## "A MOTHER OF FIVE."

Author of "The Luck of Roaring Ca : p," "Two Men of Sandy Bar."

### 

(Copyright, 1896, by Bret Harte.) She was a mother-and a rather exemplary one-of five children, although her own age was barely 9. Two of these children were twins, and she generally alluded to them as "Mr. Amplach's children," referring to an excedingly respectable gentleman in the next settlement, who, I have reason to believe, has never set eyes on her or them. The twins were quite naturally slike-having smiled! been in a previous state of existence, (wo nine-pins and were still somewhat vague and irrelevant below their shoulders in their long clothes, but were also firm and globufar about the head, and there were not wanting those who professed to see in this an unmistakable resemblance to their reput-d father. The other children were dolls of different ages, sex and condition, but the twins may be said to have been distinctly her own conception. Yet such was her admiration and impartial maternity that she never made any difference between them "The Amplach children" were a description rather than a distinction. She was herself the motherless child of Robert Foulkes, a hard working, but somewhat improvident teamster on the express route between Big Bend and Reno. His daily avocation, when she was not accompanying him in the wagon, 1-d to an occasional dispersion of herself and her progeny along the road and at wayside stations between those places. But the family was generally collected together by rough but kindly hands already familiar with the handling of her children. I have a very vivid recollection of Jim Carter tramping into a saloon after a five-mile walk through snow drift with an Amplach twin in his coket. "Suthin' ought to be done," he pccket. "Suthin ought to be done, he growled, "to make Mary a little more careful o' them Amplach children; I picked up one outer the snow a mile beyond Big Bend." "God bless my soul!" sold a casual passenger looking up hastily; I didn't know that Mr. Amplach was married." Jim winked diabolically at him over his glass. "No more did I" he exprended chemils. "but you say," tall I." he responded gloomily, "but you can't tell anything about the ways o' them respectable, praim singing jay birds." Having thus disposed of Amplach's character, later on when he was alone with Mary, or "Meary," as she chose to pronounce it, the rascal worked upon ber feelings with an account of the infant Amplach's sufferings in the snow drift and its agonizing whisprings for "Meary! Meary!" until real tears stood in Mary's Meary!" until real tears stood in Mary's blue eyes, "Let this be a lesson to you," he cancluded, drawing the nine-pin dexterously from his pocket, "for it took nigh a quart of the best forty-rod whisky to bring that child to." Not only did Mary firmly believe him, but for weeks afterward "Julian Amplach," this unhappy twin, was kept in a somnolent attitude in the cart, and was believed to have contracted dissipated habits.

from the effects of this heroic treatment. Her numerous family was achieved in only two years and was in succession to her first which was brought from Sacramento at con siderable expense by a Mr. William Dodd, also a teamster, on her 7th birthday. This, by one of those rare inventions known only to a child's vocabulary, she at once called "Miscry"—probaby a combination of "Missy," an she herself was formally, termed by strangers, and "Missouri," her native state It was an excessively large doll at first-Mr Dolld wishing to get the worth of his money -bift time, and perhaps an excess of materna care, remedled the defect, and it lost fles! and certain unemployed parts of its limbs very rapidly. It was further reduced in bulk an imprudent bath the whole upper structure disappeared, leaving two hideous iron prongs standing erect from the spinal column. Even an Imaginative child like Mary could not accept this sort of thing as a head. Later in the day Jack Roper, the blacksmith at the "Cropping." was concerned at the plaintive earance, before his forge, of a little girl, clast in a bright blue pinafore of the same color as her eyes, carrying her monstrous offing in her arms. Jack recognized her and instantly divined the situation.

believed to have contracted dissipated habits

haven't," he suggested kindly, "got another head at home? Suthin' left over?" Mary shook her head sadly; even her prolific ma-ternity was not equal to the creation of childran in detail. "Nor anythin' like a head?" percisted sympathetically. Mary's loving eves filled with tears. "No. nuffen!" idn't," he continued thoughtfully, "use her the other side up-we might get a fine pair go outer them irons," he touching the two prongs with suggestion. "Now, look here—"

artistic suggestion. e was about to tilt the doll over, when a small cry of feminine distress and a swift novement of a matronly little arm arrested the evident indiscretion. "I see," he said gravely. "Well, you come here tomorrow, and we'll fix up suthin' to work her." Jack



MARY AND THE AMLACH CHILDREN.

