CHE WAS TOO PREVIOUS. Trought a Proposal of Marriage Was Coming, But It Falled to Come.

A tem months ago a gentleman had the mossiorcune to lose his wife a literary . Sady of some reputation. After grieving for a number of weeks a bright idea enbered the head of the widower ... He Chought, relates London Tit-Bits, the general do something to lessen bus surrow, mad for that purpose he called upon a lady of his acquaintance and requested to speak a word with her in private. Thinking the was about to receive a proposal, the lady prepared to listen with becoming resignation.

"Myrrha," said he, with downcast wree, as he took her by the hand, "you. knew my wife?"

"Yes."

conth parts them?"

"It is not good for man to be alone?" "Perhaps not." Did you ever reflect upon that part of the marriage service which requires wamples to cleave unto each other until

"I have. "I have often reflected upon itmyself. Beer death has parted me from my wife med I feel very lonely '

" abould think it likely "

"I think I must do something to reshore to me her kind consolations and the memory of her many virtues." He pressed the lady's hand and nighed. She returned the pressure, and also

suffered a sigh to escape her. "My dear," he said, after a long pause. The come to the point at once. I have e proposal to make."

"Yes "Ah!" she said, blushing, and coverme her face with her hands

"A proposal?"

"I have concluded to write my wife's Mingraphy. Now, I have but little skill Fix Diseasy exercises, and if you will correst my manuscript and write the headange of the chapters I will give you two graineas "

She sprang from his side, and her eyes Bashed with anger. "I'll see you banged first, and then I

wes't, you-you-" She left the room, not being able to empress her rage. The widower sighed.

rock his hat and went home HOUSE WITHOUT STAIRWAY.

Ladger was Used in Fine Mansion of an Eccentric Washington Man.

Years ago a story was told of a naval taker: who wanted a house built to micare his own taste in every detail. He chrew plans himself, says the Washing-

tan Star, placed them in the hands of a binilder and instructed him to see that they were carried out in every detail. Liben he went to sea for a year's cruise. When he returned home the house-had faces completed with the utmost regard fur the plans and specifications left by the officer. He was taken through the farst floor and expressed the utmost Directore in everything he saw. "Now." he said, "we will go upstairs

uzed see the second floor." "Come right out this way, where we have a ladder," replied the builder The scafaring man was astonished. He had planned the house with the greatmet care, but forgot to provide a stair-

The story of the naval officer has never stand a certificate of genuineness attached to it. But an actual case in which a Troppe had been built without a stairway a ca record in this city It finally beame the home of the late John Boyle. who was for many years chief clerk of the rays department, and diad in 1874. extring a very large estate. The house era question stood until ten years ago On the site now occupied by a brewery below the naval observatory. It was a gretent, we old mansion, located in what was a very styllah section during the clars, of the elder John Boyle, who came no this country in the early years of the contents century. The record is not as clear as to why the house was conseructed without a staircase, but there

' is no doubt about the fact Eventually and before it was purethazed by Mr. Borle a staircase was reduced to it by a side construction in such Sorm: that to the casual observer there. seas nothing to Indicate that the entire saftes ture had not been put up at the mame time. Mr. Boyle had many demormdants in this city, and they often refor to the house built without any means Floor ascending to the upper floors except ion the use of a ladder

Officers Set Fashions,

win the Japan of 3r years ago all classes. exempt the officials adhered strictly to who cod dress of Japan. It was as much Exercise then to see a man wearing him hair in the European fashion as it Is row to see the shaved from of the meant with the carefully tended one lying. "The government, however, redhas with western meions; not only inseared that all officials should appear with heads like blacking brushes, and shear bodies arrayed in western evening wirete but, in order to encourage the The non among the country people emmented at the entrance of every consideerable village a board displaying tafforts. partitions of coats, waistcoats and troops. errs, every statch and every seem in its pines, which the local tailors were often. co be seen copying with stern exactingle. IREO DOTHINGES

As the Judge Understood It. A lawyer, altfressing a jury in a Bills the sustice court, quoted, in de-"emers of his ellent". "Homi sont quit can't y pense? Whereupon the fustice, striking the desk a thundering blowwith his fist, shouled "You'll never do it, sir-not in this

"I'm what your bonor" asked the swepties! Bit immey

maint fem 5 swar an pitch fem over The following the state of the justice -Allan'a Constitution.

