It was 1 o'clock when we left 3 Lauriston Gardens. Sherlock Holmes Audley led me to the nearest telegraph office, locality. iver to take us to the address given us by Lestrade

There's nothing like first-hand evidence." he remarked: "as a matter of the door of which was decorated fact, my mind is entirely made up up learn all that is to be learned.'

You amaze me, Holmes," said I. Surely you are not as sure as you pretend to be of all those particulars which you gave."

"There is no room for mistake," he l observed on arriving there was that slumbers. wheels close to the curb. Now, up to last night we have had no rain for a last night we have had no rain for a Holmes took a half sovereign from week, so that those wheels, which left his pocket, and played with it pensuch a deep impression, must have sively. was far more clearly cut than that of the other three, showing that there was a new shoe. Since the cab was there after the rain began, and was golden disk, "Just let us-hear it all in your own ing—I have Gregson's word for that—
it follows that it must have been there during the night, and, therefore, that it brought those two individuals to the

his narrative." "That seems simple enough," said I; "but how about the other man's he said.

Why, the height of a man, in nine outside and the dust within.
had a way of checking my calculahis instinct leads him to write about the level of his own eyes. Now, that writing was just over six feet from he ground. It was child's play."
"And his age?" I asked.

"Well, if a man can stride four and half feet without the smallest effort. low. That was the breadth of a puddle on the garden walk which he had same house. Now, I knew that them two houses in Lauriston Gardens was leather boots had gone around and square toes had hopped over. There is no mystery about it at all. I am simply appyling to ordinary life a few of those precepts of observation and deduction which I advocated in that article. Is there anything else that dow, and I suspected as something dow, and I suspected as something article. Is there anything else that

"The finger nails and the Trichinop-

"The writing on the wall was done with a man's forefinger dipped in blood. My glass allowed me to ob-serve that the plaster was slightly scratched in doing it, which would not have been the case if the man's nail had been trimmed. I gathered up some scattered ash from the floor. It was dark in color and flaky—such an ash as is only made by a Trichonopoly. from the Gregson and Lestrade type."
"And the florid face?" I asked.

"Ah, that was a more daring shot, wasn't no sign of him nor any one though I have no doubt that I was right. You must not ask me that at "Not a livin' soul, sir, nor as much the present state of the affair."

"My head is in a whirl," I remarked; door open. All was quiet inside, so I the more one thinks of it, the more went into the room where the light mysterious it grows. How came these two men-if there were two men-in-to an empty house? What has become of the cabman who drove them? How could one man compel another to take poison? Where did the blood come and you knelt down by the body, and of the cabman who drove them? How from? What was the object of the murderer, since robbery had no part kitchen door, and then—"
In it? How came the woman's ring there? Above all, why should the sec- a frightened face and suspicion in his ond man write up the German word eyes. that I cannot see any possible way of that?" he cried. "It seems to me that

My companion smiled approvingly.

"You sum up the difficulties of the situation succinctly and well," he said.

"There is much that is still obscure, taough I have quite made up my mind der." he said, "I am one of the hounds." olind intended to put the police upon though. What did you do next?" a wrong track, by suggesting socialism and secret societies. It was not done by a German. The A. you noticed, was printed some Now a real German invariably prints Latin character, so that we may safely say that this was not written by one, but by a clumsy imitator, who overdid his part. It was simply a ruse, to divert inquiry into a wrong much more of the case, doctor. much more of the case, doctor. You know a conjurer gets no credit when once he has explained his trick, and of working you will come to the con-clusion that I am a very ordinary indi-

My companion flushed up with pleasure at my words and the earnest way in which I uttered them. I had already observed that he was as sensi-

friendly as possible—arm in arm, in seeing that I had to prop him up—me all probability. When they got inside and Murcher between us. He was a they walked up and down the room— or rather, Patent-leathers stood still. while Square-toes walked up and down. I could read all that in the walked, he grew more and more ex-cited. That is shown by the increased ength of his strides. He was talking all the while, and working himself up, no doubt, into a fury. Then the trag-edy occurred. I've told you all I know self, now for the rest is mere sur-se and conjecture. We have a good orking basis, however, on which to tered my companion. "You didn't hart. We must hury up, for I want happen to see or hear a cab after to Halle's concert to hear Nor-

man Neruda this afternoon."

