



The Bride Who Changed Her Mind

YOU say you don't believe in fate, you fellows," said young Fred Julian, as he entertained a party of boom companions in his bachelor room. "Well, that's because, at present, you haven't had an opportunity of judging from personal experience."

"Well, and have you?" asked a chorus of voices.

"Rather." It was a little incident that occurred about six months ago, interesting to me, at least—and if you like I'll tell you all about it.

"Do," said his friends, and the young man lounged back in his chair and with his eyes on the fire commenced his narrative without more ado.

"It was one lovely day in the July of last year," he began, "and I was starting jubilantly off for a month's holiday at Scarborough. Knowing my luxurious habits as you do, my friends, you will not be surprised to hear that when I reached King's Cross I selected a corner seat of a first-class smoking and provided myself with plenty of cigars and magazines. To complete my anticipation of a pleasant journey, just as I settled myself comfortably and the guard gave his whistle, the door opened and a pretty, excited young lady came bustling in. She seemed relieved at having caught the train, and sat down in a state of breathless and snailing exhaustion.

"I looked over at her from my corner; so did a loudly dressed, boudoirish looking young man from his, for she was an extremely pretty girl, with brown curly hair, small features, and the dearest little figure in the world. I frowned at the loudly dressed young



man, and he frowned at me, and just then the girl looked up and caught my glance of admiration. She stiffened, and then her eyes fell upon my cigar, which I had left smoking in my hand, and a look of severe displeasure came into her face.

"Are you aware, sir," she said, sternly, "that this is not a smoking carriage?"

"Isn't it?" I answered, looking up at the window. "Why, goodness me, they must have forgotten to take the label down."

The girl followed my glance, and at the sight of the partially obliterated label, her face crimsoned with mortification, and, biting her lip, she took up a paper hurriedly to hide her confusion.

"I have made the same mistake, my dear," said a kindly matron on her right. "It doesn't matter much; a little smoke won't hurt us, will it?"

"No, I must change at the next station," she returned, sweetly.

"Excuse me," I broke in, "but this is an express train."

"Do you mean to say it doesn't stop at Peterborough?"

"It doesn't stop at all," I said, "until we get to York."

"Oh, dear! What shall I do? I must get off at Peterborough," she exclaimed.

"It's no sorry," I murmured, turning to the girl. "Can I assist you in any way? If it is a case of necessity, you know, we can communicate with the guard."

"Oh, no—that is—I mean I don't think it would be considered so," she stammered, her face suddenly suffused with blushes. "You see, I was going to a wedding."

"The elderly matron smiled. I had all I could do to repress my amusement, while the loudly dressed young man in the corner sniggered audibly.

"Oh, well, I shouldn't let that worry me, if I were you," I said soothingly. "It's disappointing, but they will be able to fix it up all right with you."

"The blushes deepened and the girl hung her head.

"She broke off in confusion, and the old lady bent toward her.

"I quite understand, my dear," she said. "It wouldn't be a wedding with you, but you mustn't fret. It can't be helped now, and you must send a wire directly we get to York."

"This seemed to raise the girl's spirits, and she began to laugh, a little hysterically perhaps at first. Then she thanked me prettily for doing nothing, and begged me to smoke, and declared she really didn't mind the smell at all, but rather liked it. When the train rushed through Peterborough she laughed more merrily still, and was so charming and unaffected that long before we reached York we were chatting together like old friends. We found out then that we had mutual acquaintances, and that our respective homes were situated but a few miles from each other, and many other interesting facts.

"When the train drew up, I proposed to assist her in finding out the telegraph office, and further, therefore, we went.

"I don't think I'll send a wire, after all," she said hesitatingly, as we found the place.

"Why not?" I said, in some surprise.

"Because, because I think I'll go straight home."

"But think of the anxiety of the poor chap," I said feelingly. "Why, he may be thinking all kinds of dreadful things have happened to you."

"She stood irresolute for a moment; then she picked up a form and wrote, and, for the life of me, I could not re-

st looking over. All that she said was:

"I have changed my mind—Phyllis."