MOBOUVENIR OF THE JAPANESE

Bell at Annapolis That Was Presented to Commodore Perry Fifty Years Ago.

One of the reminders of the early friendship of Japan for America now adorns the grounds of the naval academy at Annapolis, Md.

Suspended in a pagodalike atructure fust off "Lover's Lane" is a queer looking bronze bell of unique design. It usually attracts the attention of visitors, but few ever learn that it possesses a history of importance. It was presented to Commodore Matthew Perry on July 12, 1864, by the regent of the Lewchew islands, a dependency of the Japanese empire. Commodore Perry was at that time commander in chief of the United States squadron in the Asiatic seas and minister plenipotentiary, charged with the duty of opening intercourse between Japan and the United States. After his death, in 1858, Mrs Perry presented it to the naval academy, in fulfillment of his wish

The bell is covered with an inscription in Japanese, which was recently translated by a young Japanese who was at one time a student at the naval academy. The inscription reads as follows:

"In the eighth year of Riraku and Konoye Tara of the reign of the king of Lewchew, Kei-shi-yo-hi-ho-o offered a prayer of benevolence for the people and afterward ordered a large bell to be founded. He did this as an act of thanksgiving, and presented it to the temple of Daisen Anji, in the kingdom, in order that the king might reign prosperously and live long, and that the people of the three worlds, Heaven, Earth and Hades, might be saved from infernal doctrines, and therefore it was that he instructed Shoko-ku An-sai to frame this inscription: This beautiful bell has been founded and hung in the lower of the temple. It will awaken dreams of superstition. If one will bear in mind to bet rightly and truly. the lords and ministers will do justice in a body, the barbarians will never come to invade. The gound of the hell will convey the virtue Tuski, and will echo like the sing of Taniray, and the benevolence of the Lord will continue forever like these echoes.

_-----The 20th day, 10th month, 7th year, Katrat System (1985)

Chief Pr. at of the Temple. Emonoske Tujirvara Kumimito, Founder of the Bail

'As the "7th year Kaitai" refers to the year 1456 of the Christian era, this bell is exactly 448 years old.

4.....

CANOEING IN SWIFT WATER.

Seasonable Suggestions for the Amateur Who Wishes to Enjoy the Sport.

To give any description of handling a cance in rapids would be a waste of time, both for the writer and the reader The best way to learn is first to watch some one do it and then try it yourself under his direction. You will soon find out which is the safe water and how to force the light craft over the seemingly impossible falls. Running rapids, provided they are not too bad, appeals to me as one of the most exciting forms of sport and exercise that I know of. Never attempt a rapid that you do not know can be gun without examining it from end to end to see that it is possible, and also to ger an idea how to take it. Many a man has lost his life through neglecting this precaution, and remember that a rapid who h is safe to-day may not be so in a day or two, as libe rising and falling of the water will frequently make it impassable or at least very dangerous.

I scarcely envy anyone his first attempt at shooting rapids if he suffers as I did. From an overhanging rock I had carefully watched a guide go through the galloping, foamy waters, and then, after emptying my canon and leaving my watch and other unnecessary articles on shore and putting my heart carefully into my mouth, I made for that noisy little run of water. What I suffered when the curling wavelets first struck the canoe was had enough, but nothing to the agony of the return trip, when, traveling with startling speed, the whole river seemed a mass of menacing rocks being boiled in the seething water. How I got through I do not know, but I came safely to the smooth water, and after a rest made another run with less treplilation. Then, loading the canoe with my light outfit, I took her through with fittle difficulty.

Women as Expert Mariners. In some coast villages among the Danes, Norwegians and Finns, women are employed as sailors and prove themselves to be expert mariners. In the smaller satifug ships, where there is a woman on board whether she be the wite of the skipper or the stewarcess, she is expected to take her turn at the ordinary work of the sailor not even excluding the duties of the man at the wheel or of the night watch. Denmark emplicanceral women as state officials.

at see, Experies code aptains assert that

the somen make excellent sanors and

are equal to most seamen in dexterity.

and hower of engurance landon

Victims of Alcoholism.