This conversation had occurred way through a long succession of

ingy streets and dreary by-ways.

In the dinglest and dreariest of them

said pointing to a narrow slit in the

fine of dead-colored brick. "You'll find me here when you come back." ed me to the nearest telegraph office, then he dispatched a long telegram. He then halled a cab and ordered the

lined by sordid dwellings, We picked our way among groups of dirty children and through lines of dis-colored lines until we came to No. 46. case, but still we may as well a small slip of brass, on which the name Rance was engraved.

On inquiry we found that the Con-stable was in bed, and we were shown into a little front parlor to await his coming. He appeared presently, looking a lit-

The very first thing which ti trritable at bing disturbed in his "I made my report at the office," he said.

"We thought that we should like made there during the night. "We thought that we should like were the marks of the horse's hear it all from your own lips,"

"I'll tell it ve from the beginning." "My time is from eight at night to six in the morning. At eleven there was a fight at the White Hart: When a man writes on a wall, thought I would take a look round and stinct leads him to write about see that all was right down the Brixton road. It was precious dirty and lonely. Not a soul did I meet all the way down though a cab or two

went past me. I was a-strollin' down, thinkin' between ourselves how uncommon handy a four of gin hot would be, when suddenly a glint of light he can't be quite in the sere and yel. be, when suddenly a glint of light low. That was the breadth of a pud. caught my eye in the window of that therefore, at seeing a light in the window, and I suspected as something

to the garden gate," my companion in-terrupted. "What did you do that

Rance gave a violent fump and stared at Sherlock Holmes with the ut-

most amazement upon his features. "Why, that's true, sir," he said, "though how you come to know it. Heaven only knows! You see, when I got up to the door, it was so still and so lonesome that I thought I'd be none I have made a special study of cigar the worse for some one with me. I ashes—in fact, I have written a mono ashes—in fact, I have written a monograph upon the subject. I flatter my, self that I can distinguish at a glance the ash of any known brand of cigar or of tobacco. It is in just such details that the skilled detective differs I walked back to the gate to see if I walked back to the gate to see if I could see Murcher's lantern, but there

as a dog. Then I pulled myself together and went back and pushed the

flickerin' on the mantel-ple wax one-and by its light I saw-

you know a deal more than you should."

"Don't get arresting me for the muron the main facts. As to poor Le and not the wolf; Mr. Gregson or Mr. strade's disovery, it was simply a Lestrade will answer for that. Go on,

> however, losing his mystified expres "I went back to the gate and sounded my whistle. That brought Mur-

cher and two more to the spot." "Was the street empty, then?"
"Well, it was, so far as anybody that

could be of any good goes."
What do you mean?"

time," he said, "but never any one so cryin' drunk as that cove. He was at I show you too much of my method the gate when I came out, a-leanin' up agin the railin's and a-singin' at the clusion that I am a very ordinary individual after all."

"I shall never do that," I answered;
"you have brought detection as near help."

"I shall never do that," I answered;
"you have brought detection as near help."

"What sort of a man was asked Sherlock Holmes. John Rance appeared to be somewhat irritated at this digression.

"He was an uncommon drunk sort o' wan," he said. "He's ha' found hisself tive to flattery on the score of his art as any girl could be of her beauty.
"Til tell you one other thing." he "His face—his dress—didn't you no-

"His face-his dress-didn't you nosaid. "Patent-leathers and Square tice them?" Holmes broke in, impati-"I should think I did notice them,

long chap with a red face, the lower part muffled round-

"That will do," cried Holmes," What became of him?" "We'd enough to do without lookin' after him," the policeman said, in an aggrieved voice. "I'll wager he found

his way home all right."
"How was he dressed?" "A brown overcoat."
"Had he a whip in his hand?"