was thoughtful the rest of the day, more than usually impatient with certain stubborn mules to be shod, and even knocked off work mules to be shod, and even knocked off work an hour earlier to walk to Big Bend and a rival shop. But the next morning when the trestful and anxious mother appeared at the forge she uttered a scream of delight. Jack had neatly joined the hellow from globe taken from the newel post of some old from staircase railing at the two prongs and covered it with a coat of red fireproof paint. It was true that its complexion was rather high, that it was inclined to be ton beary being it with a coat of red fireproof paint, it was true that its complexion was rather high, that it was inclined to be top heavy and that in the long run the other dolls suffered considerably by enforced association with the unyielding and implacable head and shoulders, but this did not diminish Mary's joy over her restored first born. Even its utter absence of features was no defect in a family where features were as evanescent as in hers, and the most ordinary student of evclution could see that the "Amplach" interpolation of the globular-headed "first days of their responsible to the globular-headed "first days of their separation to the globular-headed "first painting the first days of their separation to the globular-headed "first painting the first days of their separation to the globular-headed "first painting the first days of their separation the others. Howbelt it was a pretty sight to see her on a summer afternoon skitning upon a wayside stump, her other children dutifully ranged around her, with the hard, upfecling head of Misery pressed deep dows

into her loving little heart, as she swaved from side to side, crocning her plaintive icilably. Small wonder that the bees took up the song and droned a slumbrous accompaniment, or that high above her head the enormous pines stirred through their depths by the soft Sierra air-or heaven knows whatlet slip flickering lights and shadows to play over that cast-iron face, until the child, looking down upon it with the quick, transforming power of love, thought that it

The two remaining members of the family were less discinctive. "Glariana"—pro-neunced an two words: "Glory Anna" being the work or her father, who also named it. was simply a cylindrical roll of canvas wagon-covering girt so as to define a neck and waist, with a rudely inked face-alto-gether a weak, pitiable, manike invention; and "Johnny Dear," alleged to be the representative of "John Doremus," a young store keeper, who occasionally supplied Mary with gratuitous sweets. Mary never admitted this, and we were all g ntlemen along that road, we were blind to the suggestion. Johnny Dear" was criginally a small, plaster phrenological cast of a head and bust begged from some shop window in the country town, with a body clearly constructed by Mary harself. It was an ominous fact that it was already dressed as a boy, and was distinctly the most human looking of all her progeny. Indeed, in spite of the faculties that were

the face of the manager. Taking the child gently by the hand, he walked to his desk, on which the papers of the new line were scattered, and drew open a drawer, from which he took a large nine-pin extraordinarily dressed as a doll. The astonishment of the two gentlemen was increased at the following quaint colloquy between the manager and the child: "She's doing remarkably well in spite of

the trying weather, but I have had to keep her very quiet." said the manager, regarding the nine-pin critically "Ess," said Mary, quickly. "It's just the ful at night. But Misery's all right. I've

just been to see her."
"There's a good deal of scarlet fever around," continued the manager with quiet concern, "and we can't be too careful. But I shall take her for a little run down the ne tomorrow

The eyes of Mary sparkled and overflowed like blue water. Then there was a kiss, a little laugh, a shy glance at the two curious strangers, the blue pinafore fluttered away and the colloquy ended: She was equally attentive in her care of the others, but the rag baby, "Gloriana," who had found a home rag baby, "Gloriana," who had found a home in Jim Carter's cabin at the Ridge, living too far for her visits, was brought down regu-larly on Saturday afternoon to Mary's house by Jim, tucked in asleep in his saddle bags or riding gallantly before him on the horn of his saddle. On Sunday there was a dress parade of all the dells which kept Mary in neart for the next week's desolation. But there came one Saturday and Sunday

when Mary did not appear, and it was known along the road that she had been called to San Francisco to meet an aunt who had just arrived from the "states." It was a vacant Sunday to "the boya," a very low, unsanctified Sunday, somehow, wit without that little figure. But the next Sunday and the next were still worse, and then it was known that the dreadful aunt was making much of Mary, and was sending her to a legibly printed all over its smooth, white, grand school—a convent at Santa Clara-heirless head, it was appallingly lifelike. Left where it was rumored girls were turned out



NOTHING COULD BE PRETTIER THAN THE SMILE UPON HER FACE.

