guests.

yet!"

CHAPTER VIII.

The Cloven Foot.

Phineas walked into the dining room

a few days after Alfred's departure,

and crowded past the diners to take

than Stella. "California is sure of her

transmontane railroad now! The San

Francisco and Washoe Railroad com-

pany has been organized with ten mil-

lions of capital behind it; and ten mil-

lions more it will get from the govern-

ment, besides a whopping big land

grant. The road goes by Placerville.

It has staked out the backing of the

baby state of Nevada, and already be-

SYNOPSIS.

The story opens during a trip of the "Overland Mail" through the Rocky mountains, while efforts are being made to build up the country. "Uncle Billy Bodge, stage driver, Alfred Vincent, a young man, and Phineus Cadwallader, introduced. They come across the remains of a mussacre, Later at Anthony's station they find the realskins have carried their destructive work there also. Stella Anthony, daughter of Anthony, keeper of stadon, is introduced. The travelers find that Anthony has been killed. Vincent with letter of introduction to Gov. Stanford is assigned his work in uncarthing plans of earnies of railroad, being built. He hears of safe arrival of Stella Anthony in a letter from her. Vincent visits town where railroad men are Stella Anthony in a letter from her. Vin-cent visits town where railroad men are working on road and receives token of esteem from Stella, embodied in a neat hunch and furget-me-not. "Uncle Billy" arrives in railroad town, meeting Stella. He hears news that desired railroad bill has passed. The old stage driver de-cides to work close to town in order that he may be able to keep fatherly watch over the young woman. Stella receives "Uncle Billy" with kisses for he brought her a new hat. She is engaged as a new hat. She is engaged as a for Viola Bernard, daughter of Vincent visits society of the Central Pacific of enemies

CHAPTER VII.-Continued.

railroad and learns their secrets.

Sally B. saw his disappointment, and came quickly to his rescue. "Go with my Viola here; she'll show ye. You can make the house across the gulch in 15 minutes. Mr. Sacket was killed by a blast the other day, you know, an' Stella's ben with the widder sence. But Vi'll stay with her, an' you'n Stella can talk a heap in a halfhour. Walk this way, an' slow; an' ye'll still have a quarter-hour fur yer dinner 'fore the stage leaves. Billy Dodge pulls out to-day; he'll give ye an extra minute or two."

Alfred flushed at Sally B.'s loud plans. He had found instant favor in her eyes. His obvious superiority to the men that swarmed, unwelcome, about Stella at every opportunity, decided Sally B. to aid him with Stella. The sooner they settled things the better it would be for her.

But she had no conception of the complexities of Alfred's nature and rearing. She could not have comprehended, had he explained it, his sentiment for Stella, did not dream of the cause of his flush of annovance as he left her-an annovance that lasted and made him a silent companion in the quick walk.

Viola, glancing shyly at his angry eyes, registered against him a conclusion he might have needed to reckon with had not the esion of Stella in the doorway banished gloom and evoked a smile that the child was quite old enough to read and glory in. Breathless, Viola explained her coming with such bald candor that Stella went forth dumb with embarrassment. She had lived hard the past few weeks; Alfred realized it at once. But now she was tongue-tied. The constraint born of separation was upon her. Intuition read to her a little of the record of Alfred's experiences; of his different and engrossing cares. Also, the impact of lives and experiences surrounding her had created an incomprehensible atmosphere through which she saw Alfred as

He felt her diffidence and construed it as kind indifference. She did not love him; she wished him to recognize the absurd situation Viola had thrust upon them, yet she was too gentle to hurt him with speech.

through a veil, a different Alfred.

And thus the fleet minutes waned while these two dumbly sought each other, like lovers at a bal masque, clasping hands yet sundered by a domino.

They came down the path to town and mounted the high, uneven sidewalk. Uncle Hilly had just dashed up to the express office, the curvetting six under the spur of his mysterious skill still showing off proudly to the and nudges of the loungers, Stella's every mouth. satisfaction in Uncie Billy's hearty hastily to Alfred, telling him of the that his modest dove wasn't above a

"Get outside of yo' dinneh at a twoyo' company. Sabe?"

