

A VOCAL COURTSHIP.

"Good morning," said Dolly, using the word in farewell, and forcing herself to smile her usual smile of dismissal. "I'm sorry you are compelled to discontinue your lessons; your voice is improving nicely." Then, after hearing responsive regrets and final words of parting. Dolly was alone in the room and free to give vent to her feelings.

"Oh, what shall we do?" she half sobbed, resting her fair, curly head against the old piano. "This makes nine who have stopped and it only leaves me ten pupils. That will pay the rent, but then there is food and the doctor. Why do they all have to stop just when I need them so badly!" she cried, losing heart for the first time in her life, so brave and cheerful; a life devoted solely to her delicate younger sister and to her sister's sick husband and baby. "But I mustn't begin crying." she said, dashing the tears from her eyes, "or Jeanie will know in a minute."

"Come in, little sweetheart," she called, hearing pattering feet in the hall and a sound of vigorous thumping. "Oh, is it fast! Never mind, auntie 'll come and open." And then she lifted her treasure and answered a ring of the doorbell,

"Here, Jeanie, take him and put him to sleep," she cried, rushing into the kitchen and tossing her sister the baby. "I've lost a pupil this morning, but I guess I've got another." And tucking up her curly locks she ran hastily back to her caller.

"Why, Dolly, what unnamable thing did you have trying to sing in the parlor?" exclaimed Jeanie some time later, looking decidedly injured as she gave the baby his blocks and began to iron his aprons. "I've heard of singing bears, and from the sounds this might have been one-as far as I could hear above the baby's screaming. But, poor little lamb, he was frightened. Every time he'd doze off there'd come an awful roar, and he'd wake and cry. You can laugh if you want to, Dolly, but I don't think it's

"Ob, but I do!" cried Dolly, "and of any one trying to sing with such an outlandish voice that people stop in the street and it scares little babies."

"But, Jeanie, I couldn't help it. He said he'd noticed my sign out, and as he wished to study he thought he would stop and inquire. And then be said if this hour was free he would like to take a lesson. I told him this hour was free-implying every other hour from morning till night was taken-and sat down to the piano. I told him I first wanted to try his voice, and to sing with as full tone as he could-but I was not prepared for that bellow. I don't wonder the baby was frightened. I guess I looked seared, too, for he blushed and begged my pardon."

What does he look like?" neked Jeanie, her tone a trifle milder, and entirely forgetting her aprous.

"Why, he's a middle-aged man," said Dolly; "I should think about 40. And-yes, he's downright homelyand still he isn't, either; he has such kind looking eyes. But his voice is like a fog horn! What do you suppose, Jeanie, is his object in taking

"Maybe whenever he's sung he's been arrested for it, and he thinks your eign will protect him," said Jeanie, bringing down her iron. "But anyway it's a pupil, and anyone is wel-I can stuff John's ears with ection and take the baby out walking whenever it's time for his lesson."

"Well, that's the worst of it-or the at, according as we view it," said Dolly, playing peek-a-boo with the for he wants three lessons a week. But that means an increase of

"And that means a good deal," said enie, "if only to case poor John's ind. Maybe the tide's turned with er.' and instead of losing pu-

tainly have gone through the floor, I felt so dreadfully foolish. And, Jeanie, he knew how it sounded, and he has been simply roaring because I thought it was in earnest.'

just hear the result; you can't see his

desperate endeavors. I try to impress

it on him that it's the quality of the

voice, not its volume; and the poor

man listens to every word as though

his life hung on it, and then sends out

"And wouldn't you think with three

lessons a week he at least could learn

the notes, Jeanie? And he seems to

try so hard, too. This morning the

parlor was too cold (ngh! to have to

limit the fire-my conscience wouldn't

let me, only the pupils keep warm

singing). Well, this morning he said

he'd learn those notes if he didn't

sing a minute; so he dumped on a

hodful of coal (I gave a scream of

protest, but he didn't hear in the

racket) and drew up two chairs to the

fire and said we'd get down to busi-

ness. So we droned away for an hour,

and when he came to sing them he

that perhaps he was wasting his

money, and told him this was my first

experience in giving singing lessons

(yes, I did, Jennie, though I don't

that it was all his fault; that I was

know how I came to), but he said

"I believe he's absent minded. The

other day I gave him the note and

waited and waited (kind of all

scrouched up, you know how you feel

when you're waiting for something aw-

ful). Well, he didn't begin, and I

turned and looked up at him quickly,

and there he stood with the most lost

expression looking down at my hair.

