

Mr. Lawson. Mr. Melbourne will send ELKS CAN'T EAT ELK MEAT you a check. Come, dear.' Ferdy, caressing an insufferable Asunder little mustache, was also beaming. Edwy felt like biting him. "Mind, I don't say positively this ceremony is binding," he said wick

edly. "I would have to know all the circumstances; and, come to think of it, there is a supreme court decision of 1876 that has a bearing on certain mock marriages. I will look that up and call tonight to let you know," he finished, boldly. "There's no hurry," began Mrs. Mel-

bourne, quickly. "Oh, yes there is!" assured Jean, who had been dashing her eyes with her handkerchief. "Do come up

Edwy." That evening the attorney was striding back and forth like a menagerie exhibit. He and Jean were alone in the cozy back parlor. The light-hearted house party was making merry else where,

Edwy sat down as far as possible from Jean. He did not dare go near; there was a subdued pensivenes about her altogether unaccustomed and charming. He wanted to cuddle and to comfort her, and he hadn't the right, or the money to give him the right.

"Well," he began, as cheerfully ac possible, "the "76 decision has noth-ing to do with your case. The cere mony is legal and binding."

Jean sighed and looked down her intertwined fingers. "Oh, well," she said, gently, "I don't know that it makes much difference. Everybody's delighted-Ferdy and his moth er and my mother-

marked Lawson. "You did?"

"Yes, I did; Van Sluyck hasn't any thing but money. He's a catch." "Why, Edwy!" There was an in

"And so are you delighted," he charged, harshly. "He can give you a flock of automobiles, and a fortyroom house. Bah, money, money, nowadays."

to abide by the law." "You haven't!" Edwy's voice was

must be annulled." "Must be annulled-why?"

I'm going to have you." He gathered her hands to his breast,

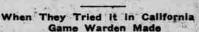
Edwy," she whispered, "I was afraid you were never going to say it!" demurely: "I really don't think an an You honor, and obey Ferdy, I didn't say 'Yes.'"

"You didn't!" coried Edwy excit-

Affectionate mirthfulness bubbled up in Edwy's eyes. "You little sea lawyer, you! That really does put the whole thing in the catalogue of jokes." "But," he continued, shrewdly, "why didn't you tell me that in the office this afternoon?"

few more grains of rice powder in the shoulder of his coat. "Because 1 wanted to tell you-here!" she whis-

alternate applications of his heels on Magic of Dickens, The hundred years which have "What are you doing?" demanded rushed over the earth like an express Miss Lucy, indignantly. train since Charles Dickens felt the "Doing!" echoed the tramp. "I was first pinch of a terrestrial winter have starting round to the kitchen to ask changed the human mind, altered the attitude of the soul to the universe the young lady I saw hanging out your clothes if she'd hand me a bite and modified the affections of the human heart. We are no longer easily of breakfast. Then I thought I didn't moved to tears, we are loath to let make a very good appearance, and I was about to go on to the next house exaggeration filch our laughter, we when I saw this mat with the invitaare perhaps less eager than our fore tion, 'Please use this Mat,' right on fathers to be made to smile, and certainly more avaricious with our tears it, so I stepped up here. In about five minutes more I'll look well enough so than were our grandmothers. Never theless the magic of Dickens still I can go round to the kitchen." "Well!" said Miss Lucy. "Well!" touches our lives, and the manhood of the whole Anglo-Saxon race is colored and then she closed the door, being by those ensorcelled hours of our boyunable to think of any appropriate rehood when we roared with Sam Wellmarks .--- Youth's Companion. er, hated Jonas Chuzzlewit and Car-



a Raid.

One hundred and twenty Elks gathered at the Elks' lodge at San Rafael the other night to banquet on elk meat, but a game warden descended upon the club, confiscated and bore away the savory, steaming, wellcooked elk meat, and the Elks were forced to dine on beef. It was to be a great celebration in honor of L. F. Douglas and John J. Deane, mighty hunters.

Douglas and Deane had brought back 57 pounds of delicious elk meat from their recent Wyoming elk hunt. Two hundred and fifty invitations were sent, and the cooks converted the delicious meat into savory steaks and roast. The banquet was scheduled for 7 o'clock.

Deputy Game Warden Hunter entered the lodge at 6:30 o'clock, as the Elks were chuckling over the savory odor of the cooked meat which permeated the lodge.

"You may have Elks in your lodge, said Hunter, displaying his badge of office, "but, my sirs, elks is deer, and it is closed season for deer in California, and therefore you cannot eat And forthwith he carted away elk." the banquet food. A makeshift ban quet on beef followed, but most of the Elks went home dissatisfied .- San Francisco Chronicle.

## DULLS EDGE OF COMPLIMENT

But Amateur Musician Bravely Re frained From Making Explanation to Young Lady.

Every evening for three weeks twin brothers had been practicing for an amateur band concert. One twin, Joseph, played a cornet, and the other, Joel, operated on the violin. Meeting a young woman, Joseph asked her if money! It's the only thing that counts she would attend the musical feast.

be very nice indeed. I've heard you Mr. Lawson. I have a perfect right and your brother practicing. That symphony of yours last night on the cornet was exquisite."

Unfortunately the keen edge of this compliment was dulled, because Joseph recalled that he had not played a cornet on the previous night. He had practiced on a trombone, but bravely refrained from making an explanation

"And there was another piece that caught my fancy," the young lady continued. "It seemed like a Wagnerian extract. Do you also play a saxophone?"

"No; miss," was the amateur's admission.

"I wonder what was the other instrument I heard last night?" "I can't say positively, but if it

was about nine o'clock, I think brotheditor a new or Joel was either putting a new "I said, 'No, never. I wouldn't string on his violin or tuning the old piano."

