TOO MUCH ENGAGED

By WALTER TOWNE MATHEUS. (Copyright, 1910, by American Press Association.)

Dick Hammond was the most popular man in his class at college. Every body loved him, both boys and girls. There are young fellows—and girls, for that matter—who achieve social promdnence by treating every one in their select circle with a cultivated cordial-Dick Hammond treated every one, irrespective of station, with a sincere regard. His heart was a spring out his heart and roasted it over



LISTENED TO IT WITH HEARTFELT SYM-PATHY.

when one of the fair sex put the cup to her lips she must needs drain it to the very dregs, call for more and proceed to get tipsy. Nor would this have been so bad had the bottle belonged to her alone. Dick was not only ready to keep filling her glass, but that of any

ther woman who desired to drink.

And so it came about that Dick Hammond awoke one morning to the fact that the night before he had proposed to the third girl within two months and had been accepted by every one. The situation gave him no course whatever. Not that he would have for the world injured any one of these sensitive creatures, no that he would willfully do a dishonor Loving them all, he cor sidered it the most natural thing in the world that he should tell them so and to tell them so without asking them to be his wife—his wives, rather

-would have been an insult. These three graces were Agnes Aleen, Lillian Cook and Theodora Richards. He had told each and every one of them that he had never loved be fore and would never love another Moreover, it did not occur to him that he was telling an untruth. Was it ar untruth? Was it not rather that same unbroken stream which had been flow-ing ever since he could remember? And were not these girls the bubbles

floating on its surface? His engagement with Miss Allen having lasted the longest, he was the least disposed to spend his surplus time in her company. Miss Cook came next both as to the interval since the had plighted their troth and in receiv ing her lover's attention. Miss Rich ards, to whom he had become engaged last, was undeniably his favorite.

These three young ladies undertook to land their catch on or about the same time. One morning he received a note from Miss Allen stating that she had heard things to induce her to believe that he had been triffing with called upon him and asked him when it would be convenient for him to marher daughter. The same evening, eeting Miss Richards at a ball, she t him dead. ry her daughter.

This settled the matter. Finding himself compelled to choose between the three, he chose the one who had cut him. He called upon her and made a solemn contract with her that she should be the real and only Mrs. Hammond, agreeing to write a note to each of her rivals stating this fact and that all was over between him and Miss Richards took the notes ropped them in the mail.

and dropped them in the mail.

Within a few days Mr. Hammond re ceived a communication from Miss each stating that if he persisted in his dishonorable course she would sue him for breach of promise. Hammond inclosed the notes to his flancee with the indorsement on the back: "What am I to do? If I marry you these girls will sue me for breach of promise. The notes came back indorsed, "If you don't marry me I will sue you fo

Here was a dilemma. It may be supposed that so serious condition of affairs might have caused Mr. Hammond some concern. Not so. His pure spirit, intrenched behind a good conscience—he loved them all—was unruffled. He did not even trouble himself how he was to escape, figuratively speaking, this gigantic pair of pinchers that were closing to crush him. Nevertheless a man in or out of trouble needs woman's syn The poor fellow was engaged ee girls, and there was not among the three one to whom he could go for comfort or advice. What was more natural than that he should choose a fourth into whose ears he

could pour his troubles? Caroline Carr was the person who heard the story and listened to it with heartfelt sympathy. With moistened eyes she permitted her shoulder to sink against his, and somehow their rands

met. Then she looked up at him, he compassionate heart going out to hi through her melting orbs. He kisse

And so it was that Hammond, who Proposed to Four Women and Fled to Avoid Consequences.

had called on a girl for sympathy in his complication with three girls, left her engaged to another-herself. When one awakens after a good

night's sleep the brain is usually clear er than at any other time of day Dick Hammond, opening his eyes on the morning after he had become en gaged to the fourth girl, saw at last that something must be done. He lay abed till noon thinking out a plan. The cobwebs of his intellect were swept away, and he formed a plan.

During the afternoon he called to gether three of his male chums, informed them of his complication and asked them to help him out of it. one of them but would have plucked from which bubbled a perennial stream
of love for all mankind.