Imring the last Go years there died In Europe a one of alcoholism a total of 7.500 000 people. That is more people than were killed in all the wars of the nine each century. The authority for these statements is a professor in the University of Denmark, who goes on to show that in benmark one out of every HEVER THE WINDIE DE WEED THE BES OF 35 and 35 is a victim of alcoholism.

HAIR MUST BE GRAY. LUCK IS ONLY FORESIGHT.

TOUNG LOOKING OLD MAN CAN'T TALE OF BARLY DAYS.

Motable Instance of Undeserved Condemnation on the Score of Untruthfulness by One Who Knows

"There goesa man," said John Ritchie, the reportorial expert who, according to a Chicago paper, has had charge of the stenographic reports of more national conventions than any other man in The republic, "who has a reputation that he does not deserve. He has been so far, seen so much, had such varied and remarkable experiences, that he is believed to be the most colossal liar this side of Ananias, and particularly so among those with whom he is most associated, nowadays. How old do you think he is?"

"Ob, 'bout 45 or 50." "He's 70. If he's a minute."

"Doesn't look it." "That's another reason why he is considered to be such a pseudologist-good. soft, easy word for har, isn't it? You see it seems impossible that such a young-looking man could have had a part in things that happened half a century and more ago.

"He tells of things that occurred in California in the fall of '49 or spring of '50, and one day not long ago, when he . was teiling a particularly thrilling story concerning a flood in the 'diggin's.' and some tragedies and comedies connected with it, and everybody in the party was saying to himself: 'What an awful liar!' a white-baired old gentleman who has been 50 years an ordained minister of the gospel, and who was a guest of the club, said:

'Ab, James, it was a dreadful time. and well do I remember it. Not only that, but the heroic part you took in it al' and of which, I observe, you are mod-

estly reserved. "Then the venerable and reverend gentleman went on and told of some noble and gallant performances of James on the ogcasion referred to, but James had made a sneak. When he appeared again, the following day, all those who had heard the old preacher and believed him, nevertheless whispered among themselves:

again! "On one occasion Jimmle to'd of a wild raid in the Dismal Swamp of Virginia during the civil war, and as he was in command of the affair he could not very well tell the story and leave out his share of the work. But as I was myself a member of the scouting party I knew that every word Jim uttered was true. No one doubted me in my confirmation of the statements made by Jim, but they didn't believe a word he said. He simply more than ever impressed his listeners that he was 'blowing'

"Time and again I afterward have heard indubitably proven some of his wonderful stories of things that happened all over the earth, and of which he was a witness and in which he was a participant of the very acts, but nevery natance, everywhere, Jim is always set down as a chronic fabricator in the premises.

"One would think that all of that would be very trying to Jim's patience. but happily he is the sublimation of good-nature and laughs hilariously with those who gleefully shout over what they believe to be his pseudological fitehm. ---

"Jim has simply got a bad name in the way suggested because he has seen so much more than people generally have. and there is such an air of romance about his way of telling things. But everybody likes him, just the same "

OVERRUN WITH LAZY WOMEN

That, According to a Woman Speaker, Is the Condition of Great Britain.

There are a million more women than men in Great Britain, and over a quarter of a million more men than women in Canada, New Zealand and Australia. As the natural destiny of the average man or woman is neatrimony. the inference is obvious, says a recent London report.

At the Royal Colonial institute farely Mrs Archibald R. Colquboun sought to discover why the superfluous women do not go out and find their bushands waiting for them abroad.

The average English woman prefers. she said, a hundred years of shabby renteeldom in England to a cycle of Canada Mrs Colquboun drew an unflattering picture of the middle-class.

"The girl," she said, "will take great. interest in domestic economy classes. and come home with contous notes, but the will hardly dust a room or help tomake a bed. She is willing to attend St. John ambulance lectures, but is brief to death if asl ed to an and nurse a sick relative". Then with the death of the head of the family comes poverty, and the superfluous woman is conerally proved to be the incapable woman.

Information.