"A whip—no."
"He must have left it behind," mut-

"There's a half sovereign for you. my companion said, standing up and taking his hat. "I am afraid, Rance, that you will never rise in the force. That head of yours should be for use river suddenly came to a stand.

as well as ornament. You might have gained your sergeant's stripes last

night. The man whom you held in NATIONAL PRINTERY. your hands is the man who holds the clew of this mystery, and whom we are seeking. There is no use of argu-

O. Come along doctor."

We started off for the cab together, leaving our informant incredulous, but obviously uncomfortable.
"The blundering feel!" Holmes said

bitterly, as we drove back to our lodg-ings. "Just to think of his having such an incomparable bit of good luck, and not taking advantage of it."

"I am rather in the dark still. It is true that the description of this man tallies with your idea of the second party in this mystery. But why should he come back to the house after leaving it? That it not the way of crimi-

ways balt our line with the ring. I she plays so magnificently; Tra-inlalira-lira-lay?

Leaning back in the cab, this ama-

STRANDED IN THE DESERT.

Fully Equipped Steamer Rests on Sanda Bordering the Colorado River.

There does not seem' to be much use ifornia, which borders on the Colorado use up in a like period 8,000 tons of river, yet travelers in that region may see there a veritable "ship of the despable of floating even a mudscow, may be books and pamphlets, and 4,000 packs found a big stern-wheel steamer, accus- of gold leaf for the titles of volumes tomed to ply up and down the river, de luxe. carrying passengers and freight. She One hundred and twenty-seven has been lying there since last September, stranded high and dry on the sands a mile and a half from the stream's present course.

This strange condition of affairs has come about simply because the Colorado, a mighty stream, but one of the most treacherous of rivers, chose to ent a new channel for itself early in the fall without notice or warning.
One night last September the Alviso

tied up to the shore a couple of miles above Needles, awaiting telegraphic dity of type actually employed will be orders. See was loaded with passengers and supplies, and as travel is tons. down at the times of the melting of the what more than \$1,000,000. Colorado and Wyoming snows.

Things That May Interest You.

the substratum of London is nothing pictures. The most costly flustrations but petrified sponges. An examination of the fossil groups shows its structure and the bulletins of the fossil groups shows its structure.

Edward a copy of his march, "Imperial bound with the text.

Edward," beautifully illuminated on veilum in antique fashion and enclosed has to execute is the printing of the in a gold-mounted morocco case.

The statue of the late Governor Ros-Watertown, N. Y., on Labor day, Sept. written from beginning to end by the The statute is the work of St. Gaudens, one of the world's most famous

elected to the national house since the

monk who composed in his monastery for it, one department of the printing cell an oration which European critics office being devoted exclusively to this pronounce a masterpiece, has been publication, which is "set up" and sent feted in Rome and St. Petersburg, and to press just like any newspaper, being

rdinary course, have been retired from gress gets 22 copies daily, while a Senthe British army this month, has been ator is entitled to 42. Anybody may given an extension, and will retain the subscribe, the price being \$1.50 governorship and commander-in-chief- month; but the paper is not directly ship at Gibraltar until July 6, 1905.

Me., is one of the most persistent When Prince Henry was here he

of Sweden is writing his memoirs baps dozens of times. If finally passed hardly comes as a surprise, for the a single copy of it is printed on the reason that he has so frequently and finest parchment, and this goes to Presso successfully ventured into literature ident Roosevelt for his signature. that he might reasonably be expected to try his hand at state chronicles and personal reminiscences.

William Blair of River Edge, New Jersey, celebrated his ninetieth birthday on July 4. He was an intimate friend of General Winfield Scott, for whom he made a hammock to be used on his trip to Mexico, and paid Commodore Vanderbilt 25 cents to row him across the Hudson when the latter was paign and the probable amount of a ferryman.