At the dining room door Stella hoping to recover tranquillity. paused and held out her hand. 'No; it's not good-bye," Alfred said, though he took her hand. "I shall stay

over, shall see you to-night-and-" "Hello, Vincent! You're the very man I wanted to see. Had your din- until hidden by a thicket of laurel ner?" Superintendent Crocker breezed and holly hugging close about the out of the dining room, his eyes giving taller pines. Though a scant halfsincere admiration to Stella, his voice mile from the hotel the small nook a hearty welcome to Alfred.

"No, sir," Alfred answered hesitatingly. "I-"

erwise. The greatest luck this. I ex- stood before her. pected a dull trip over-always exclimbed to the seat beside him.

and he startled Stella with his strained | away by the stage."

you in a minute."

elated yet maddened him. Still, he kept his place near the entrance. "Yes, it must be good-bye, after all, offer to give her egress. you see," he said tensely. "I'll be back soon; we'll have a talk then."

looks' sake, and mounted beside the of dryads, are too few in my busy life. superintendent; while onlookers You surely won't be so cruel as to passed bets as to whether Alfred was leave me without a word?" a company employe or a "big bug with

stage whirl away into the dark pines. cision.

begin till two; Sally B. said so. It's sneak! I heard you kiss her, heard 1:15 now; time enough for a little what you said. If you can't vent your talk, isn't there? I've something im- spite on a man without stalking a portant to say to you." Phineas gazed woman you'd better get into hoops or at her boldly, expecting to see a flush ride a donkey to-the hell you came of apprehensive color sweep her face. from! If Miss Anthony's name passes Her calmness only spurred him the your lips to any one, you'll get my

He did not move. "Vi's iessons don't his apparel. "You brass-mouthed

bullet! Vamoose!"

In his thirty-odd years of varied life

"I Thought You Went by the Stage."

tongue, confounded the bold eves.

Gideon set his teeth. Body and

vented him from giving Phineas the

till the faint sound of footsteps pro-

claimed Phineas out of earshot before

he picked up the handkerchief and

turned to the strained face beside him.

"Poor little Star!" he said softly.

"Don't cry, Moppett! He isn't worth

"Oh, I know it, Gideon; but I'm so

"The skunk!" Gideon's hands

clenched till the knuckles were white.

Abruptly he turned to Stella, grasping

her arm with the hand that had rested

tenderly on her shoulder. A quick flame leaped in his mystic eyes.

"Stella! You shall no longer be ex-

Stella's face grew quickly grave.

"No, no, Gideon! I will never marry

any man for protection. I'd not dare

found a home when I'm so unprepared

for its responsibilities. And-do you wish me to be a barkeeper's wife?"

in her question, and released her arm.

"But I'll do something else. I'll learn

-any business you say. I know I can

Stella winced at the world of tender-

"Meantime," he interrupted excited. study.

unhappy shall feel that!" He held up mal, not a plant, and lives upon small Gauls.

very small group of men."

Stella looked steadily at him, yet Brooklyn Institute museum, director ment steamer Blake in West Indian

ness in his low words. "That's not

ly, hopefully, "meantime we'll be en-

Stella could not help feeling a wom-

an's gratitude for the comfort and

protection Gideon's loyal courage

promised; yet she said nothing, look-

ing down on the green breast of Na-

ture, dumbly seeking some wise word

"Gideon"-she turned her eyes, still

done in a minute; and meantime-"

-for-for your sake I can."

his doubled fist.

from her bounty.

Gideon started, stung by the scorn

posed to such insults! You must mar-

ry me, soon-now! You must-"

one quarter of one of your tears."

ashamed, so humiliated."

drubbing of his life. Gideon waited

Stella's eyes were fixed on the opposite hillcrest, and she lifted her Phineas had beaten down many angry hand thoughtlessly to her hair while eyes with his dare-devil bravado; yet searching for an excuse to go that the blaze of Gideon's passion, boy would be effective. The motion freed though he was, tied the sneering a handkerchief tucked in her belt, and it fluttered to the ground unseen by

Phineas furtively reached for it, examined it, noted the embroidered "Stella" in the corner and thrust it in his pocket. "Yes, look to your hair, California Berenice; it is quite bril-Stella shivered apprehensively when | liant enough to make stars of," he said | impressively.

