THE BLIZZARD.

REPTERSPECTICE BELLEVILLE CONTRACTOR FOR AND CON

A piercing shriek, a maddening swirl, And the blinding storm is on. The windswept branches writhe and curl. The fence and the road are gone. Not a landmark remains on the yawning plains.

And the storm and the night are one.

There are needles of sleet in the icy blast That pushes against the pane. There are choking billows of snow that cast Their eldging depths amain And withrl with a cry through the falling sky

That moves upon the plain.

Against the stack in huddled fear The unhoused cattle wait. From out the storm rack, shrill and clear, A horse neighs for his mate, While a man in the storm with sturdy form Is battling with his fate.

Alas! oh, storm, for the days that dawn When thy secrets shall be read. Aias! for the aching hearts at home, With their sickening weight of dread. Alas! for the one who will not come Till the snows give up their dead. -Youth's Companion.

GUILTY HANDS.

Yes, sir, it was the spring of 1865. Yon could tell that from the way the clouds blew up from Richmond, but the inhabitants of "ole Squire Godbolt's" quarters were the only ones who knew that sign. Marm Huldy originated the idea. She would stand in the midst of a conclave of woolly heads, and pointing to shadowy clouds just rising above the horizon would roll her eyes in most oracular fashion, and her words would emerge ponderously, as the telling blows of a sledge hammer.

"De smoke am 'cendin, " she would say, "and de Yanks am hittin hard. Chillun, we am gwine to lebe here soon."

No one doubted her. They had great faith in Marm Huldy, and she told their fortunes in coffee grounds and chased the witches away from their beds. But there was one man who did not believe in signs. That was Terror Fire. He would grunt disdainfully at her prognostications and heap ridicule upon her signs

"Nebber yo' min, Terror Fire," she would scream wrathfully, "some ob my signs am gwine ter be yo' ondoin. Now, yo' min. Yo' ain't done been bit fo' times by a moccasin fer nuttin. Dat's sign enuff dat de debble am in ver. Now, all yo' niggers hear me talkin?"

"We hears yo', Marm Huldy," they would say, and Terror Fire would laugh cabin. He was great, Terror was. He was the surly, cynical Diogenes of the plantation, and Sonire Godbolt often found it in his heart to obstruct some of his sunshine, and once he was aided and abetted by Marm Huldy. You see it came about this way:

Attached to the "big house" and not far from the quarters there was a poultry yard, and in this poultry yard there flourished and grew many fowls of both sexes. They were beautiful birds and the pride of Mrs. Godbolt's heart. Very well. There were more hens than roosters; consequently the latter were rare and much prized. However, there were several roosters, but one big fellow, who was sultan of the harem. He "ruled the roost," and every morning just at day his voice was the first living sound to be heard. This fellow was named Adam and was the apple of Mrs. Godbolt's eye. She knew his crow from all the others and every morning would arouse herself and lesser degree. Some plants like to catch the liquid notes of his early salutation; then she would fall asleep again, satisfied that he was there. But one day she awoke and listened, and listened in vain, for the call of the chanticleer. The shades of midnight vanished, and the rising sun peeped in through the cracks, and still no sound had roused the sleeping world. Not a cock had crowed. They were waiting for the great lord to have his "say," but the great lord's voice was silent, and Mrs. Godbolt's heart shuddered within her. She awoke the squire, and together they repaired to the fowlhouse. There, on the roosts and in the nests and on the ground, were all the chickens, safe and sound, all but-Adam. Mrs. Godbolt gave a little scream, and the squire rushed into the house and blew the horn. Madly, fiercely, he blew it, and the sounds brought all the negroes into the yard. "Now," said Squire Godbolt, "I want you all to listen, for I have got something to say. You are all paying attention?"

tonight at 7 o'clock I want to see you all back in this yard-every chick and child." And they departed.

Many of them shunned Marm Huldy's cabin during the day, but the old wom an was busy up at the "big house" and was not aware of it. Night came and with it all the hands

from the quarters. They were all there at 7 o'clock sharp. Ten minutes past Squire Godbolt came out and after him Marm Huldy and two boys with a great. black pot. The squire drew a circle and placed the inverted pot in the center Then he turned to the crowd.