and certain unemployed parts of its limb very rapidly. It was further reduced in bulk by falling under the wagon and having the whole train pass over it but singularly enough its greatest attenuation was in the head and shoulders—the complexion peeling off as a solid layer, followel by the disapparance of distinct strata of its extraordinate parance of distinct st sometimes by Mary astride of the branches so accomplished that their own parents didkept fully supplied with proper and more conventional dolls, but it was soon recognized that she did not care for them—left their waxen faces, rolling eyes and abundant hair in ditches, or stripped them to help clothe the more extravagant creatures of her fancy. So it came that "Johnny Dear's" strictly class cal profile looked out from under a girl's fashionable straw sallor hat to the utter obliteration of h's prominent intellectual facuities; the Amplach twins were bennets on their nine-pin heads, and even an attempt was made to fix a flaxen scalp on kinary bird was deliteful—but isn't a the iron-headed Misery. But her dolls were vellerhamper sutch as I know a result isn't a always a creation of her own-her affection increasing with the demand upon her imagination. This may be somewhat inconsistent with her habit of occasionally abandoning them in the woods or in the ditches. But she had an unbounded conand trusted her children to the breast of the Great Mother as freely as she did herself in her own motherlessness. And this confidence was rarely betrayed. Rats, mice, snails. wild cats, panther and bear never touched her lost waifs. Even the elements were kindly; an Amplach twin buried under a snow-drift in high altitudes reappeared in high alt'tudes reappeared smilingly in the spring in all its wooden and painted integrity. We were all Pantheists painted integrity. We were all Panthelsts then—and believed this implicitly. It was only when exposed to the miliciproces of civilization that Mary had anything to fear. Yet even then when Patsey O'Connor's domestic goat had once tried to "sample" the lost Misery he had retreated with the loss of three front teeth, and Thompson's mule came out of an encounter with that

iron-headed prodigy with a sprained hind leg and a cut and swollen pastern. But these were the simple Arcadian days of the road between Big Bend and Reno, and progress and prosperity, alas, brought changes their wake. It was already whispered t Mary ought to be going to school and Mr. Amplach—still happily oblivious of the liberties taken with his name—as trustee of the public school at Duckville had intimated that Mary's Bohemian wanderings were a scandal to the county. She was growing up in ignorance, a dreadful ignorance of everything but the chivalry, the deep tenderness, the delicacy and unselfishness of the rude men around her, and oblivious ousness of faith in anything but the immeasurable bounty of Nature towards her and her children. Of course there was a flerce discussion between "the boys" of the road and the few married families of the settlement on this point, but of course progress and "snivelization"—as the boys chose to call it—triumphed. The projection of a railroad settled it; Robert Foulkes, promoted to a firemanship on a division of the line, was made to understand that his daughter must be educated. But the terrible question of Mary's family remained. No school would open its doors to that heterogeneous collection and Mary's little heart would have broken over the rude disposal or heroic burning of her children. The ingenuity of Jack Reper suggested a compromise. She was allowed to select one to take to school with her; the others were adopted by certain of her friends, and she was to be permitted to visit them every Saturday afternoon. The selection was a cruel trial, so cruel that, knowing her undoubted preference for her first born. Misery, we would not have interfered for worlds but in her unexpected choice of "Johany Dear"—the most unworldly of us knew that it was the first glimmering of feminine tact—her first submission to the world of propriety that she was now entering. "Johnny Dear" was undoubtedly the most presentable, even more, there was an edu-

lost playfellow's voice.
"There's more houses in 'Frisco than you

kin shake a stick at and wimmins till you kant rest; but mules and jackasses ain't got no sho, nor black smiffs shops, wich is not to be seen no wear. Rapits and skwirls also gress of buttons a day with this machine. bares and panfers is on-noun and unforgotten on account of the streets and Sunday skoles. Jim Roper you orter be very good to Mizzery on a kount of my not bein' here, and not harten your hart to her bekos she is top heavy-which is entroo and simptly an imptient lie-like you allus make. I have yellerhammer sutch as I know, as youd think. Dear Mister Montgomery, don't keep Gulan Amplak to mutch shet up in office drors: it isn't good for his lungs and chest. And don't you ink his head—nother! you're as bad as the rest. Johnny Dear, you must be very kind to your attopted father, and you, Glory Anna, must lov your kind Jimmy Carter verry mutch for taking you hossback so offen. I have been buzzy ridin twist with an orficer who has killed Injuns real! I am comin' back soon with grate affecthun, so luke out and mind."