"Mr. Cadwallader, I cannot accept nor parry your extravagant complithe only vacant seat at her table. ments as a city girl would. Surely you Travel had grown heavier, and Stella can't be interested in the simple assisted regularly now with the noon things I can say. Please let me go." waiting. She shrank at Phineas' loud, Once again she moved as if to pass familiar greeting, helplessly resenting him.

the inquiring looks of the other; "A beautiful woman doesn't need to say things to be interesting. You Phineas indersed her fear by dis- haven't asked what it is I wished to charging a bomb that startled more say."

"Did you expect me to ask?"

"Most girls would. That's where you are the more attractive. Sit down here and we'll talk it over. I'll make you comfortable." He reached for some of the overhanging boughs, intending to place them on the rock seat. The movement took him a pace from the opening. "Really, Mr. Cadwallader, I'm sure

gun business. Oh, we fellows ain't you could tell me as well at the hotel. asleep over Placerville way, you bet Good afternoon." She started toward there he sent back a last hot shot. "I not! We'll make those C. P. slubberthe low, thorny opening. degullions cough up their bootheels

He was after her with the spring of a cat. "No, you don't, my beauty! His loud words carried to all and silenced the room for a pregnant in. If you won't stay and talk, you shall stant. Even the clatter of iron cut. give me a proper farewell."

The inequality of the ground availed lery was suspended. When a subdued

"Go with Viola Here; She'll Show Ye-"

admiring bystanders. Gideon was in face and voice. The success of this intention he threw his arm around eyes fixed on the approaching pair. tral Pacific company; and in that lo- stepped back out of her reach. "There, Alfred discerned the hate in Gideon's cality the Central Pacific railroad was my wood-nymph, don't break your surly greeting, saw the loutish leers mother to every enterprise, bread to heart; and don't think I was intending

coming of Phineas and his astounding sweet little flirtation with your humble news. She asked Sally B. to hand the servant. I have your hankerchief. forty gait, Vincent. The Ovehland letter to the driver as a special com- andcain't wait, and Uncle Billy cain't miss | mission and set out through the back | door for a walk before lesson time,

She took the little path skirting a winter rivulet back of the town, and la to meet Gideon's crashing blow. came soon to a clump of pines a little way up the sunny hillside. She was quite in view from the short street was away from all paths and had proved a safe retreat.

To-day Stella's grateful solitude was "Eat quick, then. Billy Dodge don't short-lived. Quick steps had followed wait for passengers, important or oth- hers; the twigs parted and Phineas

Stella's intuition was unerring, but cepting the driver." He waved a her caution was untrained. She did smiling apology to Uncle Billy and not attempt to conceal her opinion of him, "Mr. Cadwallader!" she cried. Alfred felt his body grow leaden; starting up. "I thought you went

"I didn't, you see. I'm here instead." "Very well, Mr. Crocker; I'll be with He bowed deferentially. "How could I go without a word with you, the belle He turned to Stella. There was of the village? Won't you sit down something in her unguarded face that again?" He waved his hand toward set his every nerve atingle; that the rock from which she had risen, but

must hold himself in check, must not | "Thank you, Mr. Cadwallader. Please lose a second; most of all, he must excuse me; I must hurry back." She not let her know what he had learned. took a step forward, but he did not

"What's your hurry, Miss Stella? You are a lovely dryad here at your He made a snatch at dinner for shrine, and pretty girls, to say nothing

His manner was as respectful as he a pocketbook Charley Crocker was could make it. Still, Stella knew he made conquests merely to brag of And Stella behind the window cur- them. "It's time for Miss Viola's les- the ride. tain with blurring eyes watched the sons, and I must go," she said with de-

eon, how can I leave you?"" did not speak. Gideon was silenced of the marine laboratory, Carnegie waters, giving special attention to the barroom doorway, his glowering new scheme meant failure for the Cen- her, gave her an audible kiss and by some strange thing that appeared institute, and director of the departto ask you to marry me. I only wanted her soul was raying farewell. burning cheeks; he even mistook the As soon as she could, Steila wrote to tell that inflated skipjack, Vincent,

His sneering words ceased suddenly,

"Hand Stella her handkerchief, you devil's whelp!" Gideon hastened the ing her way to safety, striving for now geologist of the United States trip to the South Pacific in the Alba-

Phineas rose with difficulty and obeyed; but Stella, now that help had kind of love, the kind you have for arrived, was stunned to inaction, and me. You are older than I am, dear. I

"That's right, Stella! Don't touch you. I guess I'm still a child, and coral growth. it!" Gideon turned to Phineas, who you'll have to wait for me to grow up."