If this love runnel had been only for

love for all mankind.

More for blek, but there was none of them capable of suggesting how this was to be effected. And here men it would not have resulted unfor-tunately for Dick. The trouble was that the liquid was not agreeable to women as well. While it was water for the former, it was wine for the latter. And it was noticeable that like a plaster, the inflammation of her like a plaster, the inflammation of he heart.

The proposition was listened to with respectful attention by the chums, but excited no enthusiasm. Each man thought of Aesop's fable of the fox who, having lost his tail, endeavored to persuade the other foxes to cut of theirs. Presently the spokesman said: "Dick, dear boy, lovemaking is so natural to you and you find it so easy

to impress the feminine heart that ye think it would be equally easy for u You are the candle about which to moths flutter, and it would require more vivid light to draw them away None of us is in lovemaking more brilliant than you—indeed, compared with you in this respect we are as a glow worm beside a searchlight. We would gladly help you, but it is impossible to do it on your plan. We would advise you, however, not to complicate matters further by engaging to marry any more girls."

Following this advice, Dick Ham-

mond resolutely devoted himself to his last fiancee to the exclusion of all others. One day one of his three chums came to him and warned him that his first three flancees were preparing to serve papers upon him in a suit for breach of promise. Dick asked if his marriage with the fourth lady would settle the matter. He was in formed that it probably would. of the ladies were acting with the in-tention of extorting money, but from a desire to prevent a rival from get

ting the better of her.

The next day Dick was informed that the papers were all to be served at once. Jumping into his automobile. he drove to Miss Carr's house, and the couple soon after came out, entered the auto, and Dick, who drove it, turned it toward the state line.

Now, it was fifty miles to the state

line, but Dick, once beyond the city limits, saw no necessity for hurry. On passing a garage he saw the three friends whom he had asked to help him loitering there as if waiting for

something. They all doffed their hats, and one of them shouted:
"Plenty of time; papers not yet out." So Dick lagged, devoting himself to his lovely companion. Presently, looking back, he saw an auto far in the distance coming at full speed. He turned on more power and easily kept good lead.

Passing a crossroad, he saw another auto within a hundred yards of him. The driver was muffled and wore gog gles concealing his features. A girl sat beside him, and Dick's blood ran gold on recognizing Miss Allen. She shook her fist at him, and he instinctively turned on more power, shooting

nward like an arrow.
Presently, looking back, he saw that
was followed by three autos at diferent distances. Great heavens! Were of his first three fiancees pursuing

All the power of which the machine was possessed was now on, and the machine fairly flew along the road Dick turned now, and again saw that the machine containing Miss Allen was in the lead of the pursuing machines. He thought that if any of them got him she at least had the best

The chase was a short one so far as time was concerned, for the distance was traversed within an hour, and when Dick hove up to a hotel just across the state border line the three pursuing autos were close upon him. He and his betrothed at last stood on the hotel porch, and three other cou ples, alighting from their autos, joined them. Dick's hair stood on end. There were his three deserted flancees, and with each one was one of the chums he had made his confident

he had made his confident.

"W-h-a-t did you chumps give me away for?" he stammered.

"This isn't a give away," said Miss Allen, "It's a wedding party. We girls are determined that you shall be married so that you can't engage yourself to any more of us."

So Dick Hammond was at last married, and a wedding party of his friends and jilted girls escorted him and his bride back to the city.

Comets of the Past Century. During the nineteenth century 235 new comets were discovered as against sixty-two in the eighteenth century The inneteenth century also beheld a greater number of large and brilliant comets than did its predecessor. The finest of these were the comets of 1811. 1843, 1858, 1881 and 1882. In the year 1800 only one periodical comet was known, Halley's. Now many are known, of which at least seventeen have been seen at more than one re turn to perihelion.

Too Costly.

King George II. once wished to add the Green park, in London, to his palace grounds, whether the people liked it or not. He inquired of his minister as to the cost.

