Old Blazer's Hero

By DAVID CHRISTIE MURRAY.

CHAFTER IV. me; but in such a case no man who he had only guessed before. The bridewas competent to lischarge the duties of groom had been drinking.

paperintending the work of rescue could "You have no business here at such a superintending the work of rescue could citate to obey the summons. Blane time as this," be said roughly. was doubly competent. His business du- home. des as mine surveyor had made him familiar with the workings, and in similar "Why have I got no business here?" sases be had more than once given proof even forgot for an hour or two at a time to night. Come with me." hat his sweetheart had that day married

thick drizzle. Great cages of fire burn- laughed. ed here and there, and smeared the thick "Don't you fret about me, Ned Blane," atmosphere with a murky light. The he said, with a laugh. "I'm perfectly from the waste of darkness beyond the Johnson?" sircle of the flaring cressets answered Knots of sheet. shawled women waited motionless round or and thither, about the slippery and at starting."

and for the moment there was no more wonder to him afterward that he did not seed of the man who felt most need of then and there knock Will Hackett mouth of the mine, with his hands folded turning abruptly, walked back to the behind him and his eyes upon the ground. squalid shelter he had so recently quit-The drizzle was growing thicker, and the red, and closed the door behind him. growd, knowing that there was no hope of rescue, or even of early tidings, had begun to fall away, when he felt a hand apon his shoulder, and, turning, found Hepzibah by his side.

T've brought you a change o' clothes and some victuals, Mister Edward," she said, as he turned upon her. "You should ha' sent a message to the missis. Dinner was kept waitin' for a hour and more. We've only just found out as you was here, though anybody but a set of thick

heads might ha' guessed it." He took the things from her half mechanically, and having bestowed them in one of the hovels, came back into the rain and stood there looking gloomily about him.

Hepzibah, who could guess something of her young master's troubles, though their force, laid hands upon him and insisted on his return to the hovel, where

Whilst Blane forced himself to est, Hepzibah set and watched him in sience; but when he pushed the food away been seated she broke into complaint and tender his services in case of need. see laid both hands upon his arm, and the new arrival. Imperative little shake of command as the last ten minutes. It can't have gone she had been wont to use for the emphasis of reproof when he was a child. He laughed rather forlornly at this, and

barned upon her:
"Well, Hepzibah, what is it?"

"Why, it's just this," responded Hepzibah. "You've got your mother and the ed siready."

Stile uns to think of. There's nobody In the ex also in the whole wide world for them to look to but you, and it's no part of your business here to be doing anything rash and throwing your life away. You went down the Ald Tump when nobody sice would go. And there wasn't a cted to see you back again. Don't you sere, Edward, you take heart; pluck up a bit of a sperrit and bethink your-belf. There's as good fish in the sea as self. There's as good fish in the sea as er—"get lamps and picks. See that the swar come out of it. Now, don't you go lamp casings are watertight." pin' at me as if I'd stuck a pair of least said soonest mended; but a nod's new I'm going away, but not before I've If you say you'll do it, I know you'll do it; but I shan't go until you're

He gave the promise and she went way, leaving him in the hovel alone.

I'm here. I'm going to get a change." parments for the dry ones Hepzibah had ught him he sat down and surrenur or thereabouts a knock came to the or, and the man who had accosted him nerve fluttered among them.

They entered the skip which hung over

"Here's Mr. Hackett asking for you,

thing but some sudden misfortune which could have brought his rival there such a time, and he went out to meet with the feelings a man may have gently to a standatill. who walks to the gallows.
"Hillo, Ned!" cried Hackett's voice

Blane emerged from the hovel, and, pick. ng round in the direction of the

"They told me you were in charge He worked the point of the pick into a bere," said Will, "and I snatched a min-crevice of the wall, and after a tug or two to run up and see how things two out came a brick and fell with a

ing Hackett by the sleeve, turned him The proprietors of the Old Blazer had round gently but firmly and brought his so right to call up in the services of Ned face into the light. He knew then what

"No business here!" said Hackett. "You know as well as I do," Blane of courage and resource. He threw him responded with a choking and rapid self heart and soul into the work, and voice, "why you have no business here

He had kept his hold upon Hackett's his rival and that her marriage was like- arm during this brief exchange of words, to endanger her happiness.