do anything in my power for you; I 1897-8-9, 1902.

not for the menace in Stella's pale face, but for hasty, approaching strides. He sprang forward past Stel- Drawing one hand free she brushed a 1894, Ph. D. 1903. He studied at mu- reef.

prostrate man with a kick.

the white token fell at her feet.

was feebly trying to restore order to

eon, I know there must be another

(TO BE CONTINUED)

ENDED IN CHILDISH TRAGEDY spired immediate action. Straightway

Fate of Two Pickaninnies Who Went into the brimming tide plunged man on a Cruise.

washtub-two pickaninnies went cruising Thursday, says the Houston Chronicle. They sailed until they were rescued, and with that event came a rainwater bath. White men pulled them to the shore to leave them gur- en, mothers of the black babies, had gling in the arms of two black mam-

mies. There were no signals of distress flying as the two babies in a tub floated swiftly down White Oak bayou. The current was running like a mill race. but the tub was properly balanced for

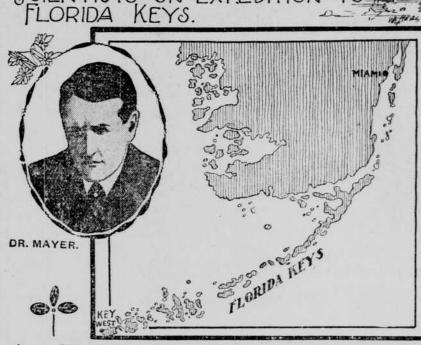
As it emerged from the jurgle into sounded over the inundated bayou the ship channel the appurition in flats.

after man. They swam strongly for the tub and-tipped it over. Into the Afloat on the bounding wave-in a turgid stream fell a pair to draw to. With difficulty they were fished from the water, screaming lustily for their "ship," continuing like a derelict on

down the stream. Meanwhile two buxom colored wom appeared. Gathering the drenched and crying pickaninnies in their arms they publisher in turn.

The cruise started in play about the when, with wet clothes stretched tight, every spat stung flercely and wails

SECRETS OF CORAL REFERENCE OF THE SCIENTISTS ON EXPEDITION TO THE SECRET OF THE SECRET



Phineas turned away, speechless till he was safe outside the copse. From is a navigator as well as a man of of lime firmly united in a solid mass. didn't know I was poaching on your the Cargenie boat Physalia, in which fine color and susceptibility to a high the voyage will be made.

An expedition has been sent out by | most common being sponge coral and the Carnegie foundation for the pur- brain coral, their names signifying pose of studying the coral formations their shape. Corals are roughly classed along the Florida Keys and to the under two heads, the horny corals and West Indies. The two scientists in the lime or stone corals. The former charge of the expedition are Dr. A. G. consists chiefly of a horny secretion Mayer, formerly of Cambridge, and from the polyps, which may include Dr. W. T. Vaughn of the United also separate particles of lime, and States geological survey. Dr. Mayer the stone corals consist almost wholly

polish, and much used for ornamental Coral life will be studied along the purposes—is chiefly obtained from the route of the new railroad from Miami Mediterranean, in some parts of brain, heart and soul, rebelled against to Key West, where, in making a bed which extensive "fisheries" are carhis restraining will, yet he neither re- for the track foundations, the coral ried on. Red coral has a shrublike, hum did begin, dismay was in each him; and before she could divine his plied nor followed. A fighter born, reefs have been cut through, leaving branching form, and grows to the Stella alone, and Stella in trouble, pre- exposed much that is of interest and height of about a foot, with a thick-

science, and he will be in command of Red coral-so much admired for its

AT A CRITICAL TIME.

Women Are Likely to Suffer with Dan-

gerous Kidney Disorders.

Mrs. John Kirk, R. F. D. No. 2, De-

a critical time of life

I was on the verge of

a collapse with kid-

ney troubles, back-

ache, dizziness, puffy

dropsy swellings and

urinary irregularities

I lost flesh and felt

languid, nervous or

unstrung all the time.

troit, Mich., says: "Five years ago at

As my doctor did not help me I began

using Doan's Kidney Pills. In a few

weeks all these symptoms left me. !

now weigh 163 pounds and feel in ex-

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box

VERY O. T.

Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

cellent health.'

Stork-I see you've got the gout, Flamingo.

