

WHAT A WOMAN CAN DO. overneevereevereever

44 T DO believe that my uncle is the most selfish man who ever L lived," exclaimed Bob Curzon.

"What has he done now, dear?" inquired Cicely, who was not unaccustomed to hear condemnatory remarks respecting that gentleman.

"Why, in the first place, darling, as you are only too well aware," replied Bob, "he refused his consent to our being married, on the score of my youth."

"Well, dear Bob, i.e may have been right there," said Cicely, soothingly. "Twenty is a little young to get married, isn't it?"

"Not a bit," answered Bob, impatiently. "If a man doesn't know his own mind at 20 he never will."

"But you may see some girl whom you will prefer to me," suggested Cicely, "Somehody who is better looking, or more accomplished."

"What nonsense," exclaimed the young man, irritably. "Do you think I'm a boy, to change my mind every five minutes?"

"O, no, dear," replied Cicely, caressingly, "but such things have happened, you know, and though it would break my heart to lose you, I would rather you found out you didn't love me before we were married than afterwards."

"But I do love you, my own little sweetheart, and always shall, and we'll get married in spite of all the old cantankerous uncles in Christendom."

And as Bob spoke he placed his arm around her and drew the young girl's head down on his broad breast.

Robert Curzon was a student in St. George's Hospital, and Cicely was a

"Oh, yes, I dare say, in novels." "Well, they do take place in real life."

"Sometimes, p'r'aps, but-" "Don't you think I'm a good enough nurse, then?"

"My dear Cicely, you are the best nurse in the hospital-for a probatione." interrupted Bob, perceiving that he conversation was taking a wrong turn. "Every one acknowledges that." "Then why won't you let me go down

and see what I can do?" "Well, my dear, I don't mind, of course," replied Bob, slowly, "but do you really think it will be of any use?" "I shouldn't have suggested it unless 1 did."

"I must say that I think it will be labor in vain; but still, if you wish to try your hand at diplomacy, I suppose I must consent."

"There's a sensible darling!" cried Cicely, putting her arms round his neck and kissing him, "And now I will show you what a woman can do."

☆ ☆ Major Mainwaring was what is

known as a confirmed bachelor, When Jabez introduced the young nurse, who had come to him on the recommendation of his nephew, his first muttered remark was:

"I hope to goodness she won't start tidying things up."

Only one who has been left to the tender mercies of a soldier servant for nearly a week can imagine the differ-

ence which a couple of days made, not only in the Major's room, but in the Major, and nobody was more surprised than that gentleman himself when he and one-half inches thick, one and onenurse probationer at the same estab- found how much "the woman's tricks," half inches wide, and two inches long. lishment, aged respectively 20 and 19. as he somewhat contemptuously ex- It was much water worn, showing

and I'm going to ask you if you will be | HOME OF PRESIDENTS

"But, Major Mainwaring, I am only a nurse-a hospital nurse-what will your friends say?"

"My dearest girl, you have saved my life, and in my opinion you possess all the graces and virtues that a woman ought to have. If I marry a girl, I do it to consult my own happiness, not that of my friends. I know I am twice your age, but in spite of that, I am a young man still; now say, dear, will ou marry me?"

"Are you sure you love me?" asked Cicely, in a low voice. "That you are not asking me to be your wife out of gratitude?"

"Cicely!" cried the Major. "I cannot take you in my arms, as you well know, or I shall upset this compound fracture, but come here! come here at once, and look in my eyes. Now do you think I love you, and will you be my wife?"

Cicely beheld such a fire of love in those honest brown eyes that she felt compelled to hide her own, but as she endeavored to conceal her blushing face, he heard her whisper something which, in spite of comminuted, compound fractures, dislocations, and such other evils as attend a hunting man who "comes a cropper." compelled him to place his arms around her, and raise her head until her sweet red lips were available for kissing purposes.