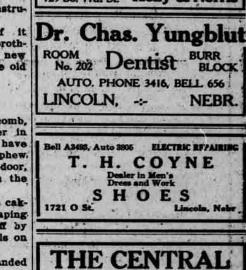
> General Invitation. One morning Miss Lucy Halcomb,

the most fastidious housekeeper in Bushby, who was reported to have washed an unfortunate grand-nephew. into a decline, opened her front door, having heard strange noises on the Diazza

There stood a tramp, his shoes caked with mud, which he was scraping off with a knife and kicking off by

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"I thought your mother was," re

jured look in her dewy eyes.

She bridled. "You shouldn't talk so,

sharp with misery. "That marriage

"Because I want you myself-

and kissed the pink palms. Jean swayed toward him. "Ob

After a while, some minutes maybe hours-later, Jean remarked

nulment is necessary, Edwy. You see, when Polly asked me if I'd love,

promise to obey any man.""

Her burrowing movement fixed pered.

ker, loved Little Nell, trembled at

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tury.

of the story.

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commencement and wedding "Yes," she said, "and I think it will

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that a mock wedding, properly witnessed, it's binding in this state."

"Why, yes," agreed the girl in sur prise.

"I've heard of such cases before." "What we want to know, Mr. Law son," asked the complacent Mrs. Mel bourne, "is whether the ceremony is really binding."

"I don't know-yet," sighed Edwy. He turned to Jean. "What sort of rigmarole did you go through with?" "Polly Pearson acted as the min-ister," replied the girl, "and what she said sounded natural."

Lawson's heart swooped down through limitless depths of despair, like a broken aeroplane. Polly Pearson was the sister of the Episcopal minister and had been witness at a hundred weddings. Doubtless she had the wedding service letter-perfect.

"You made the proper answers, Van Sluyck?" asked the attorney. "I did," returned that young man.

"It was a very foolish thing to do," remarked Lawson.

Van Sluyck colored hotly. "We are not all lawyers," he retorted, loftily, and Edwy hated him.

"Then it's legal?" queried Jean, anxlously.

"I'm afraid it is; the law is joke proof. It takes no account of the spirit in which the words of the marriage service are uttered-so long as they are uttered."

Jean was pale. She looked from her mother to Ferdy and back again. "What a bother!" she sighed. "And we'll have to go into court, and all that!"

The complacent Mrs. Melbourne glanced keenly at her daughter for a moment. "Is it such a terrible thing, Jean-the ceremony, I mean? Another-a formal one-

Van Sluyck leaned forward eagerly 'n his chair. "I don't think it's a calamity, Jean. You know how I feelhow I've always felt."

Jean stole a peep at Edwy Lawson from under her long eyelashes. He wes digging vicious holes in his desk blotter.

"I don't know," she sighed. couldn't think what to do until I was sure the law called it a-marriage." Mrs. Melbourne rose. She was positively beaming. "Thank you so much,

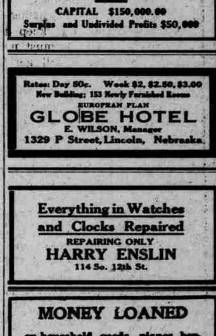
## Jewels of Indian Princes.

Quilp, fancied ourselves Nicholas Nickleby, envied David Copperfield, Some of the Indian princes possess ewels which would put those of Ablonged to possess a Grip, loathed Pecksniff, and felt our hearts grow dul Hamid in the shade. At the 1903 durbar the blaze of gems surprised heavy over the bitter sufferings of Oliver Twist, Poor Jo and tragic Smike.—Harold Begbie in the Ceneven the Indians themselves. The Maharajah of Darbhanga was wearing a diamond necklace which had cost

£90,000, and was considered a bargain at that. Besides a necklace of 13 rows of perfectly matched pearls The senate yesterday passed a bill as large as filberts, the Maharajah of under which soldiers or sailors sen Gwalior disported a sash depending tenced to death by a court martial will henceforth be guillotined instead from his left shoulder to his right knee, the material of which was comof being shot, except in cases where pletely hidden by similar stones. Anthe offence is one which comes diother rajah carried a sword-hilt cut rectly under military law. This bill from a single emerald, and in the turwas brought in after the murder some ban of the Nizam of Hyderabad was months ago of Mme. Gouin by solthe Nizam diamond, which weighs 277 diers, one of whom, Graby, was sencarats, or more than twice as much as tenced to death. His sentence was the Koh-i-Noor. eventually commuted to one of life

visable to ask men doing compulsory military service to form a firing party. One-Time Tramp Reaches Honor. William H. Davies, recently placed The chamber of deputies passed the on England's civil pension list with a pension of fifty pounds a year, is probably the first actual tramp in the history of that country to be so honored. Davies is a Welshman by birth and a tramp by preference, having lived the life for many years in this country and England. He is minus a foot, the result of a stolen train ride. After

years of vagabondage he turned his attention to literature, and following kick, she wisely held her tongue; and many bitter disappointments "arriv-all the world is familiar with the rest ed." He has written both verse and TOSe.



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## True Hospitality.

A woman who possesses a charming emper and cordial manners is sure to be popular. Said a witty Boston were an: "I do like to have people behaver as if they were glad to see me, whether: they are or not. I think a hostess; should speak in a pleased tone, even; if she only says, 'My dear Mrs. Sou and-So, I am perfectly delighted iter, see you! Do sit right down on this) bent pin!""-Harper's Bazar, 16

Exact Definition. desperation as b br artist.

bill.-Petit Parisien. Lucky Afterthought. Cinderella had put on the glass

slipper "To be in fashion," was her mental comment, "the heel ought to be at least two inches higher." Suddenly reflecting, however, that persons wearing glass slippers mustn't

imprisonment, it being deemed inad-