AN EVENTFUL DAY.

RECEIVING CONGRATULATIONS OVER AN ENGAGEMENT.

A Pleasing Coremony Which Is Observed In Some Families-Tom and Sybilla Are Petted and Patted by Uncles, Aunts and Chums-The Happy Hour Alone

Tom and Sybilla are engaged, and the time has come when their friends are to pay their compliments.

On the eventful day Sybilla is ready to receive her congratulatory callers, a picture of blissful leveliness in what her dressmaker describes as an "announcement gown." It is not all of white, for that would be too bridelike, but there is a skirt of snowy embroidered crepe lisse, and over that a long empire coat of white satin, brocaded in silver embroidery on pink satin and a cravat of old venetian point. Deep ruffles of the same lace fall over the hands and almost hide the diamond which everybody wants to see. Gloves are out of the question. Some ultra fashionable girls may wear them, but not Sybilconceal so much splendor.

eyes, her lovely color and the happy ticipated? smile that plays round her mouth unconsciously, and who can wonder that she makes a picture fetching enough to send all the old maids of the family away sighing with envy and regret, and to fill her former admirers with desperate resolutions of becoming "damp unpleasant bodies" in the Charles?

The next younger sister sits at the tea table, promoted for the first time to that responsible post, impressed with gin is usually a surprise. her new dignity of a Psyche knot replacing the schoolgirl braids and the immediate prospect of coming out, now that Sybilla is disposed of. There is a constant stream of visitors. Congratulatious are hearty, though they are expressed with little variety. Tom, half proud, half embarrassed stands by her side, taking all phlegmatically from the tearful blessings of his aunts to the jests English philosophy of the third quarter and rallyings of the fellows from the of this century. Nor do we ever find in club who have come refined with the club who have come primed with the usual jokes intended for just such occaburned themselves in indelibly, and breathes an unconscious sigh of satisfaction.

Yes, he has certainly made a very good choice. So far as looks go, there is hardly a girl in town who can hold a candle to her; her figure particularly is enchanting, and she wears ber clothes, simple (1) as they are, to perfection. As to character, they have always hit it off admirably, and as their tastes are the same there is no earthly reason why they should not be at the beginning of a long and very happy companionship. At the same time he realizes all the joys of bachelorhood he is renouncing. Already he has felt a perceptible coolness in the warmth with which the feminine portion of society receives him, for he is no longer eligihalo which invests a possible husband. He is left out of many jolly little parname out of the question. Then, too, as if by facit consent. Well, to be sure, just then he will be busy furnishing the house he means to build for himself and Sybilla and thinking of more serions things than rod and reel, but on the whole she is worth all he gives up. and as their eyes meet again and he sees ber loving heart in her, he thinks himself little better than a cur to have yearned, even for a moment, for the flesh pots of Egypt.

The nearest and dearest of the relatives have been asked to remain for dinner. The house is en fete, and the long table in the dining room looks as if royalty were to be entertained, with bles her to endure her memorable and all the best silver, glass and china displayed-maidenhair and La France roses, pink shades for the candles and a the recognition of silent sympathy. The menu which proves clearly that the cook has realized the importance of the occasion and means to outdo all ber previous triumphs. Sybilla, as the object of honor, sits at papa's right hand, and Tom, who had cried out upon etiquette, insists upon taking the chair next her. The old aunt opposite has a into a well known west end shop and vague notion that he squeezes her hand once or twice under the table, but her head men. She was told he was out, eyes are dim and her glasses poor, so it remains forever unsettled.

goes on from oysters to ices, and then there are to be speeches. Papa rises and begins it. The uncles follow with good wishes and congratulations, so cordially and tenderly expressed that all the aunts sniff audibly, and mamma disappears behind her handkerchief, not to emerge for a good 10 minutes. Tom says a few trank, manly words which cause him to be regarded with open favor, and then they all adjourn to the drawing room again, Sybilla and he bringing up the rear and lingering a moment in the ball. Both look a little confused when they enter, and the family discreetly forbear to engage either in conversation at once,

There are singing and playing, and by and by carriages begin to roll up outside. It is time for the aunts and uncles to go. The pretty niece who has done so well for herself is kissed until she blooms like a peony, and Tom comes in for so many hearty handshakes that his fingers fairly ache, but at last it is all over, and they are left by the fire in the parlor alone. - Boston Herald.

A Fatal Swelling. At Eau Claire. Wis., a negro tramp crawled into a car of immber bound for Burlington, Ia., and lay down on top of the pile. He fell asleep, and the lumber, being wet, swelled up, crushing him against the roof of the car. When the car arrived here the following day, the dead body was found. -St. Louis Republic.

GENIUS IS INDIFFERENT.

Surroundings Have Naught to De With the Thread of Thought.