"Now," he said, "all of you see that pot? Well, that is to decide who stole Adam." There was a show of interest. "Adam is gone, and he has got to be found, or his approximate whereabouts. Now, all of you step up. I am going to extinguish the light, and it will be dark. Then all of you walk around that pot, touching it with your two hands as you pass. Let your palms come down full upon it. You all see that pot. It has been washed, but after the test and the light is turned on the guilty man will have soot apon his hands. Now, out with the light, and here goes."

They formed in a ring and around the pot they passed, some slapping it hard so the sound could be heard.

'There, now!'' called the squire, "all around. Very well. On with the light and hand up your hands." The light was made and the negroes

passed by for inspection. But what was their consternation, for on every pair of hands there was a coat of soot! One by one they came, with sorrow depicted on their faces-all but Terror Fire's. He grinned broadly and showed the whites of his eyes philosophically.

"Come on," called the squire, and Terror stepped up glibly. "Hold out your hands." He passed them out, and, lo and behold, they were clean!

"Ah," said the squire, "here is the rogue, " and Terror's grin folded behind his ears.

"He was afraid to touch the pot. He was afraid the soot would stick to his hands. Now, Terror, up and confess." Terror's knees shook beneath him, but the evidence was convincing. Was there

not a half of Adam still hidden under the bed? He confessed, and some more of his

sunshine was obstructed. Marm Huldy laughed and shook her fat sides with glee.

"What I tell yo'?" she asked. "What I tell yo', Terror Fire? Dis nigger am a loud, slow laugh and trot off to his no fool-she know, an I tell yo' dat sign nebber fail. De smoke am 'cendin from Richmond, an dese niggers' gwine left here soon, but I tell yo', Terry, de signs am dat yo's gwine lef' yo'r hide behin. "-Elizabeth A. Hines in Atlanta Constitution.

Plants and Animals.

The reasons why a plant should always be called a plant, and an animal an animal, are not always very apparent. An animal is a conscious being. I mean that it knows how to discriminate between this and that, reasons about what is good for it, rejects what experience has informed it is not good for it and has special senses. It is a conscious being-indeed reasons, discriminates, Here is a great gulf between the animal and the plant! Most of us are ready to acknowledge such simple truths, and we are all wrong, for the differences when sifted are only those of a greater

THE EVENING STAR.

By the rapt ardor of my gaze I sought to hold the evening star Above the dark horizon bar. Where, lamplike, swung its mellow blaze.

But toward the deepening glow it drew, And nearer to the crimson belts Wherein the amber affluence meits, Seeking for heavens fresh and new.

So sought I once to hold a soul, Fair as the holy star of night, Above the earth line, in my sight, By force of Love's supreme control

But gloryward it dipped and drew, Nor staid for ardor of my gaze, Passing from out our earthly ways To those far heavens which are the new. -Mrs. Merrill E. Gates in Youth's Companion.

A LOYAL HINDOO.

My servant Sajad was by no means an extraordinary fellow. I picked him up in Benares one scorching afternoon in midsummer. I was in want of a kitmutgar, and he seemed to have nothing to do. He could not speak one word of English, and, to tell the truth, that was the first and only recommendation upon which I engaged him.

In religion he was a Mussulman, but he was far from being devout. Indeed I very soon rated him as rather below the average in everything. However, as I did not require anything remarkable, we got on well enough to the end, for he followed me, poor fellow, to his death. Steal? Most decidedly. He would invariably steal anything belonging to me that attracted his fancy. If I discovered it and went about it in the right way, I could usually get it back.

Sajad never left me for an hour from the time he entered my service. He followed me all day and slept on a rug at my door or lay on the sand at my feet or just outside my tent at night, as the case might be, and he received just as many lectures on veracity and made just as many promises as the time allowed, but I am sure that he told me just as many lies the last week of his life as he did the first week he was with me. It is as much the nature of the oriental to lie and steal as it is of a dog to bark at a horse or of a cat to help herself to cream.