and this was her last and only letter. The "adopted fathers" of her children were faithful, however, and when the new line was opened and it was understood that she was to be present with her father at the ceremony they came, with a common understand-ing, to the station to meet their old play-bundle he was carrying on his left arm. And then a young girl in the freshness of her 'teens and the spotless purity of a muslin' frock that, although brief in skirt, was per-fect in fit, faultlessly booted and gloved, tripped from the train, and offered a delicate he cheeks that were no longer sunburnt, ifted frankly to theirs. And yet as she made, but not extensively. In making but-gracefully turned away with her father the vention uses slate or slit-stone in making butfaces of the four adopted parents were found to be as red and embarrassed as her own on the day that Guba Bill drove up publicly with "Johnny Dear" on the box seat. "You weren't such a fool," said Jack Montgomery to Roper, "as to bring 'Misery' here with "I was," said Roper with a con-laugh. "And you?" He had just strained laugh. "And you?" He had just caught sight of the head of a nine-pin peeping from the manager's pocket. The men laughed, and then the four turned silently "Mary" had indeed come back to them;

but not "the mother of five!" NOT WORRYING.

'A woman gave you that baby to hold while

"Ha! ha! ha! I tumbled to the fact soon as I saw you. You expect her back, I sup-"Of course."
"Ha! ha! ha! This is rich! Looking for

her every blessed minute, ain't you?"
"I think she'll come back."

Not the Push Variety, but that on Which Humanity Hangs Ita Togs.

GREAT - WORLD-WIDE INDUSTRY

Whence the Button Sprung, the Materinls in Use, the theful and Ornamental Possibilities-The Making and Makers.

Adam did not wear buttons. Even when his wardrobe reached the dignity of containing "other clothes" he was compelled to fasten his apparel with a sash or borrow a spike from Tubal Cain. In fact, until the beginning of the fourteenth century, says the Chicago Record, the world managed to struggle along without these modern conveniences. Buttons were first used as ornaments. They were sewed on according to the taste or caprice of the maker or wearer of clothing, and they were seldom placed where they might have been of practical service even had there been buttonholes to match them.

Some time in the latter part of Queen Elizabeth's reign it was discovered that a small slit cut in the cloth and shoved over the button made there ornaments uesful. From that time on the making of buttons was grew until it has become one of the most important of industries. With the practical use of buttons came a revolution in dress. The last relic of the flowing robes handed down from patriarchal days was consigned to the shelves of museums and the simpler modern drees was introduced. It was the fashion in the earlier days of button-making to sew as many buttons on the clothing as the texture would bear. Even the laboring classes managed to deck themselves to a degree which today appears ridiculous. This at once created a demand, and the close of the seventeenth century saw the button in-dustry well established in Europe, the center being then, as now, Birmingham, England. The first buttons were very expensive. They were made chiefly of gold and pearl, rich in design, and inlaid with other precious metals and jewels. Following these came the clothcovered and silk-covered buttons, which were made entirely with the needle. These brought a high price, and the workmen received the st wages paid in those days for needle-As demand for buttons increased and man's inventive genius was taxed, machines were produced for the making of steel, brass, inlaid, plated and lacquered buttons, and later for the rapid manufacture of covered

These last were made by covering with silk, lasting, brocade, twist, velvet, mohair and various cloths, metal disks, which had been previously cut out of sheet fron and molded with dies. The frame of this button consists of two pieces of sheet iron, the under piece being slightly convex and having a small round hole in the center, through which a tuft of canvas is pressed. This is for sewing the button to the cloth. The upper disk is also slightly convex and made a little larger than the lower piece. The edge of the upper disk is turned down about a sixteenth of an inch in the medium sized buttons. These disks are cut from the sheet, formed and made ready for covering by one motion of the "fly press" or punching machine For covering another machine is used,

simple in construction, but capable of turning out a great many buttons in a day when operated by an expert. It consists of a central upright shaft, to the lower end of which is attached a die so constructed as to plete. The dies have not only folded the cloth around and under the upper disk, but they have clinched the two disks of the button close together. An expert worker Buttons made of vegetable ivory are widely used in this country and in England. The