Of course I felt it all over, and then

he blushed like fury and said he was

"I wonder what he was thinking. I

suppose 'twas about his business. Oh.

Jeanie, I hate to tell you, but he won't

be a permanent papil! He's a stranger

in the city; only here on business,

and when he goes, there's three les-

"Wasn't that fuuny, Jeanie, about

the mistake in the paying? I felt

somehow awfully funny when I saw

he'd paid twice over. He didn't ask

for the bill, you know, just handed it

to me in leaving, and when I told him

my terms today and returned him the

extra money you'd have thought he'd

been caught stealing. Then he acted

downright angry-said I worked too

cheaply; that my lessons were worth

twice the money. Doesn't that seem

funny?
"I wish he lived here in the city

and had perfect stacks of relations, and

would engage me to train their voices.'

Jeanie; 'then perhaps he'd give up

singing. You might inquire into his

family, and if it's numerous enough

interrupting Jeanie's dreams for the

future, "and next lesson he's going to

it," said Jeanie, "if his mind is de-

termined on it; for I don't think there

was one ever written to suit a voice

"Why, Dolly, I'm disappointed,"

said Jeanie two days later; "I've

looked forward to this lesson, but

there wasn't a sound from the parlor,

except I heard him laughing. Really,

I'm disappointed. If he made so

much noise on just 'oh' and 'ah.' I

thought when it came to love songs

he would simply take the roof off.

That his soul-you might say-would

explode in song, and-why, Dolly,

what's the matter? You look as if

something had happened. Wouldn't

"No, I took a lesson," said Dolly.

"I-Jeanie, 'I'll have to tell you,

though, the first of it was too silly!

First, I played the prelude, then on

through the opening phrase, and told

him to sing it with me. 'My dear,

dear little girl, do you think you ever

could love me? " I heard him mur-

muring over my head, and I-oh, it's

simply too silly! I said, 'You've for-

gotten the words, Mr. Farley; they

are, 'Deep in my heart I hold thee'-

and please, if you can, raise your voice to the pitch'—that's when he

like a cannon firing."

he take a lessou?"

"He wants a song now," said Dolly,

'I guess we will have to compose

to make a proposition to--"

"Well, I wish he had, too," said

sons substracted from our income.

"I said I was afraid he would feel

honestly couldn't remember!

an excellent teacher.

thinking deeply.

a blast like a trumpet.

"But why, then, did he take lessons?" cried Jean, struggling for com-

"I felt offended, he laughed so, and

est as indignant as could be (he'd kept

his hands on my shoulders) till I al:

had followed my feelings I would cer-

prehension. "Why did-" "Why, because he saw me at the window and fell in love with me, goosie; and being a perfect stranger, couldn't get acquainted. And he was simply distracted," said Dolly, beamtaking lessons."

"But he's been awfully sorry about our troubles, Jeauie (and maybe I've told him more than I thought I was telling); but, oh, Jeanie, darling got a beautiful home, and we are all to live in it with him, and there's a needs old John ; and-"

"But, Dolly, what are you saying?" cried Jeanie, in gasping amazement. "Do you mean to say that-that you are going to-Dolly, you shan't do it! You'd marry him just for our sakes, gifted with the touch of Midas, for and we'll starve before we'll let you;

"Well, maybe it's not for your sakes," cried Dolly in unblushing defiance. "I guess when you love somebody you marry him for your own sake. But-but Jeanie, I didn't tell him; at least not just in that way. I cate, of which he, of course, was the promise me now to faithfully continue his partners Rhodes had the now f. his lessons, I-but don't look scared, Jeanie; he won't. He said it should King,"the fluctuations of whose South be in the marriage contract that hereafter I'd do the singing."-New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A Dog That Earns His Living.