It was night time, and the roaring knew, he was leading him away. Hackett wind had fallen, to be followed by a twisted his arm from the other's hold and

scattered crowd looked listless enough right where I am, and I know what on the surface. The engine panted with I'm doing. Did you ever read the life a noise of fear and hurry, and echoes of that great and good man, Doctor

"Never you mind that great and good Faces shone like hot metal in man, Doctor Johnson, just at present. the near light of the fires, or took a said Blane, who by this time, between ghostly pallor as they stood against the wrath and anguish, was as white as a "You go home."

"I'm taking a leaf out of his book, my the hovels by the pit's mouth; the rest boy," said Hackett. "There's nothing of the lingerers moved purposelessly bith- like having the reins in your own hands

All was being done that could be done. Blane's mind that it was a matter of He stood disconsolate near the down. But he restrained himself, and

CHAPTER V.

Blane was alone wrestling with himself for a full hour, and at the end of that time he was called out to some small duty. He got through it doggedly, compelling himself to listen and understand with as strenuous an urgency and compulsion as would have been need ed to hold a struggling man physically, and then betook himself to a waste field bard by, and there walked up and down in the darkness and the rain. He did not know how long he had

been thus occupied when a voice hailed him excitedly, and he ran, shouting in answer, toward the engine house. The little remnant of the day's crowd was gathered closely about it, and he had to was scarcely competent to calculate push his way through with some force until he was recognized and room was made for him to pass. Three or four of the more intelligent and instructed of the workmen were gathered in the engine room, and with them was a mine surveyand arose from the stool on which he had before arrived on the scene prepared to progress

"Here's a strange thing, Blane," said shaft has gone down thirty feet within down in the shaft without having gone down in the workings, and a draught like that can't mean anything but this the weight of water has broken into some lower workings that I don't know of, and the Blazer is more than two-thirds drain-

In the excitement of this news Blane forgot his personal griefs, and instantly siness here to be doing anything ation. He called for the plan of the mine, studied it for a moment and then turned quietly upon his fellow volunteer.

"The fall in the water has left bare this old air-way, which is bricked up in the playing any of them tricks here. And shaft. We must break through at once. Shadrach, rig things up in the downcast. Meshach"—this was Shadrach's broth-

The two men were gone about their several affairs as briskly as the orders were conveyed.

"I'll make one," said the new volum teer. "But it's likely to be a wet job, promise to get into your dry and I'll borrow a suit of fianuels from one of you chaps. And you'd better do the same, Blane. It'll be well to have dry things to come up to.

but tensely quiet. The shawled women He opened the door, and, accosting one stood like grouped statues in the red "If anybody asks for me you can say the night. Preparations were made r. p idly, without noise or bustle, and in a The man nodded in response; and few minutes the rescue party was ready when Ned had exchanged his saturated to descend. It consisted of Biane, his momentary colleague, Shadrach and two others-all tried and experienced men, himself to his own comfortless re- who knew that they might be venturin ctions. After the space of some half upon a desperate enterprise, but had faced the like so often that scarcely a

the black cavern of the pit's mouth. The word was given, and they swung down "Mr. Hackett!" cried Blane, rising in ward. In a minute the floor of the skip surprise and fear. He could think of began to heave beneath their feet like the regulation of the engine on the bank -and a second or two later they came

> "Here," said Blane, striking the bricked wall resoundingly with the point of a

weice, the surveyor saw his rival swag-gering, with his feet planted wide apart and a bottle in his hand. t for the fellows who're at work couple of fathous liter, which, from a Pase it round, boys."

Cheet, glistening from heel to shoula long India rubber waterproof
and with a felt hat stuck rakishly
back of his head, had his face
I away from the giare of the creethat his old companies could but
discount his features.

Shadrach

Splant into the water, which, from a
couple of fathoms lower down, reflected
the light of the safety lamps with a
sulky and olly gleam. He and his companious peering into the hole thus made
saw nothing but what looked like a solid
darkness.

"Ge on," said Blane. "That's the
place. You'll be through directly."

self carefully through the orifice he had made; then turning, thrust out a hand for his lamp.

