

OBSCURITY.

There's a song for the man who is lucky and bold, For the man who has fate on his side...

A Change of Heart.

By Lurana W. Sheldon.

The stage coach—a weekly event—was approaching. Bert Donaldson of No. 5 Fifth Avenue, New York, rose from the mat upon which he had been lying just under the ramada of the ranchhouse...

"Well, of all things!" Al Van Alden made the remark with a tangible inflection of incredulity, then he added: "You here!" and held out his hand cordially.

"Been here a week," Donaldson explained as he led the way into the rancho, stopping just inside the patio to introduce him to "Sierra Jim," the owner.

Then the two went on to the enclosure between four adobe walls, where a criada sour visaged, but attentive, supplied them with refreshment.

"I supposed you knew my whereabouts," Donaldson said frankly. "Everyone else in New York did. I gave Doc Turkington a ten spot for suggesting it before the boys one night at the club. He did it well, too!"

"Or others," Donaldson made a grimace as he spoke, then he added, "but Miss—I mean my ex-sweetheart—was honest, she acknowledged another attachment."

"Are these—these Spanish ladies 'heart whole and fancy free?' Van Alden asked the question with his glance upon two vaqueritos who had just entered the enclosure.

"No," Van Alden bit his lips as Donaldson began fumbling in his pocket. "So it was Diane?"

He waited breathlessly until the other produced a letter.

POLO AT MANILA.

The Game Popular Among the Army Officers.

A great many unpleasant things may truthfully be said about the Manila climate, but from the middle of November until the rains set in again the following June or July the sunshiny hour is usually an agreeable one for exercise.

Philippine ponies offered the most available mounts. During the war many officers rode them in the field and practically everybody stationed in Manila keeps from one to four as harness horses.

As to the play, it promised in January to be very creditable, considering the fact that nearly all the players were beginners.

"But what was it all about?" Van Alden got the question in edgewise. "Were you really ill?"

"Worse! You're my friend, Van. I had been ill!" "Shake!" Van Alden held out his hand with even more cordiality. "I am suffering the same trouble, old man; only nobody knows it."

"How Britons Do It." A gentleman traveling under the seat on the Great Eastern Railway had the bad luck to be in the same carriage as a ticket collector.

CANAL A GIGANTIC TASK

SURVEY OF WORK TO BE DONE IN PANAMA.

Views of Dr. C. A. Stephens, Who Has Recently Made a Trip of Observation to the Isthmus.—The Culebra Cut the Biggest Work of the Kind Ever Undertaken.

Dr. C. A. Stephens, who has been well known for a generation as a writer of stories of adventure for boys, has recently visited Panama, where he has had excellent opportunities for observing the great project the nation has undertaken there.

Americans speak glibly of the possibility of a tide-level canal at Panama. Of this Dr. Stephens says: "It is not an easy matter to estimate the exact amount of earth which would have to be removed to get a clear channel across the Isthmus, 35 feet below tide at Colon and at La Boca on the Bay of Panama."

"During their most successful year, 1897, the new company employed 36000 men and removed, mainly in the Culebra cut, 960,000 cubic metres, chiefly earth. This was by far the best ever done by the French."

"As to the cost of a tidewater canal at Panama, reckoning laborers' wages at only a dollar a day, and the salaries of engineers, foremen, etc., at equally reasonable rates; adding present cost, figures for machinery, tools, explosives, transportation, hospital equipment and maintenance, with the thousand other minor expenses, and to this the interest on the money as used for thirty years, at 3 percent; I am unable to find the amount called for to construct a tidewater canal at less than \$570,000,000, or adding the price of the canal from the French company, \$610,000,000."

"Magnitude of the Project." Dr. Stephens in other ways makes more distinct than do the formal reports the size of the project in which we are already committed.

"As to the play, it promised in January to be very creditable, considering the fact that nearly all the players were beginners. General Allen, formerly Captain Allen of the Second cavalry post at Angeles, at Manila and well mounted ought to be a five or six goal man. He has been the father of the game in the islands, and the beginning which has been made is largely due to his energy and sportsmanship."

"Had to Marry." It is usually considered that the difficult problem in getting married is in finding some one to have you, but in Farmington, Me., it is different. There, if both are willin' and so signify to the town clerk, it does not settle the matter, as proved in two different instances recently.

"The Sanitary Problem." His account of the sanitary problem is even more impressive: "The French exercised little or no sanitary control over their canal laborers. They built little villages of wood and galvanized iron for the men to live in, but in most cases provided neither water nor drains."

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

There is a miracle wherever the divine touches the human. The Bible is not such a bad-looking battle wreck, after all.

"If God is no more than a hypothesis He cannot be much help to us. A man's spirit does not always grow holier as his salary grows heavier."

After all, it is the man at the little end of the horn who makes the music. Love is the prize most worth gaining, most easily gained and most often lost.

TROUBLES OF THE HERMIT CRAB.

Having No Shell of Its Own, It Must Hunt Around and Fight for One.