Keys, the canine employe of the Union iron works, met with an accident recently by which his front right leg was broken. Keys has been later came the news of a discovery looked upon by the officers of the iron works as one of their regular work- fabulous good fortune, but which, men for about four years. He is a dog of no particular beauty and his pedigree would not be considered by dog fanciers, but he possesses wonderful intelligence. He makes the Protrero police station his home and he is the pet of lieutenant Bennet, but nearly every workman in the shipbuilding concern claims the friendship upon-in a perfectly legal way, of

At the first tap of the gong every morning Keys has reported for duty ury.

But all this while Cecil Rhodes was and he has never left until a full day's was more valuable to them than a ly appreciate his success as a statesparticular work was to carry tools, bolts, nuts, rivets, and other small articles needed by workmen who had crawled into such places, and to have them creep back and forth for such

Keys thoroughly understood his work and he was always on hand when needed. The other day a steamer was placed on the dry-dock for repairs, and the dog, realizing that his services might be needed by the workmen, was climbing a ladder to the deck when he alipped and fell about twenty feet. The men picked him up, and, making a stretcher of some pieces of canvas, carried him to the police station and sent for a physician to set the broken limb. -San Francisco Examiner-

Fish Take Sand as Ballast,

Fishing boats in the southern parts of the North Sea have recently complained of the fewness of codfish in their catch, the captain of a steam fishing smack declared that he had foreseen this for eight days. His clue was a quantity of sand found in the stomachs of the fish caught. The sand, if his observations are to be accented, is taken in as ballast just before the fish leave the shallow sea of the southern banks for the deeper northern waters, and is ejected when the fish prepare for their southern migration. The sand often differs from that of the bottom where the fish are taken-a fact that may prove a valuable guide to fishermen. - Trenton (N. J.) American.

In Mid-Ocean.

Passenger-Say, captain, how far are we still from land?

Captain-About two nautical miles. Passenger-But we cannot see land anywhere. In what direction does it

Captain-Straight below us!

CECIL RHODES.

at once I understood him-then if I Picturesque Career of an Uncrowned and Fallen King.

> His Marvelous Rise to Power in South Africa.

Cecil Rhodes was about twenty-five years of age when he went to South Africa from England, eighteen years or so ago. He was a slim, pale young fellow, whom the doctors said was on the verge of consumption. At Oxford University, where he was when his health failed, he was known only as a ing with pleasure, "till he thought of hard student, whose passion it was to be the leader in everything he undertook. He was poor in those days, for he was one of that numerous class, the "younger sons" of English gentlemen, whose family fortune is insufficient everything now will be lovely. He's for their maintenance at home, and who therefore are shipped off to the colonies, where they either fight their place in his business where he actually | way to fame and fortune or else are claimed by death in some of the many forms it takes in those wild lands.

From the moment that Cecil Rhodes set foot on African soil, with a few pounds in his pocket, he seemed to be his handful of sovereigns multiplied with marvelous rapidity, and in less than five years reached the astonishing sum of a million pounds. His first move was the organizing of all the gold and diamond mines of South Africa into a gigantic syndisaid it was very hard to part from a bead. This was known as the Consolpromising pupil, and if he would idated De Beers mines. For one of mous Barney Barnato, the "Kaffir African stocks last year meant the daily loss and gain of millions of

> The stock of the new company was at par on the day of its birth, but before it was a month old it had doubled in market value, and Cecil Rhodes's name was on every tongue. A little which then seemed like a stroke of through his greed for power and wealth, has since brought about his undoing-the discovery of new and rich gold fields in the Transvaal Republic. Rhodes and his associates sent more than half a hundred different companies immediately into this new territory to locate and seize course-all the best and richest of it.

