HOW I WAS TRAPPED.

ff T'M SORRY I can't go up to London with you," said Mr. Bridgeworth, who had just crossed the Channel with me, as we stood chatting at the Dover rallway station, whither he had come to see me off.

Our brief acquaintance, struck up the night before on the Calais packet, had been rendered so agreeable by Mr. Bridgeworth's affability, that I was more that half prepared, if not to dispute the dogma that gruffness is the predominating feature of English manners, at least to admit that it is a rule not without exception.

"It would afford me pleasure," he added, " to act the part of 'guide, philosopher and friend,' on your first visit to the great metropolis; but since that cannot be-business before pleasure, you know-I've written a letter to a chum of mine in town, which you will do well to present as soon as possible, and who will see you suitably bestowed."

I thanked my new friend for his kindness, put his letter in my pocket, and bidding him many warm adieux, burried, at the call of the guard, to take my place aboard the train.

I was followed up the step by a thickset and rather coarse-featured man, who, besides myself, was the sole occupant of the compartment. The door was locked, the bell rang, and the train set in motion.

The stout gentleman busied himself, for a time, with his newspaper, and then threw it down with a grunt. The next half hour he looked out of the window, his face betokening anything but pleasure at the prospect, the charms of which were not heightened by the effect of a dull autumn drizzle.

Turning about, with another grunt, his deep-set, gray eyed glanced me over keenly.

"Do you know the-the gentleman you were talking with just before the train started?" he asked, in a quick, sharp voice.

"I do," I answered - mentally adding, "Inquisitiveness, I see, isn't exclusively a Yankee trait."

"Seems to me I've seen him beforewhat might his name be?" was the next question.

"Bridgeworth."

"And your own ?" "Hanley."

I was more amused than annoyed at

this cross-examination. "How long have you known Mr. Bridgeworth?" continued my inquisi-

"Since we got on the Calais boat together last evening," I replied. "Humph!"

I thought it was now my turn. "Do you reside in London?"

" Yes."

"May I inquire your name?"

" MacGrumlie."

"Scotch extraction, I presume ?"

"Can't say-never saw the family tree." "Nor need you wish to, if it's known

by its fruits," was the retort I had on the tip of my tongue, but I left it there.

"By the way," I said, after a pause, " Mr. Bridgeworth was kind enough to give me a letter of introducion to a friend of his; perhaps, on our arrival, you can direct me to the place mentioned in the address."

"What is it ?"

I showed him the superscription. With another of his "humphs!" he handed the letter back.

Do you want to go there at once?" "I might as well," said I; "I have no acquaintances in London, and Mr. Bridgeworth has assured me of his friend's kindly offices."

"I'll show you the way," Mr. Mac-Grumlie was kind enough to say. "It's on my road home. You can leave your luggage at the station, and we'll take a cab together."

This agreed to, the conversation flagged, in spite of all efforts on my part to revive it. I couldn't help contrasting the hours so lately enlivened by Bridgeworth's wit and gayety, with those whose tedium had nothing to relieve it save MacGrumlie's ever-recuring solilioquies of "humphs!" and grunts.

It was dark when he reached the city. My companion hailed a cab, gave the driver the direction, and jumping in my side, we were soon ratttling down a shabby, ill-lighted street.

"Here you are!" said MacGrumlie, as we checked in front of a sombrelooking building.

Few words were spent in leave-taking. I got out, paid my share of the fare, and baving, with difficulty distinguished the number on the door, I rang the bell, while the cab turned the next corner.

Several minutes elapsed, and I was on the point of giving the knob another pull, when I heard steps inside. The door opened, and a not very preposses sing male servant growled:

What do you want ?"

"I have a letter for Mr. Fitz Quagg, I

said; "is he in?"

"Gimme It, an' I'll see," said the

lackey, snatching rather than receiving the letter from my hand.

Without inviting me to enter, he slammed the door in my face, and I

heard his heavy tramp retreating. After another delay, and a sound of lighter footsteps, the door was again opened, and a youngish-looking man, in a garb, as revealed by the imperfect light, which appeared more flashy than genteel, stood before me.

"Sorry to 'vekept you waiting, Mr. Hanley," he said, selzing my hand cor-dially. "Have read Bridg's letter capital fellow, Bridg. Any friend of his always welcome. Just going to dine with a few friends. Must join us. Good way to introduce you. Come, Dick,"turning to his surly servant -" run ahead and tell them to put another name in the pot."

Cutting short my acknowledgements, Mr. Fitz Quagg took my arm, and we sauntered leisurely along. As we turned a corner to go down a street less 'Inviting, if anything, than the one we had left, I caught a glimpse, I fancied, of a form, on the opposite side of the street, much resembling the burly figure of MacGrumlie.

We stopped at length before a door at which my companion knocked peculiarly. We were at once admitted, and Mr. Fitz Quagg led the way to a room lightby a dim lamp, where, half invisible in an atmosphere of smoke, sat three of his familiar spirits, each with a pipe in his mouth.