One who expects too much is apt to give credit for too little. That may be the reason the Hindoo has such a bad reputation in the minds of some who mean to be just, or even generous. Many a good turn Sajad did me right in the line of those two traits. It takes a rogue to catch a rogue, and I know that he saved me from being robbed by others many times over for all that he took himself, while he would detect a lie in what any one else told me as quickly as a negro boy in old Virgin' would spot a ripe watermelon.

We were marching through the Terai once with a small detachment. A soldier was leading my horse, while I walked upon one side of the path, followed at a little distance by Sajad, hunting for a bird I had shot and which had fallen in the tall grass. Suddenly there was a cry from those behind. I looked quickly over my shoulder. A hooded cobra, disturbed by the commotion I was making, had risen out of the grass just behind me. His flat head and flaring hood were already thrown back for a final fling at me. His half open mouth was within three feet of my face when my eyes rested upon it. If I turned, I should only expose more of my face. If I lifted a hand, he would strik

struggled away, clutched his lips with his hand and shook his head.

I believe the very fear that I should succeed in giving him the whisky kept him alive till the poison began to lose its power. At all events he did not die. Sajad was as fond of hunting as I. Many a time we two slipped away from camp in the gray of early morning. Once, just before daylight, I was out with my shotgun in a thinly wooded

jungle a mile from camp upon the shore of a small lake, waiting for birds. It was just my luck. Because I came prepared for birds, there was not one in sight, but three beautiful antelope came down to drink within a hundred feet of us. I looked at the shotgun in disgust. Then looked again at the antelope. It was exasperating. I was determined to have a shot, at any rate, and in the hope that I might stun one of them or at least bewilder him for an instant. I whispered to Sajad to be ready with his knife and make a dash the moment I fired.

Cautiously I raised the gun to my shoulder and was pressing the trigger, when Sajad touched me and whispered: 'Wait, sahib! Look there!''

I looked, and my shotgun fell. At a slight angle, but little more than half way between us and the antelope, there crouched a royal Bengal tiger. A single glance was sufficient. He was surely a man eater. Evidently he had been on the point of satisfying his hunger with an antelope when he caught sight of us. He was within an easy leap of the deer, but was deliberately turning away and facing us. The motion startled the deer, and they bounded off, but the tiger paid them no further attention. The huge creature opened his great jaws till his head seemed nothing but a red, yawning gullet bordered by long, ragged, glistening teeth, and with a savage

snarl he began to approach us. There was no need of looking about for a place of safety. The jungle was sparsely wooded at the best, and the largest tree we had passed in coming from camp would not have borne even Sajad's weight 10 feet from the ground. Sajad had only his hunting knife, I nothing but my shotgun.

"One of us must go, sahib," Sajad muttered, without taking his eyes from the tiger. "If we run together, we shall both go. He will overtake us in a moment. Let Allah decide as it is written in our foreheads. Run that way for your life, sahib. I will run this way. Be quick, before he comes nearer!"

There was no time for thought. It seemed a fair proposition, and even as he spoke the Hindoo started at the top of his speed away. It was useless standing still or following him, and acting upon his suggestion I started in the opposite direction.

After running a rod or two I looked over my shoulder The tiger had made a leap and was just landing, already crouched for another spring. He was following me!

I will not admit that I hoped he would follow Sajad, but I did hope that he would not choose me. It amounted to the same thing.

I started on for one more desperate struggle. I was doomed. I knew it perfectly well, yet while there is life there is hope, and I ran as I never ran before. I resolved to go as far as I could and then whirl about and give the tiger a charge of fine shot full in the face. It might put out his eves. There was at least that possibility to hang a desperate hope upon, and throwing my gun to my

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

How Should a Chicago Gent Ask a Lady at a Ball to Dance?

Among the many seekers for truth who daily tap The Times reservoir of information comes one who modestly shields his identity behind the initials "L. L. I." He inquires: "Which is the proper way for a gent

at a ball to ask a lady to dance?"