maturing and beginning to carry out work had been accomplished. He his political plans. His first taste of was particularly useful in the ship- this sort of power was when he was yard and the boiler-shop, and the elected member of the Cope parliaforemen of those departments say he | ment from Kimberly. To adequateman for doing certain kinds of work, man it will be necessary to ob-He could crawl through small holes | serve that then the Cape parliament was in boilers and about ships, and his two bitterly opposed factions, one of which was jealous of even the slight control of England and wished to be entirely independent, while the other was as strong in its allegiance to the home government and to her whom articles would cause considerable loss their opponents named as the "Widow at Windsor." No man could have been popular with both these hostile parties had he not been a diplomatist of the first rank, secret, self-reliant

and masterful. It was not long before they all knew what an iron hand his velvet glove concealed, for when the time was ripe he threw aside all disguise and declared that the Cape was able to govern itself without aid or advice from London. His views were hailed with acclaim by a vast majority, and from that day Cecil Rhodes has been the most popular and powerful man in that part of the world. He became a member of the Cape ministry in 1884, and six years later reached the highest office he could hope to attain in a colonial dependency, that of prime

Such was the beginning and growth of Cecil Rhodes's ambitious dream, which has not yet been realized-the forming of an independent federation of South African states, of which he should be the undisputed leader.

In appearance, Cool Rhodes is "big" man- tall, broad-shouldered and muscular. He is not handsome, but there is a look of bull-dog tenscity and strength about his mouth, half hidden by a close-clipped moustache, and in his keen eyes that to women, as well as men, is more admirable than the best of good looks. He has a high forehead and rather florid complexion. His deep-set eyes are blue, and like his voice, never betray any tell-tale emotions of the mind that lie back of them.

A man's private life is generally supposed to be one of the best guides to rming an opinion as to his character,

but Cecil Rhodes seems to have really no private life. Of ambition toward social distinction he seems to have not an atom. He used to be a very democratic and approachable man, a frequenter of the hard-drinking and high-playing clubs that abound in South Africa, but since reaching his political pinnacle he has, of course, been compelled to drop much of this sart of thing. He lived just outside of Cape Town, in a large mansion which was one the summer home of the English governors. It is magnificently furnished, one feature of its adornment being probably the finest collection of South African weapons and curiosities in existence. He is unmarried, and a peculiar thing about his household is that he has no maidservants-all are men.-New York Journal.

A Tree Growing in a Bont.

On the shore of Suisun Bay, between the Carquinez Straits and Benicia, a most unusual sight can be seen. It is grotesque in the extreme, but there is nothing mysterious nor apparently impossible about it. It is that of a tree growing in the hatch of the wreck of a sloop.

What the name of the sloop was and the length of time it has been lying in its present position are things past finding out. When the vessel was in good shape she was a craft of about forty feet in length and eight feet beam. Judging from her lines and manner of construction she was a vessel with good safling qualities. When abandoned she was hauled on to the mud at high tide and has since sunk so deep as to become immov-

The place where the hull is stuck is what would be called good "tule land," and there is a fine growth of that reed in the vicinity. The bottom of the boat has rotted away, and they have formed quite a growth inside the hull, large numbers of them poking through the hatches. A peculiar thing will be noticed in the growth and that is that they grow straight up as stiff as a bayonet, instead of having the graceful sweep so common under ordinary conditions.

How the tree came to grow in the boat is a mystery, but most likely the seed blew into the old hull from some of the trees on the surrounding hillsides. Close examination would be a difficult and disagreeable matter, but seen from shore it appears to be a specimen of live oak. It has attained a height of about ten feet above the deck of the wreck and appears to have a healthy growth.

Such a thing would not be possible a little further down, as the water is too sait, but on the shores of Suisun Bay, the conditions are just right. The air is warm most of the year and fertility has undoubtedly been given to the soil by the decaying wood in the bottom of the sloop. - San Francisco

Monkeys as Gold Miners.

Captain E. Moss, who has just returned to London from the Transvaal, tells the story of the monkeys who work for him in the mines. "I have 24 monkeys," said he, "employed about my mines. They do the work of seven able bodied men, and it is no reflection upon the human laborers to say that they do a class of work a man cannot do as well as they. In many instances they lend valuable aid where a man is useless. They gather up the small pieces of quartz that would be passed unnoticed by the workingmen, and pile them up in little heaps that can easily be gathered up in a shovel and thrown into the mill. They are exceedingly adept at catching the little particles, and their sharp eyes never escape the very things that the human eve would pass. When I went digging gold I had two monkeys that exceedingly interesting pets. They, were constantly following me about the mines, and one day I noticed that they were busily engaged in | shell. The shell is something like five gathering up little bits of quartz and putting them in piles; they seemed to enjoy the labor very much and would go to the mines every morning and work there during the day. It did not take me long to learn their value as laborers, and I decided to procure more. So I immediately procured a number, and now have two dozen working daily in and about the mines. It is exceedingly interesting to watch my two pet monkeys teach the new ones how to work, and still stranger to see how the newcomers take to it. They work just as they please, sometimes going down into the mines when they have cleared up all the debris on the ontside. They live and work together without quarreling any more than men do. They are quite methodical in their habits, and go to work and finish up in the same mauner as human beings would do under similar circumanges."-Boston Evening Transcript,