The most disconsolate fellow that walks the beach is the hermit-crab, whose shell has become too snug for comfort, says Country Life in America. If it were his own, as the clam's, it would grow with his growth, and always be a perfect fit; but to the hermit there comes often a "moving day," when a new house must be sought.

THE MUSIC CURE.

Papa Had No Headache After Plenty of "Bedelia."

An interesting experiment was recently conducted in an uptown apartment house by a young woman with a taste for scientific research. She had heard of the so-called "music cure," as tried in Boston, and she determined to investigate it.

"The Coffee Inebriate." America has developed a class of men and women that physicians group under the name of "coffee inebriates." A coffee inebriate is, speaking broadly, one who consumes a pound or more of coffee a week.

"Ingenious Postscript." This may be an old one, but Representative Charles N. Fowler of New Jersey, who seldom jokes, told it the other night and caused a lot of laughter. He said that one of his constituents, a farmer, sat down recently and wrote a letter asking for several different kinds of garden seeds.

"Reason of the Advice." "A successful man," said Uncle Eben, "generally advises young men to get into some other line of business. Dat's 'cause he honest'y believes dat no one kin show as much smartness as he did in gittin' over difficulties. But he's wrong."—Washington Star.

LA SOUFRIERE'S RUIN.

Processes of Nature Reassert Themselves on St. Vincent's Isle.

How far the ordinary processes of nature have begun to reassert themselves since the conclusion of the volcanic disturbances was the subject of investigation on a tour of St. Vincent's. The first thing that one notices is the remarkable luxuriance of the green growth of vegetation of all kinds, says the London Times.

"Sued a President." Pawnee county claims to be the residence of the only living man who sued a president of the United States. His name is G. S. Van Eman and he lives at Jennings. Van used to run a sheep ranch up in Lyon county, Kansas, and was getting along all right until Grover Cleveland was elected president, and the edict went forth that wool was to be put on the free list.

"The First Essential." Betty—So Maud is engaged? Well, I'm sorry for the man. She doesn't know the first thing about keeping house. Bessie—Oh, yes, she does. Betty—I'd like to know what? Bessie—The first thing is to get a man to keep house for.—Harper's Bazar.

"Reason of the Advice." "A successful man," said Uncle Eben, "generally advises young men to get into some other line of business. Dat's 'cause he honest'y believes dat no one kin show as much smartness as he did in gittin' over difficulties. But he's wrong."—Washington Star.

"The Coffee Inebriate." America has developed a class of men and women that physicians group under the name of "coffee inebriates." A coffee inebriate is, speaking broadly, one who consumes a pound or more of coffee a week.

"Ingenious Postscript." This may be an old one, but Representative Charles N. Fowler of New Jersey, who seldom jokes, told it the other night and caused a lot of laughter. He said that one of his constituents, a farmer, sat down recently and wrote a letter asking for several different kinds of garden seeds.

"Reason of the Advice." "A successful man," said Uncle Eben, "generally advises young men to get into some other line of business. Dat's 'cause he honest'y believes dat no one kin show as much smartness as he did in gittin' over difficulties. But he's wrong."—Washington Star.

LA SOUFRIERE'S RUIN.

Processes of Nature Reassert Themselves on St. Vincent's Isle.

How far the ordinary processes of nature have begun to reassert themselves since the conclusion of the volcanic disturbances was the subject of investigation on a tour of St. Vincent's. The first thing that one notices is the remarkable luxuriance of the green growth of vegetation of all kinds, says the London Times.

"Sued a President." Pawnee county claims to be the residence of the only living man who sued a president of the United States. His name is G. S. Van Eman and he lives at Jennings. Van used to run a sheep ranch up in Lyon county, Kansas, and was getting along all right until Grover Cleveland was elected president, and the edict went forth that wool was to be put on the free list.

"The First Essential." Betty—So Maud is engaged? Well, I'm sorry for the man. She doesn't know the first thing about keeping house. Bessie—Oh, yes, she does. Betty—I'd like to know what? Bessie—The first thing is to get a man to keep house for.—Harper's Bazar.

"Reason of the Advice." "A successful man," said Uncle Eben, "generally advises young men to get into some other line of business. Dat's 'cause he honest'y believes dat no one kin show as much smartness as he did in gittin' over difficulties. But he's wrong."—Washington Star.

"The Coffee Inebriate." America has developed a class of men and women that physicians group under the name of "coffee inebriates." A coffee inebriate is, speaking broadly, one who consumes a pound or more of coffee a week.

"Ingenious Postscript." This may be an old one, but Representative Charles N. Fowler of New Jersey, who seldom jokes, told it the other night and caused a lot of laughter. He said that one of his constituents, a farmer, sat down recently and wrote a letter asking for several different kinds of garden seeds.

"Reason of the Advice." "A successful man," said Uncle Eben, "generally advises young men to get into some other line of business. Dat's 'cause he honest'y believes dat no one kin show as much smartness as he did in gittin' over difficulties. But he's wrong."—Washington Star.