· Intellgent formener : I observe that both of your political parties seem gia! when congress adjourns. Why jet ag? Prejudiced Native Well, the parts out of power is glad the other fellows. won't have the chance to make any prore political capital by wire legislation, and the party in power is give that it won't chave to shoulder the responsibility for any more bad legislation. I guess that's about the size of it, stranger, -4".icago

Beindest Skin.

The skin of the reinceer is so impervlous to the cold that anyone clothed in such a dress, with the addition of a robs of the same materal, may bear the intenses com olan Arctica winter's night.

So Said the Humble Man, But He Heard Something Somewhat Contradictory.

"You think, then," said the gentleman who stood on the marble steps leading up to his \$7/10,000 palace, "that your present condition is due merely to the fact that you have been unlucky?"

"Yes," replied the humble one who leaned upon the handle of the lawn mower, relates the Chicago Record-Herald. "I have made up my mind that I must have been born under an unlucky star. I've worked bard all my life. A dozen times after saving carefully and getting ahead a little l've tried to become a leading citizen, but something has always happened to spoil my plans. Once I started in the milk business and had just begun to see my way clear shead when some. body brought into the neighborhood a cow with a contagious disease. Mine all caught it before I had time to discover the presence of danger, and I

lost everything I had. "I opened up a grocery in a manufacturing district next, and then a panic came on and they closed all the shops and the people moved away, so that I lost all I had saved again. Then I went to work and hourded up every cent I could until I had \$500 in a bank that was supposed to be as sound as the government itself. The cashier looted it one day, and I was penniless again. Then I thought I would buy real estate. After saving again ! bought a lot that everybody supposed would rapidly increase in value. The day after I made the last payment our It the city decided to locate a dog pound on the adjoining lot, and I couldn't even get anyhody to take the land as a gift

"And you think all this has been mere bad luck, eh " said the rich gentleman, with a smile of mingled pity and contempt. "My good fellow, there is no such thing as bad luck in this world. We succeed or fail according to our abilitles. You lack foresight, that's all. You should before going into the dairy buttness have taken precautions to prevent your cows from being contaminated. You showed poor judgment in opening a grocery in T district that was liable to be affected

business confitions, and you should have known better than to put your money in a piece of ground that adfolded a suitable sits for a dog pound. People never get rich or great through mere luck. Bad luck he always the excuse of people who lack the ability to rise. It's as old as the world and as foolish as the belief of the man who thinks he can lift himself by his bootstraps. Go shead now and finish mowing the lawn. After you're through I'll see abour giving you a regular job for the summer "

The humble one went on with his work. As he was pushing his past the turneted stable the coachimin

"Do you know how the man, who lives here got his money?" asked the

"Haven't you heard the story? Thirty years ago when this city was a strugglin' village and notody thought it would ever amount to anything a man who owed him \$55 had a ren-acre lot here. It was mostly swamp and couldn't be used either for farmin' or buildin'. He couldn't pay the \$75 and the boss here had to take the land He tried to trade it for a mule, and I guess would of dure it all right only the mule died just before they came to an understanding A tree while after that the boom struct the place and he wanted to sell out for \$1,000, but the people that were goin' to buy busted up, and he had to take his swamp back He was so disappointed that he took sick and was out of his head for three weeks. When he got so he could see up and recognize people again his land. was worth \$4,000,000 " The man with the mower then went on about his work, for he was muting the grass by the job and couldn't afford to waste.

Was He Game?

A young curate in England was once asked to take a class of girls of about 15 or 16, which had formerly been taken by a lasty. After a times the young clergyman

consented, but insisted upon being properly introduced to the class. Accordingly the next Sunday the superintendent took him to the girls for this purpose, and addressing them,

"Young ladies, I wish to introduce to you Rev. Mr. Chirp, who will in future be your teacher. I should like you to sell him what your former teacher did, so that he can go on in the same way."

Immediately a demure young miss of 16 rose and said "The first thing teacher did was to kiss us all round"-Christian En-

deavor World. A Farmer on Farmers. An lowa farmer who was born in

Maine, but went west many years ago has been revisiting the east. Now lee writes to say that in his opinion New England farmers would not complain so much of poverty- if they would work harder. He thinks the western agriculturist could give his eastern brother some pointers on real foll. The New England men ought to take him the rounds of the old stone walls, which contain a good many bundred backaches to the rod, and challenge him to duplicate them in lows.-Springfield (Mass) Republican.