"Of all the cool cheek," "at is the coolest!" I thought.

"But I stepped back and pretended to be much interested in the company's timetable."

"Now we must find out the next train back," I said, as she turned again to me; and then we will have some tea. You must wait some badly."

"But your train—you will surely lose it," she murmured.

"York is my destination," I said untruthfully.

"After that I found out there was no train for an hour, and we took our way to the tea-room, where my pretty companion made me her willing and sympathetic confidant. She was unhappy, very unhappy, at home, and in an ill-guarded moment, had agreed to a runaway match without the knowledge of her parents. Now she was thankful, very thankful, that she had been prevented. It seemed like fate. That was the summary of her remarks.

"There, now, you fellows," I broke off the narrator abruptly. "I needn't tell you much more; only that we exchanged cards, agreed to see one another in London, and that we parted cheerfully at York."

"And did you fulfill those promises?" said one of the listeners, with interest.

"Oh, yes! We have seen some little of each other since then."

"And her name?"

"Will soon be Julian," said the young man promptly.—Penny Pictorial Magazine.

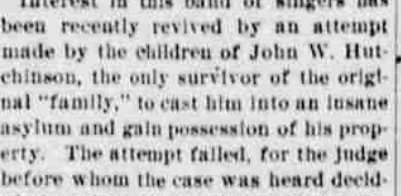
SANG THE SONGS OF FREEDOM.

The Hutchinson family of singers are a pleasant memory to the older generations of people now alive. It is nearly a generation since they appeared in the West, it is more than that since they were in the height of their popularity. Their sweet voices, attuned to simple melodies, entranced tens of thousands all over the country and wherever they went they received hearty welcome.

Interest in this band of singers has been recently revived by an attempt made by the children of John W. Hutchinson, the only survivor of the original "family," to cast him into an insane asylum and gain possession of his property. The attempt failed, for the judge before whom the case was heard decided that the veteran, although past the allotted years of man, is still mentally capable of caring for his estate.

The family was in many respects a remarkable one. There were six brothers and sisters, all gifted "far above the average with musical voices. It remained for three of the brothers, John, Judson and Asa, with their sister, Abby, to blend their voices in perfect harmony. The emancipation of the slave and the prohibition of the liquor traffic became their watchwords.

When the brothers first started on their campaign of song, they entered into a compact to abstain from the use of tobacco and alcohol and demoralizing associations. The compact was never broken. John Hutchinson's voice is still sweet and tuneful, and when warmed to his subject it rings out with wonderful power. He has given in his long musical career more than 11,000 concerts, and through 80 years of age on his next birthday, he is still hopeful of doing more public work. He is a very forcible speaker, with an irresistible flow of humor, and his powers of mimicry have assisted greatly in pleasing



aud impressing an audience. He was always of a peaceful nature in matters relating to himself, though quick to resent and battle against a wrong to others.

The town of Hutchinson, Minn., founded by the brothers early in the '50's, is a flourishing community and is steadily growing.

During the '60's the Hutchinsons visited England and sang to large houses and before many of the celebrities of that country. Harriet Martineau, John Bright and Charles Dickens were loud in their praises of their musical gifts.

Among the songs with which the Hutchinsons delighted large audiences were "Fighting to-night on the Old Camp Ground" and "The Brotherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man."

Stealing His Thunder.

The indignant-looking passenger went along to speak, but the conductor headed him off by exclaiming in a loud tone of irritation.

"This is the slowest train I was ever on. What's the use of having a schedule if we don't pay any attention to it? The drinking water tastes as if it hadn't been off the kitchen range ten minutes. The car doesn't look as if it had been swept for a month, and it is full of idiots who insist on opening the windows when we go through tunnels, so that the cinders can blow in."

The passenger caught his breath and then exclaimed: "It was just about to say that this whole affair is an outrage."

"I know it. But you're lucky. You can travel a few miles and then get off and be happy. But I've got to stay on this train for hours every day of my life."—Washington Star.

Irrigation for Northern Mexico.

The extensive arid regions of Northern Mexico are to be irrigated by canals from aid extended by the Federal and State governments.

