than by any other method tested.

The German Language.
Describing "The American Language" in *The Weekly*, a writer points out the real difference between the speech of the educated American and the educated Englishman. You may talk for ten minutes to a professor from Harvard without being conscious of strange speech, only the professor's voice is pitched slightly higher than your own. For "The German speaks from his diaphragm, the Englishman from his chest, the American from his throat, and the Frenchman from his palate."

for by so doing you injure their keeping quality, probably by dissolving the mucilaginous coating on the outside of the egg. For packing use only perfect eggs, for stale eggs will not be saved and may prove harmful to the others.

Good Work With Hand Separators.
The method of separating cream by hand machines on the farm and collecting it for the creameries is becoming very popular in some regions and seems likely to supersede the old plan of taking the whole milk to the factory.

The advantages of the plan are very evident. The farmer is saved the daily trip to the creamery, an item which represents considerable time, and at certain times of the year great inconvenience. He has the fresh skim milk to use for calf feeding, free from being mixed with other milk, which may be soured or contaminated with germs of disease, and from neglected or badly kept herds, and the milk is in the best possible condition for production of veal.

By running a route through the cream district the collection can all be done by one man, thus providing the farmer a market for his cream at his own door. These advantages are so evident that farmers are demanding the convenience and insulating on the being relieved from the need of hitching up a team to haul the milk every day.

The defects of the plan are such as to have prevented the change in some districts. The main trouble is the lack of uniformity in the cream. Some farmers with little experience with modern dairying or the use of separators fail to exercise the care needed in clean milking, a clean room for the separator, cooling the milk and separating it while it is fresh.

The problem of making the system a success is that of educating the producers to separate the milk under the best conditions and to have the cream collected regularly and frequently. Cream collected once or twice a week is unfit for use, but the successful routes collect at least four times a week. Some creamery managers insist that the main trouble is the failure to keep the cans clean. These managers give special attention to delivering the cans perfectly clean and sweet, having a double set of cans and leaving them at each farm all ready to use—Massachusetts Ploughman.

Silage vs. Grain.
The object of this experiment was to determine whether silage might not be substituted for a considerable portion of the grain usually fed to dairy cows. Two rations were fed carrying practically the same amount of dry matter. In one ration over fifty per cent. of this dry matter was derived from silage and less than eighteen per cent. was derived from grain.

In the other ration over fifty-seven per cent. of the dry matter was derived from grain, no silage being fed. Ten cows, representing five different breeds, were fed these rations from two to four months, five cows taking the test the full four months.

The cows fed the silage ration produced 96.7 pounds of milk and 5.08 pounds of butter fat per hundred pounds of dry matter.

New Ideas in TOILETTES

New York City.—Draped waists cut to form points at the front are among the latest and most satisfactory designs offered. This one is especially graceful and can be made with the position back, as illustrated, or with a



DRAPED BASQUE WAIST.

lace. Straps of moss green velvet are set on the shirred over bodice, each one finished with a tiny pale blue spangle at each end. The gown has short sleeves, deeply puffed with corded shirring in bands, from shoulder down, and the puffing springs out between shirring. A band of lace is lower finish. It is strapped with moss green velvet and finished with a blue spangle to match the bodice.

Evening Suits.
Heavy handsome linen suits are to be had both plain and ornate. The former needs no description. One of the latter sort, an effective creation for real occasions of an outdoor nature, is trimmed with a quantity of heaviest applique. Embroidery, deftly introduced, also enriches the scheme. A Val, yoke is in the blouse, which shows a graduated box pleat at both back and front.

Hats Are Fashion.
One sees at a glance that the general plan of the hats is not so much picturesque as dashing and smart. Wings and quills appear prominently among the trimmings. A great many aigrettes are seen.

An Evening Gown.
The prettiest evening gowns seen recently were of chiffon, which comes in all-over designs, or else with a plain surface and a deep flowered border. These gowns are much affected by young girls and debutantes.

Gathered Shirt Waists.
Shirt waists made full at the shoulders are among the latest novelties shown and are peculiarly well adapted to the many light weight and soft cotton materials, although they are attractive in silk and in wool. This one allows a choice of yoke or no yoke, and includes sleeves of the very latest cut that are full at both shoulders and

A LATE DESIGN BY MAY MANTON



ders, giving the broad line, yet are of moderate size.

The waist is made with the fitted lining, which closes at center front, and itself consists of fronts, backs, side-backs and under-arm gores, the backs being laid over onto the side-backs. The chemise is arranged over the lining and closes invisibly, and the waist is closed at the left of the front. When liked the sleeves can be cut off at elbow length, as shown in the small view.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is four yards twenty-one, three and one-half yards twenty-seven, or one and seven-eighths yards forty-four inches wide, with one and one-fourth yards of silk for chemise and cuffs and nine yards of lace insertion and one-half yard of bias velvet to trim as illustrated.

When the case of the model the material is white Persian lawn, the collar and cuffs being of linen, but the model is adapted to all waistics that can be made full with good effect.

The waist consists of the fitted lining, which can be used or omitted as material renders desirable, fronts, backs and yoke, the yoke also being optional. The sleeves are in shirt waist style, with wide cuffs, and there is a turn-over collar at the neck that is attached to the neckband by means of button-holes and studs.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is four yards twenty-one, or forty-seven inches wide, or two yards forty-four inches wide,