100 I 4 12

"My Dear Robert: I was married to your uncle Richard yesterday, and we leave here for the south of France tomorrow. I did not find what you represented; in fact, quite the contrary, When I tell you that I have persuaded your uncle to increase your allowance I feel sure that you will not regret my signing myself your affectionate aunt

"CICELY MAINWARING." "By Jove!" exclaimed Bob, as he tore the above letter into little pieces, "it's wonderful what a woman can do."-Chicago Tribune.

First Sapphire Found in Idaho. An Idaho miner brought a stone to the Miner's bureau which was pronounced a sapphire of the purest water and the largest ever seen. The gem was nearly a cube, being about one plainly the pebbly conformation graduncomplainingly as a woman would Idaho, and the stone was found in the tailings and preserved on account of its bright blue color. News of the find reached New York and an agent of Tiffany, after examining the stone, of fered \$3,500 for it. The owner decided that if it was worth that in the rough it was probably worth much more, and is now on his way to London, where he expects to realize its full value. The stone is almost perfect, the only blemish being a fracture on one side extending less than one-eighth of an inch into the stone. Mr. Taylor, who has a long experience in handling gems, says that in his opinion it is the largest known sapphire in the world, the weight being 208 carats, Sapphires are valuable according to their purity, perfectly clear gems bringing high prices, the price, like that of diamonds, being increased per carat in proportion to the weight of the stone. \rightarrow Denver Republican,

woven through them are hundreds of tiny varied colored electric lights, the

OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVES.

was solemnized. Interesting Description of the Famous Building-The East, Blue, Green and Green Room, so named from the tint Red Rooms-Mecca of Politicians ing which prevails in its furnishing Who Seek Office. and decorations. On its walls hangs

There is no house in all the land to which the eyes of the American people turn with more interest than to the ove which for almost a century has been the home of their Presidents the White House at Washington. When L'Enfant laid out the plan of this beautiful city, it is evident that he had in mind the old Babylon of Scriptural magnificence. Jefferson, however, had procured abroad plans of foreign capitals-Paris, Marseilles, here that the receiving party stand for Milan, Versailles and others-and be-



PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE OFFICE.

these, and from them he took the todistances."

At the foot of one of these reserva- and the blue wills of Virginia beyond tions the White House stands. There cannot be surpassed for loveliness. are twenty acres in what is known as On the walls of the lower floor hang the President's grounds, fronting on pictures of all of the Presidents, as Pennsylvania avenue and directly fac- well as many of their wives.

ing the lovely Lafayette square and The state dining-room opens from running south to the Potomac river. the Red Room, and across the hall is The house was designed by the famous the smaller one used by the family. Architect Hoban, and was constructed | both handsome apartments and furunder the personal supervision of nished in fine dining-room parapher-George Washington. He officiated at | nalia. To the west of the house is the the Masonic ceremonies when the cor- conservatory, and probably more rare ner stone was laid, and he had the sat-⁴ exotics are grown there than within

AN ANCIENT MEXICAN CITY.

A Curious Legend-Relics of Emperor whole presenting a picture which Maximilian. might grace the Arabian Nights. It

Queretaro was a town before the Spanish conquest, and was made a city in 1655. A legend of Queretaro is that an Otomite chief, Fernando de Tapia by name, undertook to convert the city to Christianity in a way that seems novel to us, but was common enough to his day. He came from Tula with a challenge to the people of Queretaro to a fair stand-up fight. If he won the people surviving were to be baptized. The challenge was accepted, but, while the fight was in progress, a dark cloud came up and the Blessed Santiago was seen in the heavens with a fiery cross, whereupon the people of Queretaro gave up and were baptized. They set up a stone cross to commemorate the event on the site of the present Church of Santa Cruz. There is scarcely a church in Mexico which has not a legend of this kind attached to it. The town is identified with the history of Mexico.