She Was No Blotter Edith-Why did you refuse him? Ethel-He has a past.

But he can blot it out." Perhaps, but he can't use me the blotter."--Woman's Journal.

HE HAD DONE SOMETHING.

Not What His Pather Wanted Him to __ Do. But It Suited Mother_ All Right.

As the son of the house went out of the front four in festal raiment and swinging a stick with a satisfied air the father of the family growled savescly and turned his paner with an impatient movement. "There is some satisfaction in raising chickens," he said, gruffly. "If it's a hen it lays eggs and if it lan't it makes a fair substitute for an alarm clock-or a

"What do you mean?" inquired the elderly lady occupied with the stocking basket, relates the Chicago Daily

"h mean Clyde isn't ever going to arouse a simbering world. I wish I could wake him up and make him oo something." "Why, he most down to the office. every day, and I'm sure nobody could

want a steadier boy. If he does go out in the evening he tells me where No gnes." "Oh, yes. I know all that. And he'll be home before half-past ten o'clock. He's never even asked for a latch-

key Why doesn't he do something?" "Oh, anything. There are boys that haven't had half his advantages pushing themselves right to the front. He goes plodding along, plodding along, just in the same old rut all the time He hasn't any initiarive any force. He doeun't do things

"You're too severe with him, fisther," said the elderly lady . "Youought to be thankful that he doesn't. I read the other day about a young man robbing a bank. Clyde might do that, but he doesn't. I don't suppose you'd like it if he went out murdering people. He might do that, but her doesn't. He might set fire to a house, but he doesn't, and he might do all sorts of wild and dissipated things I'm grateful, the more I see of other young men, for the things that Clyde doesn't do."

"Well," said the father of the famlly in a softened tone, "I suppose negative virtues are better than active and positive vices, but, all the same I wish he would do something

"He has," asserted the mother, rather indignant's. "He dus, ip and raked the whole of the flower hed along the fence for me before dinner.

EUROPEAN FARM PROGRESS.

Modern Methods Have Been Adopted by Agriculturists of Various Countries.

British experts who have been trying to discover what is the matter with the English farmer assign as one of the causes of his having fallen behind his brethren in other European countries; that be has not followed their example of moperation with his neighbors, says Youth's Companion

In Denmark, France, Holland, Germany and Belgium, within 25 years, the farmers have adopted modern methods of doing business, and by so doing have raised agriculture from a low estate and made it profitable. In France, for instance, in Issu, a professor of agriculture, convinced that if farmers and tibe persuaded to buy aratfletal fertilizers their lands would be made much more productive, succeeded In inducing a arous of farmers to slub togethiff and wad a large order to the manufacturers. The wholesale price and a low freight rate brought the fertilizer

William Films From this small beginning "agricultural syndicates" have grown-until they contain nearly 500,000 farmers, who purchase every year fortificers, seeds and machinery worth \$2 minutes

Combinations for selling their produce have not yet succeeded in France. but in Denmark, Holland, Belgium and Germany the farmers have united to raise produce of uniform quality and for securing favorable markets for what they raise. The market-gardeners in Hotland have cooperative societies which inspect the goods, raject thuse not up to the stangard, and label with a registered trade-mark those that are passed. In this way they have established a reputation for their product.

The Danish butter-makers and chicken-raisers have adopted a similar plan. and their produce has risen materially in price in the London market since it bas been forwarded in uniform packages and of uniform quality. Cooperation in Brigium, both in purchase and sale, has resulted, according to one acthority, in increasing the return of each 25-acre form by \$5000 a year

The National Farmers' exchange, recen'ly incorporated in South Dakota, is evidently not the first "tarmers' trust," nor will it be the last

Chinese Burial Customs.

When a rich and important Chinaman dies, his funeral is conflucted with much pomp and spiendor. His friends and relations, instead of sending wreaths, send innumerable banners. These are made of white silk, with inscriptions heautifully worked in black velvet, and express the senders' good wishes to the dereased himself or to the members of his family for many generations. On the day of the funeral these banners are carried by hired men, who are all dressed allke for the occasion. After the funeral, which lasts for several bours at the cemetery, is over, the banners are all brought back, and eventually grace the rooms of the late Chinaman's house.