material is obtained from a palm tree that grows in South America. It has the name of "tagua plant," and in Peru it is called "negro's head." When young the seed of this palm contains a milky substance which with age becomes very hard and white, resembling ivory. The seeds as used in com-merce are from an inch to three inches in size and almost round. Before they go to the button-making machines they are steamed are sawed into slices of proper thickness. button is cut out with a tubular say and each button is turned separately in a small lathe. Other machines are used for drilling the thread holes, polishing and finishing the buttons. Vegetable ivory is capable of receiving almost any color, and the dyeing of buttons made from it is of the most important and most carefully

guarded secrets of the craft. Livery, emblem and society buttons are made by stamping, the machines used being the same in principle as those for cutting the disks for metal buttons. The desired figure which the face of the finished button is to assume is cut in the upper die, the reverse being made in relief on the under

die. They are stamped and pressed together without soldering. Materials employed in buttonmaking are as varied as the styles of buttons. In addition to metal-covered buttons and those made from vegetable ivory there are used gold. silver and other metals, glass, porcelain, horn, bone, India rubber, mother-of-pearl and hand in turn to each of her old friends, other products of shellfish and various woods. Nothing could be prettier than the smile on The shells for mother-of-pearl come from the Persian gulf, the Red sea, the Pacific coast nothing could be clearer than the blue eyes and Panama. Paper buttons have been lifted frankly to theirs. And yet as she made, but not extensively. An English in-

The first buttons made in the United States were of wood, covered by hand with different materials, principally silk. operation was laborious, but it resulted in the invention of machinery which has built up large factories in the east, Waterbury, Conn., and Easthampton, Mass., being centers

of manufacture in this country. New York also has several large factories. The details of preparing the sheet iron for metal and metal-covered buttons are simple. The iron is first scaled by immersing it in acid, after which it is punched out with the dies. The neck, or "collet," is japanned after being cut, and before the canvas tuft for sewing on is pressed into place. He Gave Two Reasons Why He Felt between the neck and the shell is then filled Confident. A young man about 25 years old, relates The making of these basic parts of the cloth-A young man about 25 years old, relates the Detroit Free Press, was sitting in the waiting room of the Brush street depot with a year-old baby on his knee, and his alarm and helplessness when the child began to howl was so marked as to attract attention. By and by a waiting passenger walked over to him with a smile of pity on his face and the process of the cloth-covered button is confined almost entirely to the eastern states. Western manufacturers buy the material ready to cover. Button shanks, or eyelets, are made of wire on a machine which cuts the wire into desired lengths, bends it into loops and leaves it to him with a smile of pity on his face and him with a smile of pity on his face and ready for insertion into the lower blank, aeried:

The name "shell" is given to metal buttons and the control of the lower blank. made of two disks pressed together and to see about her baggage, didn't fastened without soldering. A cloth-faced button is made by gluing a piece of cloth cur the exact size into the top of a rubber vegetable ivory body. This leaves a rim hard material to protect the edges of the button from wearing. In these the thread holes are drilled through a knob turned or molded on the back of the body. The edges of cloth-covered buttons are protected by working a corded edge around the upper

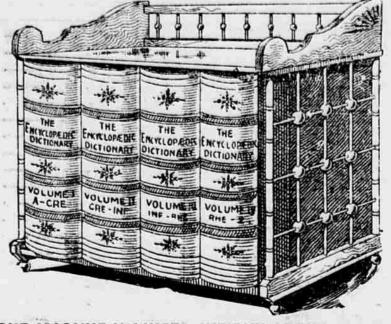
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it has not succeeded in banishing the more mely but reliable horseshoe nail. Hamburg's Harbor.

The new great harbor for Hamburg, which has recently been completed, near Cuxhaven, is now accessible to even the largest seagoing steamers. The termination of work on this immense construction, which has cost upward of 7,000,000 marks, was delayed for more than two years longer than originally contemplated, the reason for the delay being the same as in the North Sea Baltic canal caused by subaquatic currents. The new har bor has a water surface of over 80,000 square yards, and there is still sufficient territory to the west and north belonging to the enterprise to increase this basin to more than double the present size. Dredges are still busy along the piers to obtain a uniform depth which will admit even the enormous twin-screw steamers of the Hamburg-American Packet company's fleet.



STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that the regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the South Platte Land company will be held at the office of said company, in Lincoln, Nebrasks, at 10 o'clock a. m., on the first Wednesday in March, 1896, being the fourth day of the month.

By order of the board of directors.

R. O. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

Lincoln, Nebraska, February 3, 1896.