His lordship, mindful of the general discontent then prevalent, answered: "The cost, sir? Oh, it would be a

matter of three crowns!" The king took the hint. The people kept their park and the sovereign his triple throne.

Kindness has converted more sin-ners than zeal, eloquence or learning.—

MR. MUDGE'S WOOING

A Very Homely Man Who Was a Very Persistent Lover.

By ADELAIDE RUTH HILL.

Jabez Chute Mudge was his name. Considering that he was the homeliest man in his state it would seem that his parents might have helped him to

a more milliduous pair of surnames.

Mr. Mudge, however, came of good enough stock, was fairly well educated and was the possessor of a couple of thousand dollars a year. He lived on his own place, where he grew grapes, his only occupation. If he had had anything else to do this story would never have been written, for nine-tenths of his time was devoted to incidents recounted therein.

neighboring hill lived Leonidas Meredith, a gentleman whose name was as euphonius as Mr. Mudge's was discordant. Mr. Meredith possessed a daughter, Leita, who was as comely as Mr. Mudge was homely. This story recounts the wooing of Leita Meredith

by Chute Mudge.

When Mudge first saw Miss Meredith and how he happened to fall in love with her doesn't matter. His first move in the direction of possessing her was made one morning when her fa-ther was getting into his carriage to drive to a train on his daily journey to the city. Mudge stepped up to him and astonished him by asking for the hand of his daughter.
"My daughter!" exclaimed the gen

tleman, opening his eyes very wide "Yes, Mr. Meredith; I have loved her



"I SHALL LOVE YOU FROM A DISTANCE.

a long while and shall always love her.

I can take fairly good care"—
"You get out of this mighty quick

or I'll find a way to hurry you "I shall stay here, Mr. Meredith, till I get your consent." "Tom," yelled the wrathy father to

the gardener, "come here!" Tom dropped a spade and came run-ning toward his employer. "Just help me a bit with this fel-

Mr. Meredith took the suitor by one arm, Tom took him by the other, and, walking him down to the pond, lifted him and with a "One, two, three,' they threw him in.

Mudge came up spluttering. Mr. Meredith hurried to his carriage and was driven away, his would be sen-in-law crying after him: "I'm net dis-couraged, sir. I'll try again." When Miss Leita Meredith heard the

story of her wooer's ducking she gave a little laugh, then said, "Poor fel-low!" If Mudge had heard the remark possibly he might have gathered a ray of hope. The young lady's mother asked her if she had ever had any communication with Mudge, to which she replied that she had not known that there was such a person in exist

ence.
This was the first episode in Mr. Mudge's courtship. The second was very different. Jabez kept an eye on the Meredith place and noticed a young man who called rather more frequently than the red headed lover thought might be well for his own suit. One afternoon when this gentleman was leaving the Merediths, Jabez waylaid him and asked him if he could tell him the way to B. The man replied that he could not. Jabez told him that he believed he was lying. The man promptly slapped Jabez's face, and Jabez as promptly knocked him down. The young man's jaw was pretty nearly broken, and when he got up he was in no condition to renew the fight. He went back to the Merediths for assistance, told of his en-counter and spoke of his assailant as a "red headed, monkey shaped devil."

Miss Meredith, who was bathing his jaw, at once recognized her persistent lover. What woman can fail to fee some interest in a man who for her sake will first consent to be ducked by her father and then will permit no other man to pay her attention? expressed to the gentleman under her care her abhorrence of Jabez Mudge and his act, but for her life she could not but consider him in the light of a When her visitor showed a shrinking from meeting the "red head ed, monkey shaped devil" again and asked to be driven to his home Jabez had got rid of his only rival. Miss Meredith had more admiration for the monkey shaped man than his oppo

Not long after this Miss Meredith concluded to walk to the village. Her mother told her she had better go in her pony cart since she might meet Mr. Mudge, and it would be easier for her to drive away from him than to walk away. To this the girl replied that she was not afraid of Mr. Mudge and would not permit him to restrict her movements in the least. Down in the bottom of her heart she had a curiosity to talk with this singufar being who was suffering and daring for her and hoped that he might join her. The song that nerves a nation's heart is in itself a deed.—Tennyson.