Beresford today would imagine that in dotes of the stump. 1860, when he first went to sea, he was a delicate lad and was in fact put on board the warship Mariborough for his health. When he first set foot on creasing audience, including pages and creasing audience, including pages and little delay. he ain't long for this world." Lord "Charlie" has seen many lively must be remembered, is famous from stimes since then and is still lively and seattle to Eastport, and his constitu-

ing about it now; I tell you that it is GIGANTIC BUILDING IS NEARING COMPLETION.

> Will Have a Floor Space of Over Fourteen Acres and Nearly 4,000 Persons Will Find Employment-127 Presses Will Be Running.

The new government printing office is approaching completion and will be a gigantic affair, writes Rene Bache. the well-known Washington corre spondent. It will cost \$2,000,000, and will provide a total floor space of over "The ring, man the ring! That was fourteen acres-more than two and a what he came back for. If we have no cher way of catching him we can althe present establishment. As yet the building is entirely covered with scafshall have him, doctor—I'll lay you two to one that I have him. I must thank you for it all. I might not have thank you for it all. I might not have except for the interior woodwork and gone but for you, and so have missed the finest study I ever came across; a study in scarlet, eh? Why shouldn't services of nearly 4,000 people. Accurate scarlet thread of murder running through the colorless skein of life, and our duty is to unravel it and isolate it, them being women and girls. Each and expose every inch of it. And now year it will expend the enormous sum for lunch, and then for Norman Neruda. of \$4,000,000, nearly three-fourths of it attack and her bowing are splen-What's that little thing of Chop-room S24 printers will be engaged in room 824 printers will be engaged in sticking type. Eight hundred and eighty-five employes will be occupied in binding the books and documents teur bloodhound caroled away like a in binding the books and documents lark, while I meditated upon the produced, and an additional 665 will many-sidedness of the human mind. do nothing but fold the printed sheets.

Figures like these give a notion of the gigantic scale on which the shop will be conducted. Each twelvemonth it will consume for bindings the skins of 36,000 sheep and 11,000 goats, in addition to 75,000 source feet of "Russia for a ship in the desert country of Cal- leather," made from cowhide. It will white paper, 40,000 pounds of printing ink and 37,000 pounds of glue, together Far from any body of water ca- with 7,000 pounds of thread for sewing

presses will be constantly in operation in the great building, their total output in a working day of eight hours being just about 1,000,000 impressions, These presses are of every conceivable kind, one of them being capable of a new channel for itself early in the fall | web of bristor-board at the four other machines turn out 40,000 printed envelopes every sixty minutes. The quanapproximately 1,500,000 pounds, or 750

sometimes leisurely pursued on the No other government spends any Colorado, all hands turned in for a thing like the amount of money on good night's sleep. Between 3 and 4 public printing that is squandered by o'clock, Captain Babson was aroused Uncle Sam. In this particular Congress by Indians, who warned him that for is always disposed to a reckiess exe reason the river was falling rap-travagance, and hence the huge size , and advised him to pull out into midstream as quickly as possible, are an important perquisite of Sena-This the captain tried to do, but the tors and Representatives, who scatter water had already gone down so low them broadcast among their constituthat his prow stuck fast in the mud ents. One hundred tons of a single rewhen he got up steam and tried to port now in press will be issued and turn the paddle wheels and move out distributed in this manner, and the into navigable water. And there he total number of volumes of various has stuck ever since, becoming resigned kinds of literature turned out by the to his situation perforce and hopefully office in a twelvemouth is about 1.000. awiating the flood water that comes 000, representing a total cost of some