Here the treaty of peace between the United States and Mexico was ratified in 1848, and here Maximilian made his last stand in 1867, was obliged to surrender and was shot. Everybody is interested in Maximilian mainly on account of poor Carlotta, who, by the way, has just obtained permission to revisit Mexico. Maximilian was executed on the Cerro de las Campanas, and with him Generals Miramon and Media The place is marked by three little crosses of stone. The two generals were killed at the first volley, but Maximilian, who had requested that he be shot through the body that his mother might look upon his face, was only wounded, and a second firing was required to kill him The Emperor had been led to belive that Carlotta was dead. She became insane from grief and was kept in an asylum for many years, but she still lives, and still mourns for her dead husband and the loss of her throne. The United States government protested against the execution of Maximilian, but in vain, Juarez refusing to spare him. There are all kinds of relics of Maximilian in Mexico. The Yturbide theater, where he was tried and condemned, the table on which the death warrant was signed, the wooden stools on which the prisoners sat during the trial and the coffin of Maximilian, whose remains were subsequently sent to Austria and buried at Miramar. I confess I do not share in any sentiment of pity for 'Maximilian, who was an adventurer without a shadow of right in Mexico and took the chances of war. He was, it is true, a victim of Napoleon and of his own ambition and was very scurvily treated by those who had induced him to set up his throne in Mexico; but to have released him would have been to establish a claimant for the Mexico throne. It was better that this man should die than that thousands should be sacrificed in the wars he would surely have fomented if he had been allowed to live.-Phila; delphia Public Ledger.

The White House. presented to the Government by the Washington correspondence: Woman's Christian Temperance Union, because she was the first mistress of the White House who turned her wine glass upside down at the dinners given there, although since then Mrs. Cleveland has done the same. The life-size painting of Mrs. Harrison also hangs in this room, and is one of the most ar-

tistic pieces of work in the house. The next in this suite of state parlors is one about which a peculiar charm attaches-the Blue Room. For it is the official receptions, and it is here fore submitting his own he consulted that President and Mrs. Cleveland were

married. It is in this room, too, where the diplomats, in their gorgeous attire, await for the President to receive them first on New Year's Day. The room has been the scene of a thousand and one other interesting events. In the illustration can be seen the "Golden Gate," over which the eager public lean to catch a glimpse of the receiving party after having passed through the rooms themselves; and beyond it is a glimpse of the Tiffany screen.

was in this room, near the large east

windows, that Nellie Grant's marriage,

which afterwards proved so unhappy

Leading from the East Room is the

the picture of Mrs. Hayes, which was

Opening off the Blue is the Red Room; this was Mrs. Cleveland's favorite of all of the downstairs rooms. and she gave it a more home-like air than any of the others possessed. She filled it with bric-a-brac, her own books pography of Versailles, and then in- and so forth, and often here received troduced the broad transverse ave- her guests. Mrs. McKinley prefers the nues, the circles, open squares and tri- library above stairs, which is a delightangular reservations which resulted fully charming, sunshiny room, and in producing this city of "magnificent | the view from its south windows of the White lot, the Monument, Potomac

They had fallen in love with one another some six months previously, and Bob had at once written home to his stead of a worn-out, decrepit old man, beds of mountain torrents, the edges loco parentia to him, as he was an orphan.

making love in the hospital, but the young people were in the habit of meeting in the park whenever circumstances permitted, and it was on a secluded seat that the conversation we have recorded took place.

After a short interval, devoted to what the novelists of a previous generation were in the habit of calling "tender passages," Cicely drew herself gently away from her lover's embrace, and putting her hat as straight as the absence of a looking-glass would permit, inquired:

"What is this fresh news from your ogre of an uncle, dear?"

"Why, I heard the other day," responded Bob, "that he was dangerously ill, had a fall while hunting, and so I thought it would be a splendid opporsunity while he was weak and ill to an dhere is the communication which I received this morning in reply."

Bob extracted the contents from the epistle:

vant,

tum," explained Bob, as he finished his debts of honor." tery you've ever heard

make allowances --- "

"I know this man, and you don't. I'm | a pen, and the communication had to the son of his favorite sister, and the be written by Jabez after all. an old man, who can't expect to live been reading to him, when the Major, his day; been in the army in India, and claimed:

way. I consider the it's disgraceful, think." 1 has had his turn; why can't he let : "What have you been thinking me have mine?"