Jabez, constantly on the lookout for such an opportunity, saw her leave the place on the hill and sallied forth to meet her. As she approached he stood still with his hat in his hand

and his head bowed. "May I have a few words with you?" he said in a sad voice.

Nevertheless he walked on beside

"Do you want another ducking?" she asked

"A thousand if they will bring me "What in the world put it into your

head to want me?" she asked.
"First, you are the most beautiful woman in the world," he replied. "Second?"
"Second is all the rest of it. I must

ave you, and I will have you."
"And I will not have you." "Then I shall love you from a distance as long as I live."

"And I wish you to understand that in case any man pays me attention in future you are to let him alone." "Won't you at least give me the sat-

sfaction of dying by his hand? him possess you.'

"You're too silly for anything." By this time they had reached a rk in the road, and she signified that must leave her. Jabez did so and the must leave her. Jabez did so and walked away to his home, feeling that ne had gained one point, but it was a very small point, and there was a whole picket fence of points bristling

Not long after this Mr. Meredith introduced a voung man named Long to his daughter and intimated that he would be pleased if she and Long would make a match. The young man fell in readily with the plan and after devoting himself to the girl for some time proposed to her.

"I'm sorry." she said, "but I can't

marry any one."
"Why not?" he asked, surprised. "There is a man living down there who has taken it into his silly head that he wants me so much that I'm afraid he'll kill any one who marries

"He will, eh? Then it is time some

one kills him."
"You had better not try it."

"What makes you think so?"
"Why, he loves me so well that he permitted papa and Tom, the gardener, to throw him into the pond, all on my account, but he waylaid a gentle man who was calling on me and near-ly broke his jaw."

"I'll see him and find out whether

he's going to put another of your adnirers out of the race."

When Miss Meredith said "don't" she meant "do." She wished to know what her red headed lover would do in the matter, though she did not intend that anything serious should happen. Long went straight to Mudge and said: "I have asked Miss Meredith to mar-ry me. She says that if she does you will kill me."

"I beg your pardon. Miss Meredith didn't say any such thing."
"Well, what are you going to do about it?"

"With Miss Meredith's permission I'll fight you any way you please-fists, swords, pistols or rifles."

"But Miss Meredith considers you as standing between her and marriage. Of course she doesn't wish me to fight for her with you."

"Then let her say so."
Somewhat surprised at this turn of the affair, Long went back to Miss Meredith and told her what had passed between him and "the red headed monkey," supposing she would at once give him something that would indicate the suppose that his friend had claims upon her, or he would have retired at once from the field. Avery on learning that

ing that he should receive some com-

"Why do you persist in thrusting yourself between me and any one who wishes to marry me?" she asked.

By the time they came on to the field of hoper each had cooled and "Do you wish to marry this man who came to see me yesterday?"

to prevent you.'

Alabama's Capitals.

ington county. The convention that framed the constitution under which it was admitted into the Union was held in Huntsville, where the first leg-islature met in October, 1819, and the first governor was inaugurated. Cahaba became the seat of government in

1820. In 1825 the capital was removed

to Tuscalooss, and in 1846 it was again removed, this time to Montgomery. The Seventh Son. "Yes," said the despendent man, "I was a seventh son.

"And didn't it bring you luck?" asked the superstitious one. "Well, if being obliged to wear the castoff clothes of six other brothers is luck it did," replied the despondent man.—Philadelphia Record.

The Dear Friends

Miss Thin—Don't you think my new dress is just exquisite? Fannie—Oh, lovely! I think that dressmaker of yours could make a clothes prop look graceful.

UNDER A CLOUD.

Accused of Crime, He Lived For Many Years a Cursed Man.

By GERTRUDE ELMENDORF. [Copyright, 1910, by American Press Association.]

The life lived by the planters of the south before the extinction of slavery was in some respects an ideal one. Most of them were people of refinement and kind to their slaves, by whom they were much beloved. Lynn family were of this type. Their plantation was one of the largest in the south, and they owned more than a thousand slaves. Their social position in the circle of society embracing the neighboring planter families was very high. Indeed, they were beloved by both whites and blacks.