It might be conjectured perhaps that Scott's and Byron's genius was favored by the circumstances of their birth, that the wild scenes in which Scott's infancy was passed, and the local legends with which his bead was filled determined him to ballad writing, and that the balled writing led naturally in its turn to romance, and that the high station and undisciplined liberty of Byron's childhood fostered that passionate self will and brooding imagination which showed themselves in his fierce, scornful and moody verse. This, we say, might perhaps be conjectured with some probability, and the like might be said of Wordsworth's infancy.

But how shall we maintain that the conditions of Kests' cockney birth in a pale pink rosebuds, with a waistcoat of livery stable or his education in a dissecting room favored the growth of that most delicate and rich type or almost Hellenic clearness and beauty of imagination? And how shall we maintain that Dickens' menial task in the corking of blacking bottles fostered the growth of that wonderful humor and la, who feels that it would be wicked to that microscopic accuracy of vision which filled the world with laughter Add to this charming frock the wear- and with inimitable caricature such as er's shining blood hair, her big blue no comedy, not even Moliero's, had an-

Again, who would have ventured to predict that a wild, despotic, Irish evangelical spirit like Patrick Bronte, banished to the bleakest of Yorkshire moors, would have been the father of children so eager, original and vivid in their reveries as those who eventually produced the unique passion of Ellis and Currer Bell's gentus? So far as we know anything of the origin of genius, that ori-

It is the rare exception, and not the rule, when we find Chatham succeeding in producing such a hothouse flower as William Pitt, or James Mill succeeding in elaborating a specimen more perfect than himself of a thinker of his own type, in the studious, diligent, diffuse, lucid and rather dreary logician and economist who left his mark on the rare instances of this sort the higher kinds of original genius. Pitt and John Now and then he steals a glance Stuart Mill were considerable triumphs at Sybilla, whose blushes seem to have of training for a purpose, but that purpose was a very limited one and had none of the largeness and freshness of vitality which attaches to original genius. - London Spectator.

Negro Superstitions.

Among the superstitions of southern negroes are those which make it a most unfavorable thing to see a black cat crossing one's path, or to turn back without making a "cross" in the street, road or path. The belief in witches is perhaps more general than any other. and an ex-congressman tells of a case in this section within the past 30 years in which a witch was killed in a very strange fashion. A negro called on a witch doctor, a very old woman, and was told that the cause of the trouble was a witch and that she must be killble and surrounded with the becoming ed; that the only way possible to thus put her out of the way was to go into the woods and cut the figure of a perties of shooters bound for the cape, and son on the bark of a big pine tree, mark the fellows who are laying plans for the a cross on the body and shoot this with salmon fishing next year are leaving his a silver bullet, the cross representing the witch's heart. The shooting was duly done in the presence of quite a number of persons. This occurred in the northern part of this county. Cedar balls are carried in the pockets as a protection against witches. The negro belief in these is certainly fully matched by that of white men who carry in their pockets buckeyes and Irish potatoes, or who wear thick iron rings on their fingers as a preventive of rheumatism.-Cor. Washington Star.

Ex-Empress Eugenie.

The ex-Empress Eugenie has settled down into the solitude which best enacumulative sorrows. Her tall, sad figure goes in and out among us with only empress likes to have communication with as few people as possible. For instance, when she shops—she does her own shopping-she likes to be waited on by the same salesman always. was witness of an incident of this sort the other day. The empress walked asked for Mr. ---, naming one of the whereupon she remarked that she would call again and went away. I was told A great deal of laughing and talking that she certainly would come again; that Mr. - always waited on her, and that she would not be served by any one else. - London Western Mail.

A Case of Contempt.

The prisoner was a bold faced vagrant, and the judge had it in for him from the start.

"How many times have you been here?" he asked. "Really, your honor, I never kept count after the twentieth time."

"I'll give you six months," said the judge sternly.

'All right, your honor." "But it isn't all right. It is all wrong, and you ought to be ashamed of your-

"Well, your honor," was the impudent response, "you oughtn't to complain. The state gets my services for nothing, and you make it pay you for yours," and the judge gave him 80 days more for contempt. — Detroit Free Press.

Sweets of Solitude.

Sheep and geese become restless when separated from the flock; the eagle and lion seek isolation. From quiet and Full Stock of Guns & Ammunition. solitude spring the greatest thoughts, inventions and formation. Our most valuable acquisition in the time of our development through nature, art and circumstance is the fruit of hours spent in quietude, desirable for our growing youth and absolutely essential for our future philosopher, poet and artist.— George Ebers in the Forum.

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A VETERAN'S VERDICT.

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ist Makes a Disclosure.

Indiana contributed her thousands of brave soldiers to the war, and no state bears a better record in that respect than it does. In literature it is rapidly acquiring an enviable place. In war and literature Solomon Yewell, well known as a writer as "Sol," has won an honorable position. During the late war he was a member of Co. M. 2d. N. Y. Cavalry and of the Eith Indiana infantry Volunteers. Regarding an important circumstance he writes as follows:

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