Nowadays government books, like other kinds of publications, require illustrations, and the cost of these ran up to about \$300,000 last year, it is safe to say that ten years from now Uncle Sam's printing shop will spend It is said that the flint that forms pretty nearly half a million dollars for on the apple and peach crop. I mean Bureau of Ethnology, many of these never met with a loss of any account. Several Kruger Sovereigns, the last being in colors. Each bureau furnishes sued by the ex-president of the Transvaal, and struck in his train near Ma- has them reproduced by firms in Boschadodorp in 1890, are now on view in ton, New York and elsewhere. These firms print the illustrations and return John Philip Sousa has sent to King them to Washington, ready to be

Congressional Record. This daily newspaper, which records nothing but the vell P. Flower is to be unveiled in doings of the National legislature, is official reporters of the House and Senate, who take down in shorthand every word that is said at either end of the As many as 7,287 men have been to typewriters, and the material thus Capitol. They dictate from their notes American congress was organized. The reduced to typescript is sent over to number does not include those who the printing offices in batches by mes-American congress was organized.

The printing olices in pattern of the pattern olices in pattern olices i at on contests.

Gred compositors are employed exclu-father Hartman, the young Austrian sively in the business of setting type is now the lion of the hour at Vienna. delivered every day to about 9,000 sub-Sir George White, who would, in the scribers. Each representative in Conprofitable to Uncle Sam, lnasmuch as it

Jonathan Littlefield, of Biddeford, costs \$125,000 a year.

e., is one of the most persistent. The printing of bills is another im souvenir hunters in the United States. portant feature of the work of the establishment. Though only a few hun secured his autograph, which was dred of the measures submitted to Con written directly under that of Fresi- gress in a year become laws, millions dent McKinley in his collect on, and he has also splinters of the floor where A bill must go through a great many the president stood when he was shot. phases before it can become a law, and during the process of its evolution it The announcement that King Oscar has to be printed again and again—per-

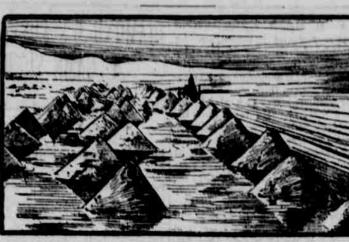
MAN WITH A BIG VOICE

Member of the "Spellbinders' Trust'

Grouped in the lobby one warm day taking in the light southerly breeze, were buif a dozen of the House leaders. Then and there the "Spellbinders" trust" was formed. The coming camspeaking that would be required were No one looking at Lord Charles bers of the trust drifted into anec-

Charles Littlefield, of Maine, led off. doorkeepers. Mr. Littlefield's voice, it must be remembered, is famous from ents in Maine insist that they can hear second visit and made a second dis- tee is really back talk.

CURIOUS SALT DEPOSITS.



One of the unique sights of California is the remarkable sait deposits at Salton. This region lies in a depression some 300 feet below sea level, and is thought at one time to have been the bed of an ancient sea or lake. The tract of land looks like a vast snow field.

The rock salt deposits cover about 1,000 acres, and are now worked for commercial purposes. The output from this place is about 2,060 tons of salt annually, valued at from \$6 to \$34 per ton. The labor is done chiefly by Indiana, who are able to withstand the intense heat of the desert (running up to 150 degrees in

June) better than the white men.

The method employed is as follows: The sait is first collected by a peculiar plough having four wheels, in the center of which sits an Indian to guide it. This is run by a cable from a distant dummy engine. This machine cuts a broad and shallow furrow eight feet wide and three feet long, throwing up the ridges on both sides. Indians follow in the wake of the plough with hoes and pile up

the rumbling when he speaks in the traint, broke the lock and forced an

"It was up in Buffalo in the '96 campaign," he continued. "A local lawyer and I had been assigned to a big meeting over on the tough side of the city. The local man, who was evidently making his first campaign appearance, was the door was brutally forced, of a wellintroduced first, and proceeded to draw from his inside pocket a manuscript, from which he started to read.