Alan Lynn inherited this plantation Alan Lynn inherited this plantation when he came of age. He was a splendid specimen of the highly honorable, sensitive southerner. Among all the young men of the region in which he lived he was the favorite both with his own and the opposite sex. He was very gay, taking a prominent part in all the section officire of inent part in all the social affairs of his circle. If a ball were given on a plantation fifty miles away he was as sure to be there as if it were on an adjoining place. Yet much of his leisure time was spent in examining into the needs of the negroes on his plantation, supplying them and righting their wrongs.

wrongs.

Among the young men of that region was Sheldon Avery, who lived on a plantation some ten miles from the Lynn home. Notwithstanding the distance separating them Lynn and Avery were much together.

The friendship continued until the

two men discovered that they were secretly devoting themselves to the same girl. Martha Tucker was the social circle of the planters' ilies. She was very handsome, however, and possessed traits to render her attractive to men. Avery had known her some time before Lynn



SHOTS WERE EXCHANGED.

cate to Mudge that she wished him to let any suitor of hers alone. Instead of that she said:

"Til see what I can do with him."

Lynn was his rival was very angry. He accused his friend of dishonorable action toward him, and Lynn's hot southern blood prompted him to resent

Long bowed himself away with a bearing that denoted disappointment and displeasure. The next morning Mudge had a feeling that he should receive some coning that he should receive some conout the fact being known to all their out the fact being known to all their ing that he should receive some communication from Miss Meredith and believed she would talk with him rather than write. He was not mistaken. During the day he saw her leave her home on foot. He went to meet her.

By the time they came on to the field of honor each had cooled and would have gladly come to a recon-There was no reply to this.
"Because if you do I will do nothing the risk of killing a friend. Shots

"Because it you do I will do nothing to prevent you."

"I am glad that this insane freak of yours has become tinctured at last with a little common sense. Doubtless your love is not so flerce as it was."

"There is no change in my love except that it has grown greater. When it began it was selfish. Now I love you so well that I am ready to sacrifice myself for your happiness."

She led the way on a path not much trodden, and it was two hours before she left him. When she returned to her home there was evidently some thing on her mind.

The risk of killing a friend. Shots were exchanged, fortunately without two effect; the seconds interposed, and the two enemies again became friends. For some time after this difference they saw little of each other. Meanwhile young Lynn had been stocking certain weeds comprised within his property with came. In October he sent an invisation to Avery to make him a visit and eajoy the shooting. Avery accepted and came to his friend's house prepared for an extended visit.

The two men hunted for several days, each being careful to abstain

she left him. When she returned to her home there was evidently some thing on her mind.

The next morning a maid left hot water in her mistress' room and found it empty. Miss Meredith had fled to become Mrs. Mudge.

But one days, each being careful to abstain from any mention of the trouble over which they had disagreed. But one day when a number of other persons were hunting with them and the two young men became separated from the rest of the party their volces were rest of the party their voices were Alabama's Capitals.

When Alabama was a territory its capital was at St. Stephens, in Washington county. The convention that of liquor to a reformed drunkard, had fired the brain of Avery, who seemed easily excited at any reference to Martha Tucker. Those of the party nearest the disputants paused to listen

and heard Lynn say:
"If you do I will kill you!"
At this moment those who were listening started up a flock of birds in which they were more interested than in the quarrel between the two friends. They followed the game and, hearing

reports of guns in another part of the wood, supposed that Lynn and Avery had also turned their attention to the

sport.
Some time after this Lynn came up with the others. He seemed surprised not to see Avery with them, saying that while he and Avery were together Avery, hearing the reports of their guns and assuming that they had found game, had gone to rejoin them.

When, after another hour, Avery did not appear all started in different di-rections to look for him. They did not find him. The day ended, and most of the party went to their homes, while plied Charlie softly.