MONKEYS IN INDIA.

Are Commonly Lascivious Counterparts of Their Human Cousins.

"When I was traveling in Northern India," said a gentleman who had recently completed a journey around the world, "I was constantly impressed with the almost human ways of the monkeys there. You see they are never contented, which is also true of the birds, and they are as tame and impudent as spoiled children.

"I remember that one morning while I was sitting at breakfast on the veranda of our hotel suddenly we heard the loudest chattering, and down the main street of the town came a crowd of long-tailed monkeys, running a race evidently. They shrieked and chattered at every leap, tripped each other up, pulled each other's tails and seemed to be having a general hilarity. One of the monkeys in the crowd, which had been solemnly lined up on the veranda rail watching us eat, made a dash for the food and had quite a fight with the native servant before they were finally driven away.

"But the monkeys of India are surely the most irresponsible people in the world," continued the traveler. "I call them people because they are such ludicrous counterparts of human beings. In many of the old temples there are monkey settlements. I remember one in particular which was sacred to the simians. There seemed to be thousands of the creatures, and I was told that 5,000 had recently been taken to the woods to get rid of them. But in this temple I saw little simian mothers nestling and rocking their babies in their arms for all the world like a Christian mother. I ventured to pick up one of the infants that was running about, and instantly the baby gave a typical infantile squeal and the mother came to me, chattering angrily. I put the infant down, and the mother, her eyes still blazing with anger, carried the little one to a corner and petted and rocked it, frequently turning to give me a scornful look.

"It is not uncommon for the monkeys in the trees to reach down and seize the traveler's hat as he passes, and make him feel the first ray of sunshine suggested that the green of vegetation, the blue of the sky and the blue-green of the sea may thus have a powerful influence in causing the simians. Parville, however, cautions his readers against too sweeping conclusions. All that we can say is that colors certainly appear to affect the organism, and that the subject will bear further investigation.

In winter months tornadoes occur only in the Gulf States, but in summer they occur in the North, in Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota. The average is twenty-five a year. They are simple examples of vortex motion. A mass of air rotating at a low level runs into a vortex, and a tail is projected downward. The velocity of the lower end of the tube may reach two hundred miles an hour, and it is the partial vacuum caused by the whirl and the sudden burst of the outside air that causes the disastrous explosive effects.

The black sands containing gold which are spread along the shores of Norton Sound, near Cape Nome, Alaska, are said to differ from similar sands found in the coast of California and elsewhere, because they show no indication of having been transported by streams of water. The flakes and nuggets of gold that have been found at Cape Nome are not water-worn, but sharp and angular in outline. A widely accepted theory is that they have been displaced from a great distance by glaciers, their original source being yet undiscovered.

The report of United States Customs agent of Labor (Carl D. Wright) for 1899 on "Hand and Machine Labor" sets forth some very interesting facts. Aided by machinery, 4,500,000 men turn out a product which would require the labor of nearly 40,000,000 men if produced by hand. In America the advantage derived from machinery is about twice as great as in Europe, so that the actual population of the United States is equal in productive power to 150,000,000 Europeans. With labor-saving machinery, one generation of men can do the work of four or five generations of hand workers.

Science and Invention.

The insect *Vedalia cardinalis*, introduced to California to feed on scale insects, has succeeded so well in its work that there is nothing left for food—and they are now in danger of disappearing through starvation.

The earth within the Arctic circle supports a considerable population, but the Antarctic circle is without trace of human life. Upon eight million square miles surrounding the south pole, the foot of man has never trodden.

In the islands near Singapore a new industry has been developed, that of producing pure gutta-percha from the leaves of the gutta-percha tree. The leaves are ground up and pounded in boiling water. Dry leaves contain as much as 12 per cent of sap.

Two of the largest Humankoff coils ever made have been ordered in this country for a foreign government, and will give an electric spark forty-five inches in length, expending energy amounting to three or four-horse power, and having a potential of half a million volts.