The question submitted by "L. L. I." is received with the utmost satisfaction. Standing alone, it is a refutation of those cruel slanders and gibes in the writing of which eastern persons earn their fugitive existence. It has been charged against Chicago that her citizens are too ardent in the pursuit of the clanging iron dollar to give attention to the amenities of life. It is further libelously alleged that the soft, sensuous music of the rout and the ball falls flat and dull upon the Chicago tympanum attuned to the song of the dying swine. In brief, it is asserted by eastern critics that there is no fine, silky aspect to the nature of the Chicagoese-no gumdrop side to the character. Does not the artless query of the retiring "L. L. I." afford sufficient proof to the contrary? Does it not also show that the efforts of The Times toward leading its subscribers to a higher intellectual and so-

cial life have not been in vain? But to the question. It all depends L. L. L. Out in Bridgeport, for instance, the gent being unused perhaps to everyday association with the ladies, approaches the subject with trembling, but in a logical way withal. He first builds his nerve.

"Gimme some barbed wire," he says to the man in front of the back bar. "What d'yer wash wid?"

"Seltzer, fer a chaser," and the preliminaries are thus arranged. Then the gent goes to the other end of the hall with a proud, haughty front, lays his hat on a chair and his cigar with it and savs:

'You're my pick, " to which the lady responds, "Well, catch on den," or maybe invites him to go take a walk.

Over Humboldt park way the process is much the same, although the language is different. At Uhlich's hall, over by the bridge, there is slight difference, except that the gent who is wise in his generation wears his hat and keeps the cigar in his mouth. On West Madison street: "Has yer got a bloke for de nex' reel? No? Come wid me, sis. Come wid me.'

Farther to the southwest, in the Blue Island avenue district, "Les' t'rash out a few more of de floorin boards'' seems to be the proper form. Due reverence must be paid local prejudice, and it is impossible in a case of such importance as this to formulate a rule. Bear in mind in this connection that if the lady declines the request no true gent will strike her. All society sets its face against this.-Chicago Times.

Storms on the Sun.

The velocity with which solar storms move is very great, and they sometimes extend over a space several times as large as the whole of the earth's surface. In common parlance they are called "sun spots," but as they are known to have a rotary motion exactly similar to terrestrial cyclones they may be regarded as true solar storms. It has been computed by eminent astronomers that these sun storms move with the astonishing velocity of 120 miles per ond. an We can quate conception of what the force of family, desires to meet with an appointsuch a storm must be by comparing it to an earth storm moving at 100 miles an hour, which is indeed a terrible hurricane. Carlington and Hodgson, the English astronomers, describe a sun storm which traveled 35,000 miles in five minutes, and in 1871 Professor Young of Cincinnati witnessed one that traveled 166 miles per second for 45 minutes and constantly threw sheets of flame and fiery matter to a height of not less than 200,000 miles above the sun's disturbed surface!-St. Louis Republic.

HOW GREEK LADIES DRESSED.

It Is Surprising to Learn That They Laced and Wore Flounced Skirts.

Women in Homer embroider garments, and many of these are brought from Sidon. They wear veils, but on the whole their dress, long smock and girdle, was apparently much like that of later Greece. This is odd, for on a gold ring from Mycenae, very old, we see women with exuberant busts, tight waists and petticoats heavily beflounced. The same costume appears on a Mycenæan ring picked up by Furtwangler in a curiosity shop. Two ladies are carousing out of champagne glasses. They are very tightly laced. A lady on a Mycensean gem from Vapheio is laced to extinction and has seven flounces. The British museum owns a lentoid gem, where Leto wears only a crinoline, with no petticoat over it. Dipylon vases display both men and women with tiny waists. Men, in Mycensean art, wear little but very short drawers and shields. In Homer the chiefs, summoned on a night alarm, come out in dressing gowns, some of them in skins.

The historical dress for ladies was a large piece of cloth a foot longer than the wearer was tall and as wide as her arms could stretch. When put on by a fair Briton, it usually falls off again. A belt partly kept it up, and safety pins were used in very early times. By taking a bath towel-a good, big one-and trying what she can make of it as her full costume, a modern nymph may partly understand the toilet of her ancient sisters. When once she has got it on, she stands with extended arms, and another budy fastens a girdle round her waist; then she pulls up the superfluous length through the girdle and lets it hang over, and there she is. But how long showill remain thus is an extremelicitaquestion. Straps, like braces, were sometimes worn and crossed over the breast, being first tied to the girdle.