"I say, Dick," said Fitz Quagg - the ceremony of introduction over-" fill us up the glasses while we're waiting

for the solids.37 Soon each man had a tumbler of punch before him.

" Here's to our better acquaintanceno heeltaps, mind!" called out the hillarious Fitz Quagg, rising and draining his joram in honor of the sentiment.

Out of sheer politeness I swallowed the abominable stuff, though the taste half sickened me. In a few seconds my head began to whirl Fitz Quagg and his friends seemed to be spinning round the room. The clouds of smoke thickened. My temples throbbed. A dull heaviness settled on my brain, and at last, came the unconsciousness.

How long it was before my faculties returned I know not; but when they did, my companions had disappeared. I felt for my watch to note the time. It was gone, and my pocketbook and money with it. The truth flashed upon

"Drugged and robbed!" I exclaim-

"You've hit it exactly," answered a voice which I had heard before; and turning about, my eyes fell on the impressive face of the gruff MacGrumlie.

"Never mind," he continued, "your property and the robbers are both safe at the station-house. The fellow you parted with this morning is a noted thief, whose face having grown too familiar in London, he has been plying his trade on the continent of late. Ascertaining, probably, that you had a large sum of money about you, he came across the channel in your company, but finding no safe chance to pick your pocket by the way, and not daring to follow you further, he commended you to the kind offices of his city friends, trusting to their honor to remit him his share of the spoil."

"As an old detective, I had little difficulty in fathoming his scheme, as soon as I learned he had given you a letter. So I kept a close watch on your movements from the moment you left the cab, which I dismissed immediately after. Then waiting till things had gone far enough to insure the rogues a good term of penal servitude, I summoned assistance and pounced upon them before they could make off with their plunder.

APPLICATIONS OF CELLULOID.

THOUGH scarcely ten years have passed since the Hyatt brothers suspected that this compound might be used profitably in the arts, and only five years since they began to manufacture it successfully, it has become the basis of several thriving industries, and novel applications of it are being made almost daily.

As now made celluloid is a composition of fine tissue paper and gum camphor, treated with chemicals by a patened process. When crude it looks like a transparent gum, and its color is a light yellow brown. It can be made as hard as ivory, but is always elastic, and can be readily moulded in every conceivable form. With equal case it can be colored in any tint desired, the dye running through the entire substance, and being, therefore, inefficeable.

A writer for the Evening Post has taken pains to collect a large amount of information concerning the manufacture and use of this material; and wide as the range of its application has became, the business of preparing the crude material and shaping it into novel and useful forms is thought to be only in its infancy.

According to the Post writer, all the

celluloid used is made by a single company, having factories at Newark, N. J., who sell the crude material to the parties undertaking the production of fluished goods. No one can buy it unless the producing company decides to give him a license, which is granted only for the purpose of making some new article that will not interfere, with the trade of the companies already licensed. A number of large corporations are now engaged in the various branches of manufacture for which celluloid can be employed. Most of these have their factories in Newark, but there is one large establishment in Centre street, New York.

The cost of the crude articles to the buyers is regulated by the producing company according to the use to be made of it and the competion met with in other materials. For instance, \$4 or \$5 per pound are charged for celluloid which is to be made into jewelry, while only \$2 are charged if it is designed for umbrella handles, though there is no difference in the quality of the sub-

As a close imitation of ivory, celluloid has made great inroads in the business of the ivory manufactures. Its makers assert that in durability it is much superior to ivory, as it sustains hard knocks without injury, and is not discolored by age or use. Great quantities of it are used for plano and organ keys, to the manufacture of which one company is devoted.

Billiard balls are made of celluloid at half the price of ivory, and are said to be equally elastic, while more durable. Large amounts are used for combs, for the backs of bushes and hand mirrors, and toilet articles; a fine tooth comb made of celluloid is twenty-five per cent, cheaper than ivory, while in large pieces, such as the backs of hand glasses, the difference in price is enormous. Among many other articles in which celluloid takes the place of ivory or India-rubber are whip, caue, and umbrella handles, every kind of harness trimmings, foot rules, chessmen, and the handles of knives and forks. Its use in cutlery is said to be especially desirable, as it is not cracked or discolored by hot water.

India-rubber, as a general rule, holds its ground against celluloid, as the latter cannot be sold so cheaply. The celluloid is said to be much more durable, however, and it is superior for pencil cases, jewelry, etc., where gold mountings are used, as it does not tarnish the metal, whereas the sulphur in Indiarubber tarnishes gold which is less than eighteen carats fine. The freedom of celluloid from sulphur, and the natural flesh color which can be imparted to it, have caused it to be extensively substituted for India-rubber in the manufacture of dental blanks, or the gums and other attachments of artificial teeth.

Celluloid can be mottled so as to imitate the finest tortoise shell, and its elasticity renders it much less liable to breakage. In this form it is used, like the imitation ivory, for combs, cigar cases, match boxes, pocket book, napkin rings, jewelry, and all sorts of fancy articles. The substance is employed for similar purposes as a good imitation of malachite and also of amber. It is made into mouth pieces for pipes, cigar holders, and musical instruments, and is used as the material of flutes, flageolets, and drumsticks. For drumbeads it is said to be superior to parehment, as it is not affected by moisture in the atmosphere.