"It's deadly wet," said Shadrach. "I'm

Nobody spoke in answer to this state ment, but, man by man bridged the chasm and entered upon the air way. man by man, bridged the When all were landed they set out upon a difficult and broken road, which in places was so low that they were com-pelled to go snakewise, and even then came into occasional contact with the sharp ridges of the roof. By and by the road dipped suddenly. The passage was higher at this point than it had been hitherto, and the men could stand in a crouching posture whilst they paused to take breath. Blane went down upon his hands and knees, and thrusting his lamp before him surveyed the depression

"Lads," he said, turning and looking apward at his companions, "there's water here. I fancy we shall have to dive

"That'll be queer work," said his fellow surveyor gravely. "It'll be a bad business for anybody who gets stuck down there. And who's to know whether the road rises again and gets free of water? And if it does, who's to say what the distance is?"

"I'll try it feet foremost," said Ned Blane. "I shall come out of it easiest that way if I find the road too narrow or too long. If you get a tap from the other side you'll know it's pretty easy

He blew out the light of the lamp, and encased the lamp itself in a waterproof tin box which was suspended about his shoulder. Then kneeling down again, he slipped feet foremost into the black water, and slowly disappeared from sight, his companions following every motion with eager glances until the wat er closed over his head, and a bubble or two rose upon its inky surface. The little pool lapped its boundaries idly and noiselessly, and the watchers, crouching immobile and slient, kept their eyes upon it. Suddenly it ebbed by three or four hes, and a second or two later was heard a muffled and inward tap, tap, tap, from beyond it.

Who goes next?" asked the volunteer. "Be careful about your lamps and

The Bard put out his lamp, encased it as his predecessor had done, and slipped backward into the water. Then his companious followed. The volunteer, having put out his light, fumbled in the dark a while to fix it in its case, and then went after the others. When he had emerged upon the farther side, he found a lamp or two already relighted, and in a while the journey was begun again. The road At times they could walk stooping, at times they could make their way upon their hands and knees, and again at times they were compelled to crawl. On a sudden when they were in the straitest pass they had yet come to, the leader's light went out. The lamp of the man behind him followed suit.

"Get back, for your lives!" shouted Blane; "the choke-damp's on us!" In a narrow way there was no room to turn, but they shuffled backward with breathless haste, tearing their thick clothes against the jagged roof, and wounding hands and knees upon the broken way below. Another lamp went out, and then another. But by this time they had reached a less difficult portion of the or-one Atkinson-who had a little while | air-way, and were making more rapid

> We shall be all right on the other side of the water," said Blane. "The gas "The water in the can't get past that."

foremost lamp, which by good hap was still burning, until they reached the watwent out. One after the other they doned. struggled through this gap of safety. The volunteer, having been the last to enter, was first to leave. Arriving on the safety side he took a match from its waterproof case and struck it. His comrades came up one by one, dripping and

"All here?" asked Blane, as he emerged, shaking himself like a dog, and wringing the foul water from his hair and

"No," said one of the men. "Where's Shed? Shadrach was absent. They waited for a little time, and the volunteer surveyor ignited one match at another while

"This is getting serious," said Blane. "It's mere madness to go back," swered the volunteer, gravely.

(To be continued.)

A retaliatory thrust at mankind lies n the remark of a woman who is quoted by the New York Times. She was formation of frost, but also stops putting the finishing touches to her tollet, and her husband was waiting with ostentatious patience. Having adjusted her hat, she took a hatpin from the cushion, and suddenly cried

"I think it's a shame!" "Yes, my dear," nervously assented

the waiting husband. "I mean the way these writers say women sharpen lead-pencils and open tin cans with their husband's razora."

"Yes, my dear." "Yes. Now I never do such things with your razor, and I don't believe any woman does. I looked at your razor once, when I had a box of sardines to open, but it was so sharp and so wabbly in the handle I was afraid

"Yes, my dear." "If the writers want to put some thing true in the papers, why don't they talk about men who use their

This time the husband forgot to say, 'Yes, my dear."

hatpins for pipe-cleaners?