Ladies had no bonnets-they muffled their heads in a fold of their cloaks or wore flat hats. They were all very beautiful and charming, as we see in the Tanagra terra cotta. It must have been delightful to live in Tanagra. It appears, on the whole, that we cannot hope to revive Greek dress. The dress was designed for a warm climate and for a beautiful, shapely grace. It had its advantages in the matter of health, as there was no tight lacing after the Mycenzan age. The style was not extravagant or costly, but it is impossible. Æs theticism cannot bring it back. An æsthete in a chiton and sandals on a cold and rainy day would be an unlovely object. He would be wrapped in a blanket, thrust into a four wheeler and sent to a hospital. Not for all the glory that was Greece's would rational men barter a pair of stockings and a pair of trousers. -New York World.

The Usefulness of Titles.

Impecunious aristocrats know the value of a good name and are not averse to making a practical use of it. Not long ago the following advertisement appeared in a French paper:

'The owner of a historical name, and belonging to a royal family, wishes, in consequence of pecuniary losses, to place his name at the disposal of a joint stock company or some other great commercial or financial enterprise in return for adequate remuneration.'

Another impecunious aristocrat thus makes his plea: "A nobleman, married to a lady who is a member of a roval ment for himself and wife in one and the same house. He would prefer the post of manager of some estate or of a manufacturing concern, though the couple would not object to the situation of tutor and governess in a German familv." Still another is this: "A young, handsome German prince, of very ancient family, and related to several reigning houses and possessing no debts, desires to marry a lady of very good personal appearance, American most preferred, but who must have a dot worthy of the princely rank of the advertiser. Anonymous letters will not be answered."-London Tit-Bits.

"Yes, sah," they chorused, and Marm Huldy whispered, "De 'mancipation am done come; de smoke am a 'cendin from Richmond."

But she was wrong; the next words showed how wrong, and scattered all ecstatic hopes.

"Well," roared the squire, "Adam is gone, and I am going to find him. Now, the nigger who has that rooster step up and hand him over."

His words fell like a thunderbolt. They all knew Adam, and they saw from the squire's determined look that he meant what he said.

"Hand him over," reiterated the squire, and every negro's knees shook.

'But we ain't got him, squire, an how can we han him ober when we ain't got him?"

It was Terror Fire who spoke, and some of them wondered at his nerve, but Marm Huldy smiled and shook her head.

"Thunderation!" yelled the squire. "Well, he's gone, and somebody's got him, and I mean to find out where he is."

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They argued there for two hours, and at the end of that time were no wiser than at first. Then Marm Huldy came to the rescue. She stepped up to the squire, and dropping a "curtsy" wished to have a word in private. The negroes were dumfounded.

'Marm Huldy couldn't a-stole dat rooster," they said. "Marm Huldy am hones'!"

But whatever Marm Huldy was confessing it pleased the squire, and he bowed his head and smiled two or three times during the discourse. Then Marm Huldy stepped back, and the 'squire advanced to the front.

"Yon may all go now," he said, "but Chicago Record.

shade; some like light. Why? Well, why do we under some circumstances prefer dark and under others light? When we

are healthy, we can digest meat and reject with good reason a meal of sticks and stones. A carnivorous plant receives and digests a proportionate meat meal, but feed it with pebbles and bits of stick, and it refuses to receive such dainties. We bend beneath a blow, we protect ourselves from further injuries that we judge may follow-so do the sensitive plants.

With the aid of a specialist in this class of work I am trying to demonstrate the presence of nervous tissue in plants. So far we have not been successful, but the circumstantial evidence is so strong that we may feel quite certain that better methods of demonstration will give ocular evidence of what we seek. The proofs of the struggle for existence in both animal and plant life have been prettily told by Taylor.-Gentleman's Magazine.

Slang, Cant and Argot.