"It was a pretty hard crowd, taken all together, but at the same time they were a bright lot and up-to-date. My friend read on for some twenty minutes under great difficulty, and then the crowd began to cheer and shout in derision. Nothing like this, however, could stop him. All kinds of questions were fired at him, but he paid no attention and continued to read off long lists of statistics. At last the chairman of the meeting signaled the leader of the band to start up. The band played 'Home, Sweet Home,' as a gentle bint, but the speaker only waited until it finished and then continued. At the end of an hour of the worst rot I ever heard, my ambitious friend closed in what he thought was a blaze of glory. Three cheers for the speaker-for finishing?" some one yelled.

"The cheers were given, and then was introduced. It was a tough proposition, but I jollied along with the crowd for some fifteen minutes, and then launched into what I thought was my best line of talk. I fluished all right, and the chairman said I had made a bit. "In driving to the hotel after th

meeting the local speaker said to me: would be a wonder." Just then a roll call was announced and the trust adjourned.-Washington

correspondence New York Herald. TOO MUCH PROVIDENCE.

Conclusion of the Deacon Who Refus

"Years ago, when I was in the fruit business," said a Michigander the other day, "I used to take some long chances My nearest shave was with a good old deac n, who had 500 pench trees in St. Joe county. I knew the orchard well. It always sent fine peaches to market, and one season I determined to copper the yield. I struck the place with those 500 trees loaded down with blossoms and estimated that the yield could not be less than 1,500 bushels. I offered the deacon \$1,000 cash in hand, but he shook his head. Then I went up \$250, and finally made the figure \$1,-500. That was \$1 a bushel, and the picking and packing was to be at my

expense. 'No. I don't think I'll do it,' replied the deacon, after scratching his head for a while

"'I don't believe you'll get a better offer.

"Mebbe not, but I think I'll trust to Providence; I may get at least \$2,000 for my peaches."

"I didn't care to raise my figures. said the buyer, "and so the matter was off. I heard from the orchard just as the trees were covered with young peaches, but about that time a drought set in and things began to burn. There wasn't a smell of rain for six weeks, and there wasn't a peach that wasn't baked and shriveled and dried unti you couldn't tell what it was. The 500 trees didn't yield five entable peaches. Meeting the deacon along the week of August, I said:

"Well, deacon, I'm \$1,500 in pocket." "'Yes,' he slowly replied.

"'Going to trust to Providence another season?

"'Not entirely-not quite. I've figured it out that if I accept 98 per cent. of a good thing and trust to Providence about 2 per cent. I may be able to buy me a pair of new boots next year."-Detroit Free Press.

English Landlord's Ways The secretary of the Tenants' Pro tective League sends us details of a pe-culiarly unjust and hard-hearted distraint on the part of a Peckham landlord. Last December a widow took a house

in Peckham upon an annual tenancy at a rental of £39, and was foolish enough to sign an agreement containing a clause which specified that the rent was to be paid quarterly in advance. She was allowed to enter without any prepayment, and on the 25th of March six months, £19, was demanded, one quarter due and one quarter in advance This, of course, she was unable to pay and before March bad run out her home was stripped from kitchen to attic of all its furniture save and except what was contained in one small bedroom, where one of her daughters lay dying

On Saturday last the broker paid a

entrance into the sick room, and cleared it of everything, even to the beef ten have taken the bed upon which the dying girl lay, but was prevented by the accidental presence in the room, when known Church of England clergyman, who was tendering to the girl dying of

termined protest saved the girl her bed. The Tenants' Protection League will take the earliest opportunity of holding a public meeting to protest against such barbarous proceedings. They have accordingly convened a meeting for 8 clock on Sunday afternoon on Peckham Rye, where the chairman will give chapter and verse, names and details of the outrageous acts here described. -London Chronicle.

cancer apiritual consolation. His de-

The Day Was Fine.

A ten-ton steam-hammer is not the proper implement to employ in crushing peanut shells. Yet what Adrian H. Joline calls the "habit of intellectual domination" sometimes leads to a misuse of mental force which suggests a similar disproportion between the work and the instrument.