"Bob, I've got an idea," exclaimed | nurse. Cicely, suddenly turning round and "I have been wondering what on "Lot us have it my doar" on

pressed it, added to his comfort. Cicely had her surprise also, for in- ually assumed by gems found in the

uncle, Major Mainwaring, who stood in such as she had expected to find her being very much rounded. This is the lover's uncle, she discovered that he first sapphire of any size discovered was a handsome man in the prime of in Idaho. They are frequently found There was very little opportunity for life, and though he was evidently suf- in Montana, and some fine stones have fering intense pain from his fractures come from there. The owner of this and contusions, yet he bore it nearly as stone is operating placer mines in

> have done. The weeks slowly glided away, and the Major gradually grew stronger. One morning he said in an apologetic

voice: "I am going to ask you to to do me a favor, Cicely."

"Certainly, Major," responded Cicel". with the sunny smile that made her invaluable as a nurse. "What is it."

"Why, I want you to write a letter for meto a scapegrace nephew of mine, The truth is, this fellow has been trading on the fact that he is my only living relative ever since he knew the value of the relationship, and at last I think the time has arrived when I ought to put down my foot."

"What has he done, then?" inquired get his consent to our being married; Cicely, endeavoring to conceal the agitation which she felt.

"The young vagabond is a medical And pulling a letter out of his pocket, student at St. George's; but, of course, you are aware of that, as he sent you envelope, and read the following down here-the only good turn he has even done me in his life, by-the-bye-

"Honored Sir-I has been derected by and I have always made him a generyoure uncle, Major Mainwaring, to ous allowance. In addition to this, I arnswer your letter. He tells me to have paid his debts twice. And now say as how he can't write himself, but he writes to say that unless he has a a glimpse of the girl Queen opening her he will se you, something as 1 don't certain sum by to-morrow morning to like to put on paper, first, afore he lets pay his 'debts of honor,' as he terms you marry afore youre twenty-five. He them, he will be ruined for life. Now, also ses as how you bein mixed up in | I have made up my mind not to let him it like, ort to no were to get him a good | have any more money beyond his innerse, and your to send him down can come, and I want you to write and tell manege him. I also sends cheq as de- him that as he has broken his word of sired, and remain, youre obedent ser- honor, when he promised me on the last JABEZ BUNGER." occasion not to gamble again, I must "He's the old man's valet and facto- decline to have anything to do with Acland, of West Sumerset, whose fam-

reading the letter. "And now, don't Cicely took down the address and you think that it is the most selfish let- made notes of what she had to write; but, strange to say, almost immediate-

"Well, dear, I think you ought to by afterwards she met with an accident and ran a pin into her thumb in "Look nere, Cicely," interrupted Bob, such a way as to prevent her holding

only relation he has in the world; he's A few days after this Ciccly had

much longer, who's had lots of fun in after a short interval of silence, ex-

a., that sort of thing, you know, and "The doctor says I may get up to-, he-er-er-behaves in this sort of morrow, Cicely, and that has made me

about?" demurely asked the pretty

taking his hand in hers as she spoke. | earth I shall do when you leave me

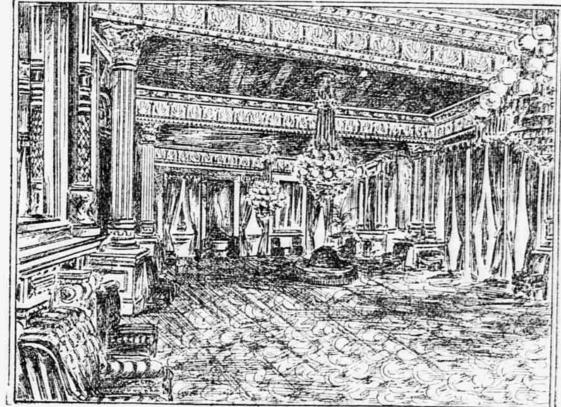
Only Six Survivors.