Mr. Hayward said that we must be careful in dealing with Elizabethan slang not to judge it entirely by present day standards. Much of it is now recognized English, while much of our modern slang was good Elizabethan English. The word "slang" is of comparatively modern origin. The older word, which "slang" to some extent replaces, is 'cant," the name given to the secret language of thieves, rogues and vagabonds, introduced into England by the gypsies in the reign of Henry VIII. Harrison, in his description of Elizabethan England, records that the first deviser of "Canting" or "Peddler's French" was hanged by the neck.

The "cant" language was a strange medley of Hebrew, Latin, Sanskrit, Greek, Wallachian, Spanish, Flemish, Dutch, Celtic and bastard Italian. The practice of such speech is worldwide. We have the French "argot," the Span-ish "Germania," the Italian "gergo," and even the vagabonds among the Hottentots have their secret language, known as "curze cat." The first lexicographer to recognize the word "slang in its present sense was Grose, in 1785. Thomas Harman, in his "Caveat or Warning to Common Cursitors" (1566), describes 23 varieties of rogues and vagabonds and gives a list of cant words and their meaning.-Academy.

Refused on Principle.

"Nc." said the young woman haughtily in response to his request as they sat on the porch in the twilight. "I will not let you hold my hand. I don't believe in such conduct for a young lady. "And besides," she added after a

pause, "it isn't dark enough yet."-

it quicker than lightning. There was no chance to get away, and I was utterly helpless.

Before I had time to think a second thought, however, Sajad made one leap from where he was standing, and before his feet had touched the ground he had brought his staff about with a sharp whir as it cut the air, too quick even for a snake to dodge, and the next instant the cobra's body was writhing in the grass, while his head, completely severed, fell at my feet.

Had Sajad waited an instant he would have been too late. No one else could have reached me, yet if he had missed his aim or the snake had dodged his own life would have paid the forfeit. No one knew it better than Sajad, but he took the chance and saved my life. He had in his girdle at the time a bright colored silk handkerchief which he had stolen from me, and only that morning had solemnly declared that he knew nothing about it.

Up in the hills one afternoon I was lying on a low tent bed taking a nap, when Sajad saw a poisonous insect, a kind of scorpion, crawling over my pillow. He had nothing near to use as a weapon and no time to lose. He caught it in his naked hand and threw it out of the tent door. I woke in time to see it flying through the air. and hurrying out killed it before it got away.

I called to Sajad to ask if he had escaped a sting, and receiving a cheerful reply in the affirmative thought no more about it till, chancing to enter the tent softly and unexpectedly, I found him sucking the back of his right hand for dear life. He stopped the instant he saw me and put the hand behind him.

The poison had already begun to take effect. The hand and arm were swelling, and before long Sajad was lying on the floor writhing in agony. The only antidotes I had were ammonia and whisky. Sajad knew the contents of both bottles, for he had the care of all my traps. I did my best for him with the ammonia, but utterly in vain I pleaded, begged, commanded that he take the whisky. He would not touch it.

Why? Only because he was a Mussulman. No matter how intense his agony or determined my command he put his well hand over his mouth and shook his head. He felt sure that he was dying, and he believed my assertion that the whisky might save him, but that made no difference. He came so near to death that he was past seeing anything and beyond hearing. He lay upon the ground, just breathing, panting, as though he was almost at the end. It seemed useless to try again, and yet, now that he was unconscious, I could at least make a last, desperate trial with the whisky. The moment that it touched his lips, he

shoulder I turned. The tiger was not there! Looking farther back, I saw his tawny hide in the underbrush. Instantly it rose. He was making a leap, but it was not toward me. One thrill of gratitude shot through my veins, when my heart stood still with horror. There was one sharp yelp as the huge form swept through the air, and crushing the leaves and branches as it fell landed upon the prostrate figure of Sajad, silently waiting for the blow.

I stood there petrified, the cold perspiration dripping from my forehead. There was not a sound from Sajad. There was only one fierce howl from the tiger; then all was still.

It was only an instant, but in that instant we two, my Hindoo servant and I. stood out before me in very bold relief. I had run for my life, knowing that the chances lay between us two and hoping at least that the tiger might not follow me. He had run, too, knowing that the chance lay between us, and be cause the tiger did not follow him he had come back again and tempted him -called him away from me and given his life for mine.