It is said that the nut trees of the world alone could, if necessity arose, provide food for all the year-round for a total population of three times greater than the present. It has been pointed out to the Washington Department of Agriculture that these trees produce a large amount of food for the thousands of tons of these nuts wasted every year; with coconuts it is the same in many centers.

Every sufferer from nerves knows that a gloomy day affects him unfavorably, while the first ray of sunshine makes him feel better. It has been suggested that the green of vegetation, the blue of the sky and the blue-green of the sea may thus have a powerful influence in causing the simians. Parville, however, cautions his readers against too sweeping conclusions. All that we can say is that colors certainly appear to affect the organism, and that the subject will bear further investigation.

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LAW AS INTERPRETED.

Constitutional mandate of equality of taxation as near as may be held, in *Drew vs. Tift* (Minn.), 47 L. R. A. 525, to be applicable to inheritance taxes and to be violated by exemption which discriminate between different classes of persons.

An assessment for a street improvement under a resolution declaring the improvement expedient is held, in *Norfolk vs. Young* (Va.), 47 L. R. A. 574, to be unconstitutional for lack of due process of law, where the notice did not designate any tribunal, place or time where the party could be heard.

Contract to expend \$10,000 in "opening and developing" mining property which consisted of a large number of claims, both quartz and placer, and in erecting a ten-stamp quartz mill, is held, in *Stanton vs. Singleton* (Cal.), 47 L. R. A. 534, to be one which equity will not enforce by specific performance.

Authority of railroad commissioners to order a company to build and maintain a depot or station house is held, in *State ex. Rel. Tompkins vs. Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad Company* (N. D.), 47 L. R. A. 509, to be conferred by a statute authorizing them to notify of the company of improvements which they adjudge to be proper.

Power to decide between candidates for justice of the peace who have an equal number of votes is held, in *State, Crow vs. Kramer* (Mo.), 47 L. R. A. 551, to be in violation of the Constitution, which provides for the election of such officers without any provision for deciding the tie, while it does make such provision in respect to other officers. With this case there is a note on the decision of a tie vote at an election.

Made a Strong Plea. The spread of diphtheria in the South is rapidly developing the negro, and his highest ambition is to be a lawyer and a statesman. Occasionally his exertions get him before the court rather earlier than he plans. Samuel Jackson, Esq., who had read some law, found himself before the judge for some little irregularity with the fifth commandment. The case was clear.

"Guilty," said the judge.

"What on?" asked the important Samuel.

"The facts," was the reply.

"I beg your Honor's pardon," said Sam, grandiloquently. "You may find me guilty on de facts, your Honor, but I respectfully maintain dat I'm innocent on de technicalities."—New York Life.

SOLID BRICKS OF YELLOW.

Gold Cubes as They Reach the Mint Need Not Be Avoided.

A paragraph in the New York letter of the Ledger stated that there had been received at one of the banks a lump of gold from British Columbia weighing 7,897 ounces. In shape of a cone, 13 inches high and 34 inches in circumference at the base, and valued at \$135,275. At the United States mint in this city it was stated yesterday to a Ledger reporter that it was unusual to receive a lump of gold of this size. The informant stated that the gold must have been cooled in a crucible, which was broken from it, judging from its shape. No such masses had ever been received at the mint.

The usual form of gold bricks is that of an ordinary brick, the very largest being valued at about \$30,000 and weighing about 1,500 ounces. That such bricks are not easily handled was easily demonstrated by the reporter, who was allowed to lift from a truck a brick from the Denver assay office, 8x4x3 1/2 inches in size. It was just the size of a building brick, only three-quarters of an inch thicker, but it weighed ninety pounds and was valued at \$21,000. Though small, it could not easily have been gotten away with.

Very little gold comes from the mint is received at the mint. A few small lumps brought by the sea, Alaska, like miners is all that has been seen taken to the nearest assay office, probably at Seattle, and there sold to the Government, which purchases all that is offered. It usually consists of more or less silver refined at the assay office, but is usually refined at the mint. Many bricks shown to the reporter looked like silver, the proportion of one-third of that metal giving them that appearance. Some small bricks, worth about \$5,000 apiece, were shown which had been refined to 998 parts in 1,000, practically pure gold. These were sold to a prominent watch case manufacturer for use in his business. Chemically pure gold is made only for testing purposes.—Philadelphia Ledger.