Flamingo-Wrong. Hear of centipede being caught scorching? Stork-Yes.

Flamingo-Well, I put my foot on him and got burned.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PAINT.

The time to complain about paint is before the painter applies it. The man who puts up the money should not shirk the responsibility of choosing the paint. True, the painter ought to know paint better than the banker, the professional man or the merchant. The trouble is, the houseowner too often deliberately bars the competent and honest painter from the job by accepting a bid which he ought to know would make an honest job impossible.

Secure your bids on the basis of National Lead Company's pure White Lead and pure Linseed Oil and see that you get these materials.

No one need be fooled by adulterated white lead. A blowpipe testing outfit will be mailed to anyone interested in paint.

Address, National Lead Company, Woodbridge Building, New York City.

Ready to Pay Fine. "I know where \$3,000,000 in cash ties concealed," said a New York law-"This vast sum lies concealed in the inside vest pocket of the 30,000 automobilists of New York state. Each man carries \$100 of it in one crisp note, ready to be paid out in a fine, if he should be arrested for speeding. Fines, though, don't appear to stop speeding," he continued. "Perhaps the rich automobilist regards them much as the Suabian wood thief did. The thief was arrested. The magis trate said to him: 'You are brought up on the charge of stealing wood. This charge has been proved against you. But you are old and poor and you shall be let off this time. Only don't do it again.' 'Nonsense!' retortbody; and whoever dares make you fore starting. "The coral is an ani- used for ornamental purposes by the ed the thief. 'Let us not have any false sentimentality here. I steal my wood, I pay my fine, and there's an

Economical Physician.

Ambassador Wu Ting-fang was once, it is alleged, telling about a certain selfish politician. He said: "The man reminds me of a doctor of Shanghai. A mandarin came to this doctor for advice. He could not sleep, had no appetite, suffered a good deal from depression and nevertheless was taking on fat at an alarming rate. 'We'll soon put you in condition again,' said the physician. 'What you need is exercise, good, hard exercise. Four times a week you can come here and put in' the morning polishing my floors.' 'But why not my own floors?' the mandarin inquired. 'Mine,' said

the physician, 'are larger.'

How He Got Rid of Rats. A farmer describes his method of clearing the premises of rats in the following manner: "On a large number of old shingles I put a half-teaspoonful of treacle each, and on that with my pocket knife I scraped a small amount of concentrated lye. then placed the old shingles around under the stable floors and under the cribs. The next morning I found 40 dead rats, and the rest left the farm for parts unknown. I have cleared many farms of the pests in the same

way, and have never known it to fail." CHANGE IN FOOD

Works Wonders in Health.

It is worth knowing that a change in food can cure dyspepsia. "I deem it my duty to let you know how Grape-Nuts food has cured me of indigestion.

"I had been troubled with it for years, until last year my doctor recommended Grape-Nuts food to be used every morning. I followed instructions and now I am entirely well.

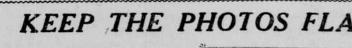
"The whole family like Grape-Nuts, we use four packages a week. You are welcome to use this testimonial

as you see fit.' The reason this lady was helped by the use of Grape-Nuts food, is that it and therefore does not tax the stomach as the food she had been using: it also contains the elements required If that part of the human body is in perfect working order, there can be no

dyspepsia, for nervous energy represents the steam that drives the engine. When the nervous system is run down, the machinery of the body works badly. Grape-Nuts food can be used by small children as well as

adults. It is perfectly cooked and ready for instant use. Read "The Road to Wellville," in

pkgs. "There's a Reason." Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.



Should Be Rolled.

Caine sent the manuscript of his first into the fire and buy cardboard." story round among the publishers for four or five years before it was accepted; and I, for one, do not wonder at it, for he admits that the same ger of going into bankruptcy. cylinder came back to him from every

"A rolled manuscript, when released spring hat," he wailed. marched away to their cabins. from the cylinder, at once flies into water edge and ended in a woodshed, as many different rolls as there are dredth," grinned the slave with the big pages, and rolled photographs do ex- fan. "She is the last one." cylinder. Cutting the cylinder is the News.