His Opinion. "Do you believe that every man has

"I won't discuss that," answered Senator Sorghum; "but I will say that the reason some men stay honest is because the price asked is so much higher than the price bid."—Washing-

Cupid is always looking for a chance



Holton, Mo., with a population of 1,500, has seventeen churches,

New York has a German population of 800,000 and Chicago has 140,000 Veins of tin oxide have been dis-

povered in the Transvant which vield 57 per cept tip. The birth rate among the foreignorn in Mussychusetts is 52 per 1,000;

The number of persons in the penientincies of lowa per 1,000 populaion has doubled in fourteen years. In Lowell, Mass., there are 17,000

among the native-born it is 17.

r 828,000 spindles and earn over COLORO a n onth. From Liverpool to Yokohama by the ans-Canada route will be only 9,830 olles. By New York and San Fran-

nachine tending operatives who care

iseo is it 12,008 miles. The fluctuation of the light of Nova eminorum is often as much as half magnitude in twenty-four hours. like hat of Nova Persei No. 2.

There are 1.083,473 Odd Fellows in ie United States and Canada, 941,-221 Free Musons and 928,035 of the Aucient Order of Foresters.

In 1870 the German people barely xceeded 40,000,000; in 1885 they had risen to nearly 47,000,000, and in 1900 the census returns gave 56,345,014.

Statistics show that in lifty years be average height of British men has cisen an inch. The present average beight for a man of 30 is five feet light and one-Lalf inches.

In the body of a horse that died oddenly at Newport (Yorks) the veterinary surgeon who made a postnortem examination discovered three large stones, one of them nearly as targe as a cricket buil.

Not more than 350 square miles of erritory are under cultivation in hene quin or sisal hemp, yet on this small area is produced the fiber that literally binds the wheat harvests of the world. It is used allike in Minnesota and Argentina, in Siberia and Egypt.

The Massachusetts State Building at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition still presented the same characteristics. Is to be a reproduction of the historic colonial house in Cambridge where Washington established his headquarters during the slege of Boston, and which later was the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

The latest in explosives, according to Metal Industry, is powdered aluminum mixed with nitrate of ammonia and put upon the market under the name of "ammonal." This explosive is said to be one of the surest and safest known as it cannot be exploded by friction or blow, while otherwise containing all requisites of an explo-

The most marked change in the uniform of the army, under the general order just issued, is that the white to blue, will again be white. The same change will be made in the shevrons and the box sour and black leather trousers strap will be aban-

The medical officers of the navy who have been making a study of neurasthenia, which has disabled so many officers, ascribe it to the conditions of the life in the navy now imposing upon officers long tours of duty on remote stations, where the opportunities for diversion are not many and where homesickness and discontent, combined with the uncertainty of detachment, have produced this distress of mind and body.

As an excellent remedy against the freezing of shop windows, the Pharmaceutische Zeitung recommends the application of a mixture consisting of fifty-five grams of glycerin dissolved in one liter of 62 per cent alcohol, containing, to improve the odor, some oil of amber. As soon as the mixture clarifies, it is rubbed over the inner surface of the glass. This treatment, It is claimed, not only prevents the sweating.

ONE COURTSHIP.

"I've Pretty Much Made Up My Mind to Get Married.

Susan and Mrs. Lathrop were great friends, although there was some eight or ten years' difference in their ages. Susan was 42, but Mrs. Lathrop had marriedyoung and this fact caused her to feel ever youthful, and thus to be companionable to her girl friend over the fence. Then, too, ever since the death of Mrs. Clegg, some twelve years before, Mrs. Lathrop's advice had been indispensable to the other's ignorance. I dare say there are some who may smile just here and consider that at 30 Miss Clegg should not have needed much motherly counsel; but until one has really arrived at the age of 30 it is impossible to convince one how really immature said age is, and I can personally vouch for the fact that a mother is just as handy to have about then as she is at any earlier period.