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

Wasps rank next to the highest classes of ants in point of insect intel-

The astronomical difference in time between London and New York is four hours, fifty-six minutes, 0.6 seconds.

Of the 40,000 species of beetles widely diffused over the earth's surface not one is known to be venomous or armed with a sting.

Maxim has discovered that the heat generated by smokeless powder is so great as to evaporate the carbon of the steel, turning the gun into soft iron.

The oyster grows from the inside by throwing out every year rings or circles of a calcareous substance, and experts can tell where the growth begins and ends for the year.

Mountain sickness is found by professor Zuntz to be due more to lessened activity of the heart as a result of over-stimulation than to the diminished pressure of oxygen at the higher level.

Recent investigations show that the stimulation experienced by visitors to the senshore is due to the ozone contained in the air and the presence of this is due to the breaking of sea waves and the scattering of the spray, which have the effect of imparting positive electricity to the atmosphere.

A new explosive has been patented abroad which contains the following ingredients per hundred parts: Sulphide of antimony, 1; mercuric oxide, 0.5; tungstie seid, 0.5; puric seid, 1; flowers of sulphur, 13; nitrate of potash, 54; infusorial earth, or some similar absorbent, 20; water, 10.

One of the most remarkable achievements of the century is the production of a new violet, due to the experiments in cross-fertilization by Professor Emery E. Smith of California. The color of the flower is a clear violet purple which does not fade, the size is about that of a silver dollar and it is exceedingly fragrant.

The effect of a number of different substances on the germination of seeds has been tested by M. Bruttini with solutions of one to two percent. At the end of four days, seeds in a saltpetre solution had sprouted to a degree quite equal to that of seeds in pure water, but solutions of mercuric chloride, ferric chloride, common salt and potassic phosphate had much retarded or entirely prevented germination.

Clams That Trap Men.

Bivalves of various species form traps of a deadly character, and of these the various clams are most frequently heard of.

Darwin's theory on the broadcast distribution of species was that birds carried them. For instance, a heron wading on the spawning bed of a trout gets a number of the eggs stuck to its legs. On flying to a stream some miles away, hitherto unstocked with these fish, the eggs are washed off and are hatched according to the regular course of nature. The fish breed and multiply.

A Canada goose killed in Ohio had a freshwater clam attached to one middle toe. Had the goose not been killed the clam would have dropped off in the water perhaps hundreds of miles from its original home.

Men have stepped into the open jaws of huge clams accidentally at low tide, and the clams, closing their jaws, have held them fast till the tide rose, when the men were drowned. Other men have reached for a lure in the form of a luminous spot. The justant they touched it the shell of a clam closed on their arms and in a few minutes the men were drowned. Some of the clams that trap men are found embedded in the coral reefs of the Pacifie and Indian oce us, and the men captured are pearl divers. The flesh of one of the huge clams sometimes weighs twenty pounds, and added to that is the 500 pounds or more of feet long by two and three-quarters wide. Poets are fond of saying that these shells are the cradles of sea goddesses, since they are very beautiful if polished. They are also used as baptismal fonts. -- New York Sun.

The Sack Tree.

From a species of Antiaris (the genus which includes the celebrated upas tree) sacks are made in Western India by the following singular process. A branch is cut corresponding to the length and diameter of the sack wanted. It is baked a little, and then beaten with clubs till the fibre separates from the wood. This done, the sack formed of the bark is turned inside out and pulled down till the wood is sawed off, with the exception of a small piece left to form the bottom of the sack. These sacks are in gene use in Western India. - Sofet