SOME EXTRAORDINARY BATTING.

How a Baseball Game Was Won by Pierce Operations with the Stick.

"When I was playing right field for the Hurting Lilies," said the man with the sandy whiskers to the man with the sun-burned neck, "I was considered an exceptionally strong hitter. But all records made by me, or by any one else that ever pretended to do things with the stick of bickery, were cast in the shade by the performance of a tall young man of the name of Plunk McGuggenheimer, who played one day with the Lilies. I had seriously hurt my thumb while running bases, and Plunk was engaged to take my place.

The day he covered right for us we went against the Whistling Thistles. We were very anxious to win, as we

AN INGENIOUS CALCULATOR.

A Chinese Invention Remarkable for Its Simplicity.

A calculator remarkable for its simplicity and ingenuity and entirely different from other machines which employ a series of tapes, has been patented by Chow Ling Kiang, of Macao, China, and is described in the Scientific American. The device considerably simplifies multiplication and division. Our illustrations show the complete apparatus and one of the tapes employed.

Upon a base of wood or glass material guides are secured which form passages for a series of endless tapes. In our illustration the tapes are designated by the Roman numerals I, II, III, IV, etc. Each tape is longitudinally divided into two columns and into groups of nine numerals each. In the first group all the figures are zeros; in the second group the numbers "1" to "9" are inscribed in the third group the number "2" and its multiples up to "18" are written, the units being in the right hand column and the tens in the left hand column. In the next groups are the multiples of 3, 4, etc., up to the multiples of 9, after which the multiples 1 to 9 appear in the center of the tape, the division of the tape into two columns being abandoned at that point.

When it is desired, for example, to find the product of eight times eight thousand four hundred and ninety-seven, the tapes I, II, III, IV, are

moved until the numbers "8" "4" "9" "7" of the tapes are on the same horizontal line. The other tapes being left in their normal positions. In the eighth line will be found the number "56" on tape I; in the same line, tape II, bears the number "72"; tape III, the number "32"; and tape IV, the number "84." The product is obtained by noting for each tape the number contained in the right hand column of the tape, with the addition of the number in the left hand column of the next tape to the right. In other words, contiguous numbers of different tapes are added. Thus, in the present case, "27" from tapes I and II are added, "2" and "7" from tapes II and III, and "4" and "3" from tapes III and IV. The result obtained is "76,976." The figuring of other products is readily understood from this example. The method is a much larger than the well-known method of adding the results of partial multiplications is employed.

In division the calculator is employed to find multiples of the divisor and to do away with tedious multiplication. In dividing 212,428 by 8,497, for instance, 21,242 is divided by 8,497, the quotient giving 2 as the first figure in the quotient; the calculator may be used for this operation, since it shows that 21 (in the thousands) is between the double (16,994) and the triple (25,491) of 8,497. Twice 8,497 is then read off as 16,994, and subtracted from 21,242, leaving 4,248. To this remainder is added the last figure, 8; and 42,488 is then divided by 8,497. The machine shows at a glance that 42,488 is equal to 5 multiplied by 8,497. The result of the division is therefore 25.

HEROIC CURE FOR AN ITCH.

Serbo-Comic Experience of a Man Held Up by a Road Agent.

Whatever different opinions may exist in regard to other subjects, those who have been held up by highwaymen are unanimous in the statement that no matter how few the holdups or how many they held up, each and every man said that the robber's weapon was painful, directly and solely at him. The fact is that a traveler who is held up on a stage coach that a pair of bandits went through. The fourteen passengers were all made to get out and stand in a row, with their hands high over their heads. One burly ruffian stood guard over them with a double-barreled shotgun, while the other engaged in the pleasing task of relieving them of their valuables and spare cash. This particular traveler was nearest the man with the shotgun.