Of the crowd of members of Parliament who, on Nov. 20, 1837, thronged the bar of the House of Lords to eatch first Parliament, only six are living at this day. This fact, standing alone, marks the unparalleled length of Queen Victoria's reign. The half dozen survivors are Mr. Leader, who represented Victoria in the first Parliament of Victoria; Mr. Hurst, who represented Horslam; Wentworth Fitzwilliam, of Malton, now Earl Fitzwilliam; Sir Thomas ily is still represented in the House of Commons of to-day by the ex-vice president of the council; Mr. Villiers, now, as then, representing Wolverhampton. and Mr. Gladstone, the rarest relic of a turbulent political past, and now in retirement from public life. Of her first ministers not one is alive,

Frogs as Soldiers.

Don't imagine these frogs dressed up in red coats, with swords and pistols, but simply as an army going out to fight.

"The frog plays the part of a soldier in Iceland," says a traveler from that country, "but, of course, it had to be taken there, as Iceland had neither reptiles nor toads. The frogs fight the mosquitoes. In some parts of Iceland, modelly round the larger lakes the



THE EAST ROOM, WHITE HOUSE.

isfaction of walking through it with the same space elsewhere in the coun-Mrs. Washington after its completion, try.

a few weeks previous to his death. This The upper corridor is used by the building was burned by the British in President's family as a sitting-room, 1812, but rebuilt in 1815. With the ex- and off from it is the library and the ception of Washington, it has been the five sleeping rooms, which make up the home of every President the United number that the limited space of the States has had. The structure is built | historic old mansion can spare for that of sandstone painted white, and is se- purpose. The eastern part of the upverely plain in its exterior. It is two stairs is given to offices; over the East cular colonnade.

corridor, the floor of which is of mo-

when playing for the President's dinners and receptions.

The East Room.

Seeing the White House.

One of the most unique types of humanity that have been seen at the White House in many a day strolled leisurely into the mansion shortly after luncheon the other day, says a correspondent of the New York Sun, He was a " 'fore-de-war" negro, peekmarked, ragged and footsore. He had just tramped in from Orange County, Virginia, and after putting foot on the Washington asphalt made a bee line for the White House. He was the object of many curious glances.

"Is dis de President's house?" he asked of a doorkeeper.

"Yes, colonel," was the reply, the doorkeeper noticing the military garb. "Well, is cullud persons 'lowed in?" He was informed that no distinction is drawn between the races, and he marched proudly into the east room. He took in his surroundings at a glance, walked straight for a chair, and, removing a hat that had seen better days, knelt in prayer. He remained in this posture several minutes while the White House attaches wendered whether a lunatic had invaded the mansion. Finally the old negro arose, inspected the furnishings of the room, uttered words of praise for the President, and noiselessly glided out of the east room. It was not enough, he thought, to see only the east room. He wanted to make a tour of the mansion. He peeped through keyholes, cracks and crevices, trying to get a look at some of the occupants of the White House. Failing to see anybody he passed out of the building. On the portico he encountered a White House policeman.

"Just tell de President that Mister John W. Shelden, of Orange County, Virginny, called, Remember, now, John W. Shelden."

The policeman informed Mr. Shelden that he would communicate his message, whereupon the old darky removed his hat, buttoned his old coat,

saics in different colored stone. In Even after tea was introduced into

the rear, and separating it from the Europe and had come into general use, red corridor, is the famous 'Tiffany | teacups were scarce, says the Jewelers' screen, which is one of the most beauti- | Circular. At the same time coffee was ful pieces of work of its kind in the introduced, but, apart from Constantiworld, and which was designed and nople, the first coffee cups in Europe made by Louis Tiffany. An idea of its | date back only as far as 1645 in Venice cost may be obtained from the fact 1659 in Paris, 1652 in London and 1694 that at one of Mrs. Cleveland's last in Leipsic. From the first, however, receptions, in the crush of people, two the conventional Oriental coffee cup. of the small pieces of glass were without stem or handle, was little used,

broken out, and it cost \$25 to have sim- and in Germany not at all. The Chiply the two replaced. It is in this cor. nese teacup was used for tea, coffee ridor that the Marine Band is stationed and chocolate as well. Specimens of porcelain were undoubtedly introduced into Europe in the Middle Ages, yet not till the sixteenth century were cups imported from China in any great quan-

room in which the Cabinet meet. On compensate for it. The heavy black ing room for those who wish to see the walnut front doors, with their stained President when he is busy. glass windows, open into a spacious The First Teacups.