As a substitute for porcelain, celluloid is used for the heads of dolls, which can be hammered against a hard floor without danger of fracture. Beautiful jewelry is made of it in imitation of the most elaborately carved coral, reproducing all the shades of the genuine article.

One of the large manufacturing companies is employed exclusively in the making of optical goods, using celluloid in place of tortoise shell, jet, etc., for the frames of spectacles, eye glasses, and opera glasses. The material is extensively used for the shoe tips, protecting the toe as well as metal tips, and having the appearance of patent leather. By shoemakers it is also used for insoles. Large quantities of thimbles are made of it, and it is said to be the best material known for emery wheels and knife sharpeners. As a ground for paintings, celluloid has all the advantages of ivory, and photographs can be taken on it which are alleged to be superior to ivorytypes.

Within the last year and a half another branch of celluloid manufacture has been developed which promises to reach enormous proportions. This is the use of celluloid as a substitude for linen or paper in the making of shirt cuffs, collars, etc.

It has the appearance of well starched linen, is sufficiently light and flexible, does not wrinkle, is not affected by perspiration, and can be worn for months without injury. It becomes soiled much less readily than linen, and when dirty is quickly cleaned by the

application of a little soap and water

with a sponge or rag. For travelers and for wear in hot weather this celluloid linen is especially convenient. It has lately been improved by the introduction of real linen between two thicknesses of celluloid. Shirt fronts have been made of it, as well as cups and collars, and it is believed that these will prove equally de-

Sham Men and Men who Wear Corsets. THE male corset-wearers are those

who take their coats to the uptown tailor, whose advertisement may be found almost any morning in the Ledger. This ingenious fellow has an arrangement which he puts into coats by which one's shoulders are made to look as broad as a prize-fighter's. With one of his inventions, and a perfectly constructed corset, the figure of man becomes irresistible. It is a secret, that the ladies know as well as ourselves, that the shoulders of all our coats are more or less padded, that frequently our vests are ditto, so that with the exception of the hair on our heads, which is usually our own, there is about the fulldressed man almost as much sham as surrounds the full-dressed woman. But our male-corset-wearers will talk. They hide their corsets, figuratively as well as actually, and would deny the whole thing if they were asked about it. A daily newspaper reporter is the authority for saying that the tailor who makes heavy shoulders out of slim ones keeps quiet on the subject. Many attempts have been made, but all in vain, to interview him. One must turn to England to discover how a man feels when tightly laced. Here is a gentleman who wears ladies' shoes because he thinks them more comfortable, and goes for his corsets to a store where there are lady attendants, as "I find them much more obliging than male assistants usually are." He is a connoisseur in corsets for gentlemen. Listen to him:

I strongly advise to have the corset made to open up the back only as I find it is much more comfortable to wear and lighter than when made to open in front in the now common mode. I can truly affirm, from my own experience, that moderately tight-lacing (say three to four inches less waist measure than the natural size) is not only not prejudicial but, on the contrary, is very beneficial to the health.

My occupation is mostly of a sedentary nature, and I used to suffer much from pains in my side and back and from indigestion; but about a year and a half ago my sister persuaded me to try and wear a corset and she altered one of her own to suit me. I found it rather irksome for the first few days, but that feeling soon passed, and on my next visit to London I had a corset properly made to my own measurement. Since then I have had another one made, smaller in the waist and wider at the chest, which I am now wearing. The pains have quite left me and my health is generally much better than it used to be. Besides this, the feeling of being tolerably well laced is very comfortable. From my own observation and inquiries I find the practice of corset-wearing by young gentlemen is becoming much more usual, but we don't make any display of the fact.

In France and Germany very many more gentlemen affect corsets than in England. Here at home it is impossible the custom will ever become what our English friend calls "usual." We haven't the time for the intricacies of the corset. Even the suspender is getting beyond the control of the American man, and a fellow sufferer wrote not long ago to a newspaper in New York, asking it to request of suspender makers to have pity on poor male humanity and cease adding novel machinery to this necessary part of our attire. No; a people who are frightened at so simple a thing as a pair of suspenders will never undertake the management of corsets, hedged about, as they are rumored to be, with whalebones innumerable, strings by the yard and holes by the dozens. It has not been the purpose in this paper to do more than mention—as has been done - about the whipping and the spurs. These are themes at which the pen that did not falter at corsets for gentlemen wisely stops.

A little girl who was spending a few days with a farmer uncle visiting the barn-yard, and while looking at the well-fed cows, remarked: "Why, uncle, just see, all the cows are chewing gum, ain't they ?"

Given up by Doctors.

"Is it possible that Mr. Godfrey is up and at work, and cured by so simple a remedy ?"

"I assure you it is true that he is entirely cured, and with nothing but Hop Bitters; and only ten days ago his doctors gave him up and said he must dle!"

"Well-a-day! That is remarkable! I will go this day and get some for my poor George-I know hops are good."

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