Like Manuscript the Pictures Never easiest way, but, then, you sometimes cut the photographs in two, and when business has an utter detestation of a photographers consult their own inter- for building up the nervous system. rolled manuscript. They say that Hall ests, they will throw all their cylinders

The sultan of Sulu was in grave dan-

"That makes 199 wives that have touched me for the price of a new "And here comes the two hun-

unrolled they cannot be properly "I wish," said the journalist, "that viewed without laying them flat and photographers and other people who placing a weight on each corner, and handle photographs would learn to that is a good deal of trouble. If you send them flat, between two pieces of try to straighten them by rolling them is predigested by natural processes stout cardboard, rather than roll them the other way, they are often wrinkled and squeeze them into a paper or torn, to say nothing of being cylinder. Every man in the newspaper smeared with the fingers. If the

Last But Not Least.

actly the same trick, and, besides, are "Ah, I suppose you would call her often torn in getting them out of the the 'finishing touch.' "-Chicago Daily

The Physalia, Specially Equipped for the Expedition. affording excellent opportunity for ness equal to that of the little finger. Black coral, the heart of which is "We shall particularly study the liv- solid, is still more highly prized. Coral gaged. We'll tell Sally B.—tell every. ing animals," said Dr. Mayer, just be- was known to the ancients and was

> fish and other organisms which it Probably the most complete knowlsucks into its mouth. The coral of edge that the world has gained has commerce is composed of the skeie- been learned from the observations of tons of these tiny animals. Much of Prof. Alexander Agassiz, director and the work which we shall do in West curator of the University museum of Indian waters will be examination of Harvard, son of Harvard's most faminute animal life under the micro- mous scientist, Louis Agassiz, and scope, and the study is of interest to a president of the Calumet & Hecla Mining company, as well as a world-

wet, to his—"Gideon, dear, you'd want ated from Harvard in 1897, and from Alexander Agassiz's great specialty Dr. Altred Goldsboro Mayer gradu- wide traveler-student. your wife to love you, wouldn't you?" ated from Harvard in 1892 to 1900 was assistant to Dr. Alexis marine zoology, and he is the recog-"But you do love me-you've always ander Agassiz, the world authority in nized world authority on the subject. loved me." His words were confident. marine zoology, and particularly Back in the seventies Prof. Agassiz He faced her, caught up her hands. corals. From 1895 until 1900 Dr. explored Lake Titicaca, between Peru "Oh, little Star, don't you remember Mayer was in charge of comparative and Bolivia, one of the highest that last night in the station? You put zoology. Since that time he has lakes in the world. From 1877 to 1880 out your hands to me and said: 'Gid- been successively curator of natural he directed the deep sea dredging opsciences and curator-in-chief at the erations of the United States govern-

in her eyes. She grew more and more ment of marine biology at the Car- explored practically all the oceans. remote. He saw her slipping from negie institute, Washington. He was in 1894 he made a notable expedihim. Though her hands were in his, assistant to Dr. Alexander Agassiz to tion to the deep sea region of the Pathe Bahamas in 1892-3; Australia, cific, and it was during this expedition "Stella!" he cried imperiously, "you 1896; Fiji islands, 1897; cruise of the that Prof. Agassiz found the great

know you love me; you can't deny it." Albatross through the tropical Pacific, submarine desert. "Yes, Gideon, I love you. I would 1899-1900; Dry Tortugas, Florida, Coral reefs have always held a peculiar fascination for Prof. Agassiz, think-I think I would risk my life for Dr. Vaughn is a geologist of na- and after exhausting the reefs in the you, as you've more than once risked tional reputation, connected with the Pacific ocean he made an expedition yours, for me. Yet-yet-" She Smithsonian institution. He gradu to Queensland especially for the purpaused, looked up and smiled at him. ated from Harvard in 1893, A. M. pose of studying the famous Barrier

bit of lint from his sleeve, taking un- seums in Europe, engaged in geolog- At the time when he was about to necessary time for it. She was feel- ical and paleontologic researches; is start on his four months' exploration mastery without a scene. "Yet, Gid geological survey, and is custodian of tross, working on plans outlined by Madreporarian corals in the United the government fish commission, Mr. States National museum. He is a Carnegie offered to finance the expedi-

specialist on fossils and recent corals. tion to the extent of \$75,000. recognize no change in my feeling for He is the author of several works on In December 1896, Prof. Agassiz chartered the steam yacht Virginia for Under the common name, coral, are another investigation tour to the West included many species, probably the Indies.

KEEP THE PHOTOS FLAT.