While the ceremonies were in progress his nose began to itch and instinctively he started to lower one hand to scratch it. "Hands up, there!" came the stern order, and his hand went auto-matically back into place. But that itching redoubled and again he essayed the reliever scratch. "Say, what's the matter with you, anyhow?" demanded the highwayman. "Are you wishing to become a lead mine?" "My nose itches so I can't stand it any longer," he explained. "I'm sorry, but I simply can't help it."

"Simply can't help it?" ungrammatically corrected the knight of the road, "cause I'll do for you." And with that he proceeded to scratch the offending nasal organ with the muzzle of his shotgun. You can wager your shoes that that particular nose stopped itching with great abruptness.—Troy Press.

HEROIC CURE FOR AN ITCH.

My mother's general principles of treatment," says Mr. Ruskin, "were to guard me with steady watchfulness from all avoidable pain and danger, and as far as the rest, to let me amuse myself as I like, provided I was neither fretful nor troublesome.

"But the law was that I should find my own amusement. No toys of any kind were at first allowed. Nor did I ever painfully wish for what I was never permitted for an instant to hope for or even imagine the possession of, such things as one saw in toy shops. I think it should be related that I was steadily whipped if I was troublesome.

"In all these particulars I think the treatment of my childhood was entirely right. As soon as I was able to read, frequently my mother began a course of Bible works with me, which never ceased until I went to Oxford."

AMUSEMENT FOR A PRINCESS.

When Princess Henry of Battenberg was a child, she and her nurse were allowed to ramble about the Balmoral estate, to visit the tenants, and sometimes to stay to tea.

One farm was a favorite resort, and one afternoon, tea over, Mrs. D— looked round anxiously, perplexed to provide amusement for a Princess, presumably satiated with toys and joys of every kind.

"What can I do to amuse your Royal Highness?" she asked, and was promptly met by the reply: "Oh, Mrs. D—, do let me dance on your bed; I may not do it at home, and I do so love it."

Permission was gladly given, and the child danced to her heart's content on the snowy counterpane.

THE WORK OF AN OAK.

A single oak of good size lifts 123 tons of water during the months it is in leaf, says Frank French, in Scribner's. This moisture is evaporated and rises to form rain-clouds. All the trees are busy doing the same thing, and the rank forest and masses and deep mould of the forest depths, acting as reservoirs for the rain which falls upon them, in their turn feed the springs and brooks. From this we can gain some idea of the immense forces which the forests exert in equalizing the evaporation and precipitation, and preventing periods of inundation and drought.

RUSSIANS AS FISH EATERS.

There is no country in the world in which so much fish is eaten as in European Russia, and the reason is because the Greek church has many more fast days, and observes them more strictly, than the Western Catholics. The use of flesh on a black-board, on which thirty groups of figures are written, he can, it is said, repeat them in any order and deal with them in any arithmetical process. It is said that he never makes an error in calculations involving billions, and he can extract square or cube roots with marvellous rapidity and accuracy. An eminent German specialist declared the other day that these ready-reckoners were idiots. This is not the case with Diamond, who writes poetry and novels in the intervals of business, and shows considerable intellectual capacity.

DIAMOND'S CALCULATOR.

It is feared that one girl's popularity among the other girls is due to the fact that whenever she visits at their house she insists upon washing the dishes.

It is a case of misdirected energy when a young man runs after a girl who doesn't appreciate him.

NOTABLE DEAD LIE THERE.

King's Chapel, Boston, First Built in 1680, and Its Graveyard.

At the corner of Tremont and School streets in Boston stands one of the most historic churches in that city. This church is King's Chapel, and when it was built it took the place of a small wooden chapel standing on the same ground. The little wooden chapel had been erected in the year 1680, and the land on which it stood was taken from the public burial ground by Governor Andros. It was the first Episcopal Church, and its attendants were chiefly the British officers and loyalists. It had the first organ ever heard in New England, a certain Thomas Brattle having given it the instrument in 1713. In the year 1749 the corner stone of the present building was laid by Governor Shirley, but the church was not completed until 1780. In that year George Washington was present at an ornate given in the church celebrating its completion, and he contributed five guineas to the church. During the siege of Boston this was the only church in which regular services were held attended by the British officers. When the city was evacuated by the

BRITISH RECTOR SAILED AWAY TO HULL.

carrying with him the church register, communion service and vestments, the British officers and loyalists. A few years later it became the First Unitarian Church, and it is to-day one of the most important of the Unitarian churches.