Lynn, with a few others, com the search until it was so dark they could see nothing, then gave it up. But the next morning just as they were starting out to renew their search Avery's dead body was brought in with a hole made by bird shot in the head. The body had been found about a hundred yards from the place where the two men had been heard disputing.

Natwithstanding the high position of young Lynn it was almost universally believed that he had killed Avery. Sympathy was expressed for him, because it was supposed that he had done the deed in a burst of passion. He was arrested, charged with the murder and found guilty. On the trial it came out that he had recently become engaged to the daughter of a neighboring planter, and he ascribed his words "If you do I will kill you" to the fact that he had on Avery's to the fact that he had on Avery's arrival confided to him his engagement and that Avery during their subse-quent quarrel had threatened to make certain charges against Lynn's good name to the latter's fiancee. In those days in the south the

courts were chary of interfering in disputes among gentlemen. Doubtless if witnesses had been present at a fight in which either of the two men had killed the other there would have been no arrest made, or if arrested the one who had done the killing would have been acquitted. As it was, nearly every one believed that Lynn had killed Avery while angered, and as it was to be supposed that he had not given his victim a chance for his life and had concealed the crime he was to be considered a murderer. Nevertheless there were planters on the jury who would not convict one of their number of crime on circumstantial evidence, and the result was a disagreement. Lynn went forth a free man, but with the imputation of murder resting upon him. He was never again brought to trial because there was no new evidence forthcoming to throw additional light on the case.

Opinion as to his guilt varied from the lightest charge that he had simply killed a man who would otherwise have killed him to the belief that with nmity still rankling within him he had invited Avery to visit him on purpose to gratify a spirit of revenge.

The case was discussed at the tables of his peers, the planters; in the domi-clies of the poor whites and in the huts of the negroes. Of course opinions were shaped in accordance with the sympathies of those who expressed them, the Lynn adherents defending him, while those of Avery could not find words to express their horror of

between Lynn and his flancee except that the engagement was broken off. The facts of the case were that she believed in his innocence and was willing to marry him, but he would not permit any woman to take his name after it had been stained with a criminal charge that he was unable to disprove. He went abroad for awhile, spending his time wandering from place to place, but without gaining any comfort. He lived a blighted life. The girl he was to have married wrote him often, and from her he drew what con-solation was possible. She declared that she would never marry unless she married him, and he declared that he would never marry any one so long as the imputation of murdering his friend and guest hung over him.

Martha Tucker, the girl who ap-peared to have been at the bottom of the trouble, disappeared and was seen no more in the neighborhood. years passed, during which Lynn had grown in appearance ten years older than he really was. His family, his friends and his slaves were still devoted to him, and the girl he was to have married loved him more than ever. This was the situation when David Tucker, a brother of Martha Tucker, died and just before his death made a confession that unsealed the

Sheldon Avery, he said, had ruined his sister Martha. The knowledge of this fact came to him at the time when Avery went to the Lynn plantation to hunt. He followed Avery there and went to the woods where the hunt was in progress. Encountering Avery soon after the latter had left Lynn, he had deliberately shot him. Tucker claimed that if Lynn had been con-victed he would have declared that he was the real slayer of Avery and his reason for killing him. When Lynn's conviction failed he had decided to

party of men coming at full speed. On reaching his gate they turned in, and he saw that they were his friends and acquaintances. They dismounted at acquaintances. They dismounted at the foot of the steps, and their spokes-man, advancing, announced the news of the confession that lifted from his shoulders the stigma he had borne for ten years. Having done this, every

man embraced him.

From that moment Lynn took a new lease of life. He married the girl who had waited for him so long and after-ward fought as a colonel in the Con-federate army.

His Mistake.

There once appeared at the back door of a house a tramp who to the mistress of the place related a pathetic story of his troubles. This tale, how ever, did not greatly move the matter of fact woman, for she remarked dryly:

"That's the same story I had from the last hobo that passed." "Indeed!" said the tramp. "Then, madam, I perceive that I have been

nwise not to have had my history copyrighted."-Judge. A Double Break. Wife—I saw Mr. Chacer this after-noon, and he looks very bad. What's

the matter with him-do you know? Hubby—Compound fracture. Wife— What sort of compound fracture? Hubby—He's broke, and Miss Doughbag, discovering that fact, broke her engagement.-Philadelphia Inquirer.