He was a poor benighted heathen and only an average sample of his kind. He could not help stealing pretty things. He could not stop telling lies. But surely he was a truer, braver, nobler man than I, and if the image of God can be found today in any of his creatures it would require no very deep theologian to decide which of us two betrayed it least profaned. -Henry Willard French in Romance.

The Straightest Line.

The straightest thing in nature or art is a ray of light when passing through a medium of uniform density. Hence the eve is enabled to test the straightness of an edge or tube by holding it as nearly as possible coincident with a ray of light, such part as departs from straightness then intercepting the ray and causing a shade to be cast upon other parts. It is not known at what early period in the history of mankind the discovery was made that straightness could be thus determined. It is certain that thousands of mechanics use the method daily without being able to give a rational explanation of it. This primitive mode of testing straightness, on account of its great convenience and accuracy, is likely to continue in use to the end of the world. - Engineering Mechanics.

A Capital Dodge.

"Why, man, your novel has run into the third edition already. How is that?" "It is quite simple. I advertised in the papers for a wife who resembles the heroine of my novel." -- Rheinisch Westfalisches Tageblatt.

Double Flowers.

Nearly all the double flowers of gardens were first found wild. Double buttercups, double primroses, double daisies, double roses and many other things were first discovered among their wild fellows and introduced into the gardens. The florist, however, can produce double flowers. He watches this tendency in nature. If a flower usually has five petals, and he discovers that some of the stamens have somewhat of a petallike character, the pollen is taken from these flowers and others in a normal condition fertilized with this pollen. The tendency, once started, is then given to the progeny. Almost any species of plant will in this way be capable of producing double flowers. It is surprising that, with this knowledge, more attempts at this line of improvement in ordinary garden flowers are not made. -Meehan's Monthly.

Made Him Tired.

A Texas congressman is thinking of resigning because he is kept so busy by his friends in Texas urging upon the administration the necessity of appointing them to foreign missions. He reminds one of the 4-year-old child saying her prayers at her mother's knee. Having concluded, as usual, with, "God bless papa and mamma, grandpa and grandmamma, uncles and aunts," etc., she gave a great sigh and said:

"Oh, mamma, dear, I do wish those people would pray for themselves, for I'm tired of praying for them. "-Texas Siftings.

Why Is It?

Here is a question in naval science which is to the average sailor man a riddle unsolved. Take a vessel of, say, 2,500 tons: place on it a cargo of 3,500 tons. This gives you a total of 6,000 tons. Hitch a little tug to this vessel, and she will yank the big craft along at the rate of six or eight knots an hour. Now put the tug's machinery in the big vessel. It won't move her half a knot an hour. Why is this?-New York Mail and Express.

Paying For Their Keep.

The proprietor of a chemical works received from his shoemaker a pair of water tight boots, which he was, nowever, unable to wear, as they were a trifle too small. He therefore gave them to one of his workmen to wear for a few days and stretch them to the required dimensions. Several weeks passed over, and the employer had forgotten all about the boots when he was suddenly reminded of them in a curious fashion: On a certain pay day the workman in question, after drawing his wages, lingered at the desk as if waiting for something. The manufacturer then said:

'Well, Kruger, what is it?'

"I want more money," was the reply. "Wha-what? Haven't you got your full wages?"

"Oh, aye!" answered Kruger, afterward adding, with the greatest composure: "But you've still got to pay me 3s. 6d. for getting your boots soled. They've been out of repair, you know!" -Humoristische Blatter.

A Pious Wish.

The emperer once stood before the magnificent tomb of the Duke Rudolph of Swabia. Some of his courtiers were of the opinion that he ought not to allow his mortal enemy to have so splendid a monument, but that he should have his body exhumed and buried elsewhere.

"Oh, let him lie where he is," said the emperor. "I only wish all my enemies were as splendidly buried. "-Alle Zeiten und Landen.

A Fortunate Selection.

Mother-What are all these senseless trinkets for?

Pretty Daughter-They are for the grabbag at the church fair.

"Mercy! There is not one thing that any human being could want."

'Yes; isn't it fortunate? Everybody who draws a prize will put it back in the bag. "-New York Weekly.