Governor Shirley lies buried in a tomb beneath the porch of the church, and in the old burying ground at the side of the grave in the church, and true who were among the founders of the city of Boston. Here may be seen the graves of John Winthrop, of Governor John Leverett, of Mary Chilton, of Lady Anne Andros, wife of Sir Edmund, the Governor. Lady Andros died in February, 1688, and her funeral was held in the evening by torchlight. The funeral of General Joseph Warren, who was killed at the battle of Bunker Hill, was held in this church. The body was followed from the townhouse to the church by a great procession, and the funeral oration was by Perez Morton. In later years the funerals of many distinguished Bostonians have been held from King's Chapel.

SCARCITY OF RUBIES AND EMERALDS.

"It is impossible to set any definite value on rubies at present," said a New Orleans jeweler. "The mines were exhausted several years ago, and the few fine stones that remain on the market are worth whatever one chances to ask. They are far more valuable than diamonds in that the price is almost purely arbitrary, depending chiefly on how badly the purchaser wants the gem. The last mines to be worked were in Siam, but they are now entirely closed down. Practically the same thing may be said of emeralds. A few find their way to the dealers now and then, but the supply has dwindled to almost purely arbitrary point, and to secure a fine specimen is purely a matter of luck. One is no longer kept in stock by the wholesalers, and when one turns up it brings a fancy figure. I am speaking, of course, of first-class stones. Both rubies and emeralds vary enormously in quality. Sometimes it is hard to tell just what they lack, but it is always unmistakable, and constitutes the difference between a true gem and a more colored stone. For example, I have a four-carat emerald that I have tried to sell for \$100. It is a pretty stone and seems outwardly to be perfect, but it lacks something. I have seen four-carat emeralds sell for \$2,000. They were the same size, same weight, same shape, same color as the one I have, but the difference"—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

MOVING INTO THE NUMBERS.

They will only eat what is good for them.

This may or may not be a fallacy, but the instinct of self-preservation, which is common to all animals, except, perhaps, horses (who, being very bags of nerves, will during a fire behave with suicidal obstinacy, has been proved time and again. The rats which, in practice as well as in theory, desert the ship which is no longer seaworthy, are a notable example of it; and there are many animal lovers who would not consider it any way extravagant to suggest that the quacking of the geese in the capitol was due to a knowledge on their part of the facts that the entrance of the enemy would mean the cutting of their throats, while the rousing of the Romans would earn them a debt of gratitude and personal immunity from the poulterer's shop windows.

HOW LINCOLN REBUKED HIS COUNSEL.

At the White House one day during the Civil War, some gentlemen were present from the West, excited and troubled about the commissions or omissions of the administration. President Lincoln heard them patiently, and then replied: "Gentlemen, suppose all the property you were worth was in gold, and you had put it in the hands of Blondin to carry across the Niagara river on a rope, would you shake the cable or keep shouting out to him, 'Blondin, stand up a little straighter; Blondin, stoop a little more; go a little faster; lean a little more to the north; lean a little more to the south?' No, you would hold your breath as well as your tongue, and keep your hands off until he was safe over. The government are carrying an immense weight. Untold treasures are in their hands. They are doing the very best they can. Don't badger them. Keep silence and we'll get you safe across."

A REMARKABLE CALCULATOR.

Diamond, a native of Pylaros, one of the Greek Islands, seems to be a remarkable calculator. After a mere glance at a black-board, on which thirty groups of figures are written, he can, it is said, repeat them in any order and deal with them in any arithmetical process. It is said that he never makes an error in calculations involving billions, and he can extract square or cube roots with marvellous rapidity and accuracy. An eminent German specialist declared the other day that these ready-reckoners were idiots. This is not the case with Diamond, who writes poetry and novels in the intervals of business, and shows considerable intellectual capacity.