He Told Her.

"What is it, do you suppose, that keeps the moon in place and prevents it from falling?" asked Araminta. "I think it must be the beams," reAN EASY VICTORY.

How an Obstinate English Lord Was

Outwitted in Naples.

Lord Charles Hamilton used to go about Naples attended by a large, feroclous buildog. Having decided upon going to Rome, he proceeded to the station and took his place in a first class carriage, the "dawg" taking up a position on a seat opposite his mas-Outwitted In Naples. a position on a seat opposite his mas-ter. The platform inspector, with many gesticulations, declared that the buildog should not travel in a passenger carriage.

"Very well, then; take him out," was: Lord Charles' rejoinder. In vain the official expostulated. He merely reiterated his former reply, a piece of advice it is needless to say which was not followed, and Lord Charles, apparently master of the situation, threw himself back in his seat

and calmly lighted a cigar.

But the Italians were not to be outdone, and, quietly detaching the car-riage in which the English "milor" was seated, they made up the train with another compartment and started it off.

Lord Charles sat quietly smoking for about a quarter of an hour and then, surprised at the delay, thrust his head out of the window and demander when the train was going to start. His scribed to him may be imagined .- Lon-

A WONDERFUL DREAM.

The Poor Cobbler Who Found Him-

seif Upon a Throne. It was in the days of Philip the Good, duke of Burgundy, that a cobbler mounted a royal throne. As the duke was traveling one night Bruges he came upon a man stretched upon the ground sound asleep and bade his attendants carry him to the palace, strip off his rags and place him, robed in fine linen, in his own

When the man awoke next morning he was addressed as "your highness" and astounded to find himself among such rich surroundings. In vain he protested that he was no prince, but a poor cobbler. They asked him what clothing he would wear and at last conducted him, splendidly dressed, to mass in the ducal chapel. Every cere-mony was observed throughout the day. The cobbler appeared in public in his new role, was received on all sides by command of the duke with deep respect and ended his brief reign in the palace with a grand supper and

ball. When presently he fell asleep he was reclothed in his rags and taken to the spot where he had been found when this practical joke was con-ceived. Waking in due time, he re-turned home and related to his wife what he took to be his wonderful dream.

Although well known to travelers and collectors of curiosities, the horn nut, or "sacred nut," of Japan was almost wholly unknown to fruit and nut dealers in this country prior to 1888, when a New York commission merchant received the first large consignment. They are called "sacred nuts" because used in certain forms of Japanese worship, where they are placed on the altar and ignited. Being very on the aftar and ignited. Being very rich in oil, they burn with a hot, bluish flame and give off a peculiar odor, the fumes being supposed to rise as an acceptable incense to the gods. They grow under water and have a leaf like an American Illy, the form of the nut itself being an almost exact counters. itself being an almost exact counterpart of an Asian buffalo's head, droopsing horns and all. In the raw state they are hard and tasteless, but when cooked the flavor resembles that of boiled chestnuts. They are said to re-tain their edible qualities for upward of twenty years.

Vanished Mountains. Vanished Mountsins.

It has been observed that in the neighborhood of great ranges of mountains the force of gravity is slighter than elsewhere, and the explanation is that the earth's crust is less dense beneath the places where it has been heaved up. Assuming this to be a general law, one authority points out that it is possible to discover where ancient mountains now worn away and leveled by the action of the ele-ments once existed, because the den-sity of the underlying rocks has not crime a secret.

Alan Lynn was walking with bowed had on the front gallery of his home when he heard a clattering of horses hoofs and, looking up the road. lar phenomenon occurs on the plains of southern Russia.—Harper's Weekly,

Unconscious Self Criticism.
Mr. X., the subeditor, was asked to write an article on superstition and

imbecility.

When the article was printed the opening sentence was found to be as follows: "That imbecility is not on the wane perusal of the following lines will amply demonstrate."-Paris Fi-

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