Wounds Dressed with Burnt Straw. At a cost of one shilling Japanese doctors can dress the wounds of 500 men. They use a finely-powdered charceal obtained by the slow combustion of straw in closed furnaces. Sachets filled with it are applied to the wounds, and ite antiseptic and absorbent qualities generally effect a rapid cure.

TALES FROM FAR NORTH.

Bough Experiences of Men and Aninials in the Regions of Extreme Cold.

A recent book on the Klondike country says: "In November, 1898, norses were left to die on the traits and in Dawson. There was neither work nor feed for them. Horses were offered to me for their keep, but I refused. These same horses wandered up in the bills, where the snow was fire feet deep. They brushed the snow away with feet and sees, finding luacions whortleherries, blackberries and raspberries in great quantities. The lowest authentic record at the barraces was 57 degrees below zero. Yet im tire spring the horses were reclaimed by their owners and looked infinitely better than when turned out to die at the beginning of the winter. This was a lesson as well as a fevelation. During the summer of 7899 horses were imported into the Kisn-like in numbers and 1,200 of them passed the next winter in transporting men and supplies from Dawson to the mines. The dogs were almost entirely superseded and their value-formerty \$150-became merely nominal; for a good horse, after all, could put a toutover the smooth of trails-s labor that would require three sletghs and 39 dogs."

Klondike river is fed by numerous soda springs and even the winter's cold fairs to close them entirely. Walking on the edge of the ire great the shore, a miner one day slipped take six inches of water. In a moment as was out and bastening to the brush hard by to light a fire before tils feet froze. Rapidly he cut a few fragments of word with his heavy pocketknife. But the unlighted match dropped from his already chilled fingers, for he had rashly removed him mittens in order to use the knife with more freedom. Then he lighted a second and a third and finally neveral at one time, hur either his haste or perhaps a sigh of the air canced theme to fall on the mow. All this time the frost was selving his limbs, his body, his heart his mind. He turned to the fatal mittens, which he never should have taken off but his already frozen finger's could only lift them from the ice where they had falled, and-after a vain attempt he hurled them from bim and strove once again to light a last match. But it was too late-

A few years zen a Russian warahip was on special duty in Behring sea, guarding the seal Spheries preventing the slaushter of the seals during the closed season. The admiral of the station, in the course of an impection. of the vessel, invited any of the sailors who had any completel to make to step forward. One of the men as spokesman for the whole crew, omplained that the "seal miney" promleed them had not been paid. On the astonfahed admiral loosining what he meant or came out that the shipts communder had been doing a lucrative trade by killing the seals placed inder his protection and sending the skins to London and had taken the crew into partiers to lie was hily transferred to Scheric and probably in there still to

CREATEST OF THE PORTS.

London Is Very Closely Pressed by - New York for Hingr of First Place.

The recent report by the Antwerp bureau of statistics up to contain a make rujas ine promijas josta jog taa word having process, to be an orithete. and for the United States miss spring, the department of or tour ere and labor has issued allo, terter, statement of the jame.

the tonness of lastwise trade not included) entered at the larger ports of the world - parts having a tonnage of over 1,000,00 tems wirings the year 1964. with the exception or the United States. ports) the flaures of which are for the fiscal year ended June do, 1963 The figures for the United States and Great Britain are taken from the official

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publications of both countries, while the greater number of the remainder are taken from the annual reports of the United States consuls for 1903, but covering tonnage figures for 19-2.

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Five Thomsand Languages. Mr. J. Conter, were not a thorsally et-

says that over 5 500 distinct languages are spoken by manufact. The number of separate dialects is enormone. There are more than 6 s vocabularies in Brazili, and in Mexico the Nahua language has broken up into ion dialects. There are hundreds in Borneo. In Australia there is no classifying the complexities, and generally the number of dialects is ininverse proportion to the intellectual culture of the population. Assume that only 50 dialects on an average belong to every language, and we have the colossal total of 250,000 linguistic varieties.

Balloon Law in Vienna. - No married man in Vienna is allowed to no up in a balloon without the tormal consent of his wife and children.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

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