Mrs. Lathrop had always had a good deal of time to devote to ber friends' affairs, because her family consisted of but one son, and she was not given to that species of housekeeping which sweeps under the beds too often. Miss Clegg had somewhat less time, because her father (wavering between 70 and 80) was a bedridden paralytic, and had been so for over twenty years. Te was of necessity a great care, and she did her duty by him both vigorously and conscientiously; but the years in bed had led her to confound the hed both as one united factor in her domestic economy. Friday morning she always tore herself away from the fence with the remark, "Well, I must be gettin' back to beat father up an' put him on his clean sheets," and such phrases as "I've got father into new pillowslips," or "Next spring I mean to have father's hair picked over an' get him new tick," were ever rife on her lips She was generally very cheerful and quite resigned to her lot, but occasionally she had a spell of feeling that the world had more to offer than she was

"If father should live to be 100," she said one afternoon in June, as she and Mrs. Lathrop held a parley on the border line of their respective king doms.—"if father should live to be 100 I wouldn't stand much show o' gettin' married afterward. I'd be 60, an', even with a good new wave, 60 is 60." Mrs. Lathrop chewed her clover.

'Nobody but a man o' seventy 's goln' to marry me at 60. That'd make me bury father just to begin on some one else. I got to thinkin' about it last night, an' I've been keepin' on this mornin', too, an' I can see that if I want to get married at all, I'd better do it now. There's no time like the present. This world's made for the young 's well 's for the old. Besides, if I do it before cold weather, he'll pay for half of next winter's fuel. Then I could make my things sieng durin' the summer-I ain't got nothin' to sew on since I finished my dress for the funeral. You ought to see that dress, Mrs. Lathrop; it's just as pice. I put it away with camphor balls, an' stuffed newspaper in the electes. There's nothin' to do when father dies but shake it out an' lay it on his bed. cause of course that day father'll have the guest-room, and the black gloves an' two black rimmed poeter handker chiefs is all ready in the pocket."

Mrs. Lathrop book a fresh clover So I've pretty buch made 9 my mind to get married, an' I'm goln' to set right about it: a here there s a will there's a way. I win't goin' to leave a stone unturned, elther "-Cen-

THE DUTY OF MOTHERS.

They Should Take Time for Enjoy

A mother and a wife should not for get that the ower some duty to herself. In the stress of family life, in the careof bringing up oblidies many women do forget this. They famey that they must shield the poor, mad-working bread-earning bushands from all the troubles and . management of the home For him there should be elippers at the fire and a cushion on the chair,

And the children? Or ourse the must be clothed just as well as the neighbors' youngst is, even though the mother goes "libout a new winter coat. And the daughter must go to as many dances in the week as she likes, else where will be her place in the young society? And so the mothe stays at home to week the dishes and mend the stockings. It is all very fin for the husbands and the children; at d stripe on the infantry trousers, which the mother, bless act! enjoys it. But was changed a year or so ago from | isn't she a little nofair to he self, one granted that she should sacrifice her self, and the others take it for granted

> But everybody has some right to a certain amount of living for his own ends. Everybody has a right to a slice of his own life to spend as he or she chooses. And the mother should take it. Not only she herself, but the whole family, would be bettered if they were not allowed forever and eternally to lean on the mother. It is not because they are close-hearted that they do it it is because they do not think, and in the mother's love she does not think either, but cheerfully gives herself, when it would be better to require a little of the others.-Woman's Home Companion.

Two Brothess. I've got a little brother-He came the other day: He keeps his bands a-waving In an awful funny way. He's got a snap, I tell you Jes' eats and winks and blinks And looks up at the ceiling.

It makes me kinderd jealous I asked ma why he came: She only laughed and tol' me The angels were to biame I don't see why the angels Can't mind their own affairs-

But gee, he's kinder cute, though! He sin't got any hairs! I've got another brother-He came here just to-day. He married sister Myrtle And now he's going to stay. He's got a snap, I tell you,

Jes' eats and sits around,

And sister keeps on teaching

Ma calls him "lazy hound,

I asked pa why he came: He only swore and tol' me That sister was to blame If sister and the angels Keep on a-gitting gay And bringing home new brothers, I'm going to run away!

Business. Mr. Nuritch-You take orders for pixtures here?

Art Dealer-Yes Mr Nurlich-Well, I want you to send a man up to measure my parlor walls fur about \$10,000 worth o' handpainted pixtures in good frames.-Philadelphia Press.

These Loving Girls. Clarice-She says her face is Olivia-On, well, we mustn't shur her on that account. Poverty is so diagrace."—Philadelphia Bulletin. JUDICIAL DECISIONS

Annual crops growing on the in are held in Aldrich vs. Bank of Ohlowa (Neb.), 57 L. R. A. 920, not to pass to a purchaser at judicial sale.