stories high, with a basement, and is Room is the President's private office. of the Grecian style of architecture. from which the carpet has been worn On the north, which is the front side, almost threadbare by the feet of the is an imposing port cochere, and a many office-seekers since the 4th of grand portico supported by Ionic col- March, while leading out of it is his umns, while on the south is a semi-cir- secretary's office, and beyond that the But if the exterior is plain, the in- the other side of the corridor are other terior is sufficiently magnificent to offices, while this corridor is the wait-

in their dealings with the opposite sex. "It may suggest something, don't you know." "My idea, Bob, is this: Your uncle wants a nurse; let me go down and at- tend him, and when I've restored him to health and he is completely conval- escent, i can tell him who I am." "What would be the good of that?" asked Bob. "Why, of course, dear, he would be so grateful that he would at once give his consent to our being married." "Ha! ha! ha!" laughed Bob. "O, you little goose! you don't knew my Uncle Richard." "You are unkind, Bob." said Cicely, drawing herself away from him. "Don't be cross, little one, I couldn't	"Just what you did before I came, I suppose," replied the young lady, in- tently regarding the binding of the book she was holding in her lap. "No, I can never do that," said the Major. "When I was a young man, Cicely, I was very fond of a girl; in fact, we were going to be married, but the week before she was to have be- come my wife she ran away with a friend of mine, a lieutenant in the same regiment as myself. Since then I have had a somewhat bad opinion of wom- en, and you must acknowledge with reason, but you have altered all that, Cicely." "How-er-in what way, Major Main- waring?" faltered Cicely, growing rap- idly "red as a rose." "Why, I can see that though there are bad women in the world, there are	veils, or masks." An English physician devised the clever plan of importing the frogs. As soon as these little croakers got into the country, the mosquitoes began to di- minish. Lamp Chimneys. A German firm makes a lamp in which there is a bulb at the upper in- stead of the lower part, and in which the upper rim is cut obliquely. This, it is said, makes it much safer to blow a lamp out, and the flame is taller and steadier, so that the light is improved.	across the half which leads upstairs, is the well-known East Room, so historic in its associations, so filled with the memory of the great men who have trodden its floor! It is finished in Gre- cian style, and the woodwork is deco- rated in white and gold. The ceilin: is divided into three panels, and from the center of each hang massive crys- tal chandeliers. On the walls are the painting of Washington (which Dolly Madison had cut from the frame car- ried from the White House when the British were at its very gates in 1812), and those of Martha Washington, Jef- ferson and Lincoln. This room is a marvel of beauty when it is prepared for the official receptions. Then the window recesses are filled with tall palms, the mantles and mirror rests are banked with cut flowers, while from the chandeliers are hung ropes	Growth of Postal Service. In the reign of Charles I, the British postal service carried 1,500,000 letters annually, in the reign of George II, 8,- 000,000, and in 1804 as many as 2,000,- 000,000. The woman who wears such full sleeves to her clothes that they dip in the butter and jam. should elope to some desert island with the man who	glory," shouled the old man at the top of his voice as he passed down the steps leading to the driveway. <u>Acetylene.</u> It is stated that acetylene is being tried in some of the transcars in Paris, and with promising success. The gen- erator, containing the calcium carbide and water, weighs under thirty pounds, and is placed beneath the steps of the vehicle, and it contains sufficient ma- terial for generating thirty-five feet of gas. As the lighting power of acety- lene gas is something like fifteen times that of coal gas, the cost is stated to be less than that of illuminating the cars by petroleum.
"Don't be cross, little one, I couldn't	are bad women in the world, there are	The greater safety in blowing out will of course depend upon the blower blowing from the high part of the	are banked with cut flowers, while	some desert island with the man who	The average man would rather be a young fool than an old person of ser.se.
Dut I ve read of Such things, Door					