IT IS A CASE OF MISDIRECTED ENERGY.

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THE BRIDE WHO CHANGED HER MIND.

YOU say you don't believe in fate, you fellows," said young Fred Julian, as he entertained a party of boom companions in his bachelor room. "Well, that's because, at present, you haven't had an opportunity of judging from personal experience."

"Well, and have you?" asked a chorus of voices.

"Rather." It was a little incident that occurred about six months ago, interesting to me, at least—and if you like I'll tell you all about it.

"Do," said his friends, and the young man lounged back in his chair and with his eyes on the fire commenced his narrative without more ado.

"It was one lovely day in the July of last year," he began, "and I was starting jubilantly off for a month's holiday at Scarborough. Knowing my luxurious habits as you do, my friends, you will not be surprised to hear that when I reached King's Cross I selected a corner seat of a first-class smoking and provided myself with plenty of cigars and magazines. To complete my anticipation of a pleasant journey, just as I settled myself comfortably and the guard gave his whistle, the door opened and a pretty, excited young lady came bustling in. She seemed relieved at having caught the train, and sat down in a state of breathless and snailing exhaustion.

"I looked over at her from my corner; so did a loudly dressed, boudoirish looking young man from his, for she was an extremely pretty girl, with brown curly hair, small features, and the dearest little figure in the world. I frowned at the loudly dressed young

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man, and he frowned at me, and just then the girl looked up and caught my glance of admiration. She stiffened, and then her eyes fell upon my cigar, which I had left smoking in my hand, and a look of severe displeasure came into her face.

"Are you aware, sir," she said, sternly, "that this is not a smoking carriage?"

"Isn't it?" I answered, looking up at the window. "Why, goodness me, they must have forgotten to take the label down."

The girl followed my glance, and at the sight of the partially obliterated label, her face crimsoned with mortification, and, biting her lip, she took up a paper hurriedly to hide her confusion.

"I have made the same mistake, my dear," said a kindly matron on her right. "It doesn't matter much; a little smoke won't hurt us, will it?"

"No, I must change at the next station," she returned, sweetly.

"Excuse me," I broke in, "but this is an express train."

"Do you mean to say it doesn't stop at Peterborough?"

"It doesn't stop at all," I said, "until we get to York."

"Oh, dear! What shall I do? I must get off at Peterborough," she exclaimed.

"It's no sorry," I murmured, turning to the girl. "Can I assist you in any way? If it is a case of necessity, you know, we can communicate with the guard."

"Oh, no—that is—I mean I don't think it would be considered so," she stammered, her face suddenly suffused with blushes. "You see, I was going to a wedding."

"The elderly matron smiled. I had all I could do to repress my amusement, while the loudly dressed young man in the corner sniggered audibly.

"Oh, well, I shouldn't let that worry me, if I were you," I said soothingly. "It's disappointing, but they will be able to fix it up all right with you."

"The blushes deepened and the girl hung her head.

"She broke off in confusion, and the old lady bent toward her.

"I quite understand, my dear," she said. "It wouldn't be a wedding with you, but you mustn't fret. It can't be helped now, and you must send a wire directly we get to York."

"This seemed to raise the girl's spirits, and she began to laugh, a little hysterically perhaps at first. Then she thanked me prettily for doing nothing, and begged me to smoke, and declared she really didn't mind the smell at all, but rather liked it. When the train rushed through Peterborough she laughed more merrily still, and was so charming and unaffected that long before we reached York we were chatting together like old friends. We found out then that we had mutual acquaintances, and that our respective homes were situated but a few miles from each other, and many other interesting facts.

"When the train drew up, I proposed to assist her in finding out the telegraph office, and further, therefore, we went.

"I don't think I'll send a wire, after all," she said hesitatingly, as we found the place.

"Why not?" I said, in some surprise.

"Because, because I think I'll go straight home."

"But think of the anxiety of the poor chap," I said feelingly. "Why, he may be thinking all kinds of dreadful things have happened to you."

"She stood irresolute for a moment; then she picked up a form and wrote, and, for the life of me, I could not re-

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