A judge of a court of record is beid, n Webb va Fisher (Tenn.), 60 L. H. A. 791, not to be subject to a private tion for oppressively, maliciously, and paruptly entering a decree disbarring n attorney.

The naming of a child for promisor in terordance with his previous request s held, in Dally vs. Minnick (lows), 65 L. R. A. 840, to be a sufficient consideration for a subsequent promise to onvey to the child a particular tract if land because of such act.

Stockholders who have acquire their shares and their interest in the corporation from alleged wrongdoers and through prior mismanagement are heid, in Holme Fire Insurance Company vs. Barber (Neb.), 60 L. R. A. 127, to have no standing to complate thereof.

The owner of walls left standing be t fire in such proximity to the street so to endanger persons thereon, is held, is Lauer vs. Palms (Mich.), 58 L. B. A. 67, not to be relieved from liability by the fact that he had told compet architects and builders to do what was necessary to render the walls safe.

A railroad company drawing the ers of another company over its read is held, in Budge vs. Morgan's L. & T. R. & S. S. Co. (La.), 58 L. R. A. 333, to owe to its employ stheduty to inspect such cars the same as its own, and to be responsible for the consequence of such defects as would have been disclosed by ordinary care.

The negligence of the driver of as omnibus, in which a pienie party is being conveyed, is held, in Koplitz va. St. Paul (Minn.), 58 L. R. A. 74, and to be imputable to a member of the party who is injured by the overturaing of the conveyance caused by a defect in the street and the contribe tory negligence of the driver.

A statute forbidding the purchase of a stock of goods in bulk without as certaining the seller's creditors and having their claims settled, is held, is McDaniels vs. J. J. Connelly Shoe Company (Wash.), 60 L. R. A. 947, not to deprive the seller of his property without due process of law, and not to be vold as class legislation, or as le restraint of trade.

A man who receives property is trust for the support of his wife and children is held, in National Valles Bank vs. Hancock (Va.), 57 L. R. A 728, to have no right, after mingling the income with his own funds for I period of years, without keeping @ stating an account, and making im provements on the trust property, to go back, charge himself with the come received, and credit the account leaving himself debtor to the benefit ciaries, on the theory that it was his personal duty to support his family or the purpose of preventing his cred itors from reaching the improvements A parent's duty to support a child at affected by the child's interest in trus of a note to this case.

A traveling man recently had a med peculiar experience in a Western town He describes it in the Milwaukee Sen tinel. As he alighted from the train he saw a street-car with a mule attack ment standing near by, and as it ap peared to be the only conveyance b take him to the business district b boarded the car and took a sent. The a man in blue jeans and straw hat o ancient aspect poked his head in at the door and inquired:

"Want to go uptown, stranger?" "That is just what I want," replies the traveler.

"Well, take the whip and hit the old mule a crack and you'll get there a right. The track ends right in the cou ter of the business part, and critter'll stop when he comes to the "Don't they have any drivers on the

"Nope. That is to say, they don't at ways have a driver when he gets sick. "How do they get their money es

of 11?" "Most folks is honest enough to dre a nickel in the box. Them as gin't got their ride for nothing."

The passenger dropped a nickel is the slot, "hit the mule a crack" will the whip, and arrived in the business district of the city in due time,

Mr. Dennis was endeavoring to the best of his ability to give the doctor : faithful account of his wife's symp toms, but he found it up-hill work, "You say she has a cough," said the

doctor. "Is it a hollow cough?" Mr. Dennis cast his eyes to the cell ing and then down to the ground, be found no help anywhere. "It may be a hollow cough," he said humbly, "but there's a great sook

stance to the sound of ft, annyway." His Verdict "O doctor," cried a frantic youth, "I beg that you will fly-

Our dog has just lapped up a quart Of brilliant purple dye." The doctor viewed that reckless our

And gave a deep-drawn sigh.
"I'm very much afraid," he said,
"Your greedy purp'il die."
—Woman's Home Companion.

Knicker-Was it an up-to-date wed Knocker—Yes, indeed; they to breakfast food instead of rice.

An Irishman says that big bearings big pocket books seldom trave