Charles O'Conor, one of the last as well as one of the finest of our dignified lawyers of the old school, was a man of kind heart, but was rendered somewhat overbearing by the practice of cross-questioning witnesses and confounding opposing counsel.

"I have a vivid recollection of the Mr. Littlefield, if I only had your choly, subservient slave in his office, can quote copiously from the Bible. voice, with what I have to say, I named Effingham. Really, that was not flugham would sometimes greet his master of a morning with fawning politeness, rubbing his hands and saying. It's a fine day, Mr. O'Conor."

"Whereupon the jurist, fixing a cold and glittering eye upon his affable clerk, would reply:

"'Effingham, I am in good health and in full possession of my senses. I know that it is a fine day, and I do not need you to remind me of it?"

spirit had time to recover from

Lord Spencer's Bargain.

Lord Spencer of Althorp, one of the greatest of book collectors, was at an, I got her to unfold her whole home only in his own field. One day, scheme to me. She did it without any in browsing about Bond street, he went sort of hesitation. into the shop of a dealer in bric-a-brac. The dealer, who knew him by sight,

"Here is a fine bit of pottery which your lordship really ought to have, and next door, who had employed her to you shall have it very cheap-only two pray for her husband to quit drink-

It home, and set it in a high place. One woman seemed to be very proud of her day a connoisseur of china paid him a calling, and whatever other people may bargain.

"What did you give for it?" asked the connolsseur. "Two guineas," answered Spencer,

rather proudly. "H'm!" said the connoisseur. that price the marmalade should have

been included." "What do you mean?" "Why, that precious piece of yours

marmalade pot, with a green thistle painted on it."

published "Life of Queen Alexandra," Queen's early life was spent, and the off, roared: young Princesses were required to dust take of the informal family luncheon on him?"-Philadelphia Times. at the Palais recalls that the butterdish chanced to need replenishing, and the Princess Louise (of Denmark), instead of summoning a servant, turned to her eldest daughter and said: "Alexandra, will you fetch some more butter?" And the future Queen of England departed on the homely errand to

The matter of kin settles whether a vedding is to be a home or church affair. Aristocratic kin who look well lots of poor kin means a "cosy wedding

the larder.

We wish that we could take care of future ambitions as a girl speaks of getting married, and use "when"

That which some people call repar-

DRESS COST \$40,000.

Gown Exhibited in Chicago Made for

The famous \$40,000 coronation robe made by the ambitious Mme. Barutti, of Paris, for the Czarina of Russia was placed on exhibition in Chicago recently. The robe, which is the fluest ever shown in America, and one of the finest ever seen at any time in the world's history, was viewed by thousands of

The costly gown is a wonderful creation of gold thread, ermine, white satin and royal purple velvet. Not a jewel was used on it, but \$10,000 worth of gold thread and \$7,000 worth of royal ermine were fashloned into the gown during the two years it took Mme. Barutti to complete it.

The history of the royal robe is as interesting as its folds are luxurious. Royalty never were the gown, although It was made for the Czarina, but without her knowledge. When the old Czar of Russia died; Mme, Barutti aunounced that she had been commissioned to make the robe for the Czarina. She hastened to carry out her plans. After many months she began showing the gown to her creditors, who were harassing her, for she owed more than 6,000,000 francs. Ambitious to become the royal dressmaker for all the houses of Europe and hoping thus to recoup her lost fortunes and clear up her credit, Mmc. Barutti convinced her tradesmen her day was coming and secured further credit from them.

The time arrived, however, when she saw the robe would not grace the coronation, and Mme. Barutti went to the room where the gown was displayed and killed herself. The gown and all she owned were sold at auction, and finally came into the possession of a New York firm.

The great mantle, twenty-seven feet long, is the main part of the gown. It is of royal purple velvet, trimmed with white satin ribbons and a wealth of gold thread, and lined with 1,500 royal ermine skins. The gown proper is decollete, of double thickness of white satin. The train extends 100 luches from the waist, and is bordered with a gold fringe two inches wide. Every detall of the wonderful robe is elaborately wrought. The scattered gold decorations and scroll work, the rich laces and heavy satin make it a modiste's dream. -Chicago Inter Ocean.

PROFESSIONAL PRAYER.

The Odd Business of an Old Negress a in New Orleans.

"In one of the more unique quarters of New Orleans I have found one of the most unique characters I ever saw, in an old negro washerwoman," said a man who has lately taken up his residence in one of the more popular avennes of the city, "and she seems to be proceeding along original lines in the main purpose of her life. Washing clothes seems to be a mere incident to great lawyer," says Mr. Joline. "He the general plan she carries out. She was a 'character!' He had a melan- is an interesting old character, and This seems to be a hobby with her. She his name, but it will do. Poor old Er. has some kind of construction to put on every line she quotes, too. She can tell you just exactly what it means from her way of looking at it. But

this is not the point I had in mind. "Several days ago I got into conversation with the old woman, and she asked me if I didn't have some family washing to give her. I told her I did not, but encouraged the conversation, as I have a fondness for the negro of the ante-bellum type, finding them al-After such a snub gloom doubtless ways very interesting. She finally threw a quotation from the Bible at and still another, and so on. boss,' she said after a while, 'does yo' ever have anybody to do any prayin' fo' yo'?' I told her I did not, and, becoming more interested in the old wom-

"She is a professional prayer, and makes no small sum out of it from what she told me. She told me she was praying once a week for the lady ing, although he is a very light drink-So Lord Spencer bought it and took er, to my own knowledge. The old visit, and Lord Spencer showed his say about it she is an enthusiastic believer in the efficacy of her own prayers."-New Orleans Times Democrat,

From Pottsville comes a story of an old chap who is proud to describe himself as the original anti-expansionist. Soon after the breaking out of hostilities with Spain and the passage of the war revenue act by Congress be began is nothing more or less than a shilling to orate against the new taxes as an exhibition of federal tyranny. He would fairly froth at the mouth as he denounced the war tariff and would Anecdotes of the Queen's Girthood. darkly hint at the possibility of a lat-Mrs. Sarah Tooley, in her recently- ter day Patrick Henry and a new awakening of the people to a sense of the ells some very interesting anecdotes of injustice. A severe cold hid him low, her majesty. As a child the Queen's and his doctor, finding him asleep one surroundings were exceedingly simple. day and thinking a little blistering "Mamma," said the little Princess one would do him good, applied a fine large day, "why may not Dagmar and I wear mustard plaster to the old fellow's back. "Because," replied The burning, stinging bite of the heated her mother, "your father is not a rich mustard awoke the crusty patient, ho man, and muslin dresses cost so much rolled over in agony for a minute or to get up." There were not many serv- two, clapped one hand behind him, felt ants at the Gule Palais, where the the plaster, and, frantically tearing it

"Has it come to this, that an old man their own rooms and to make them- like me can't even die peaceably in his selves useful at meal times. A gentle- bed without having the government man who was invited one day to par- come along and clap a revenue stamp

> He Ate "Innards." An actor who was accustomed to

spend his summers in Wilton, Me., noted when, as the custom was, a farmer "killed a critter," the liver, sweetbreads, kidneys, etc., were thrown away. He offered to purchase these delicacies, but, though he got the goods, the "sturdy farmer scorned his proffered gold." Not long after he observed as he walked through the village that he was the cynosure of all eyes, and on parade means a church wedding; was followed by a wondering, if not admiring, crowd, chiefly composed of the young. "Aha!" thought he, "I cannot escape my fame; my glory as an actor has followed me even to this obscure hamlet." And he was mightly puffed up till he overheard one yoke shout to another: "Bill, there goes the feller what eats innards!"-Boston Journal.