

HAPPILY RUINED.

Arthur Morton sat in his room in his hotel. He was a young man six-and-twenty, tall and slim frame, with a face of great intellectual beauty, dressed in costly garments, though his toilet was but indifferently performed. He was an orphan, and for some time had lived at a hotel. It required but a single glance into his pale features to tell that he was an invalid. He sat with his head resting upon his hands, and his whole frame would ever and anon tremble as though with some powerful emotion. As the youth sat thus his door was opened, and an elderly gentleman entered.

passed off, and he could pace the vibrating deck with a stout stomach, his appetite grew sharp and his muscles began to grow strong. At first he craved many delicacies he had long been used to, but they were not to be had, and he very soon learned to do without them. The result was his appetite became natural in its wants, and his system began to find itself nourished by simple food taken in proper quantities.

Influence of Light on Ants. Sir John Lubbock, Bart, M. P., in a paper containing some further observations on ants read at a meeting of the Linnean Society, said that in one of his former papers he had given a series of experiments made on ants with light of different hues, in order, if possible, to determine whether ants had the power of distinguishing colors. For this purpose he utilized the dead which ants, when in their nest, have of light. Not unnaturally, if a nest is uncovered, they think they are being attacked, and hasten to carry their young away to a darker and, as they suppose, a safer place. He satisfied himself by hundreds of experiments that if he exposed to light most of a nest, but left any part of it covered over, the young would certainly be conveyed to the dark portion. In this manner he satisfied himself that the different rays of the spectrum act on them in a different manner from that in which they affect us; for instance, that ants are specially sensitive to the violet ray. But he was anxious to go beyond this, and to attempt to determine how far their limits of vision agree with ours. This interesting problem he endeavored to solve as follows: If an ant's nest be disturbed, the ants soon carry their grubs and chrysalides underground again to a place of safety. Sir John, availing himself of this habit, placed some ants with larvae and pupae between two plates of glass about an eighth of an inch apart, a distance which leaves just room enough for the ants to move about freely. He found that if he covered over part of the glass with any opaque substance the young were always carried into the part thus darkened. He then tried placing over the nest different colored glasses, and found that if he placed side by side a pale yellow glass and one of deep violet, the young were always carried under the former, showing that though the light yellow was much more transparent to our eyes, it was, on the contrary, much less so to the ants. So far he had gone in experiments already recorded. But he now wished to go further, and test the effect upon them of the ultra violet rays, which to us are invisible. For this purpose, among other experiments, he used sulphate of quinine and bisulphide of carbon, both of which transmit all the visible rays, and are therefore perfectly colorless and transparent to us, but which completely stop the ultra violet rays. Over a part of one of his nests he placed the flat-sided bottles containing the above mentioned fluids, and over another part a piece of dark violet glass; in every case the larvae were carried under the transparent liquids, and not under the violet glass. Again, he threw a spectrum into a similar nest, and found that if the ants had to choose between placing their young in the ultra violet rays or in the red, they preferred the latter. He infers, therefore, that the ants perceive the ultra violet rays which to our eyes are quite invisible. Now, as every ray of homogeneous light which we can perceive at all appears to us as a distinct color, it seems probable that these ultra violet rays must make themselves apparent to the ants as a distinct and separate color (of which we can form no idea), but as unlike the reds and reds from yellow or green from violet. The question also arises whether white light to these insects would differ from our white light in containing this additional color. At any rate, as few of the colors in nature are pure colors, but almost all arise from the combination of rays of different wave lengths, and as in such cases the visible resultant would be composed not only of the rays which we see, but of these and the ultra violet, it would appear that the colors of objects and the general aspect of nature must present, to them, a different appearance from what it does to us. Similar experiments which Sir John also made with some of the lower crustacea point to the same conclusions; but the account of these he reserved for a future occasion. He then proceeded to describe some experiments made on the sense of direction possessed by ants. After detailing some further experiments on the power of recognizing friends, he gave some facts which appear to show that ants, by selection of food, can produce either a queen or a worker at will from a given egg. Lastly, he stated that he had some ants which he had commenced to observe in 1874, and which are still living and in perfect health. They therefore must be more than seven years old, and by far the oldest insects on record.

made for him and the officers sent to arrest him joined in the hunt, but the scoundrel doubled on his track, returned to the farmer's house and remained overnight and disappeared the next morning. He was now a fugitive. He got his brother Lon with him, and, with a third man, turned up in the town of La Harpe a few months afterward. They virtually captured the town. "I'm very sorry to trouble you," said Ed, as he rode up to a farmer's house, "but if you've got anything here worth taking, I want it." He got it. The three bandits then rode from one farm to another and, brandishing their revolvers, demanded everything of value. They made a good raid, and made off with many expressions of regret for intrusion. The Town Marshal and a squad tracked them to the next town and found them in a saloon. The Marshal placed his hand on Ed's shoulder and remarked: "You are my prisoner." In the twinkling of an eye Ed covered him with his pistol. "Not by a d—d sight," said he, coolly, and he was right. The Marshal didn't touch him, and Ed and his companions rode off.

True Fidelity. In these days—when defalcations and embezzlements are of so frequent occurrence, when so many who occupy positions of trust and responsibility prove recreant to the confidence reposed in them—it is refreshing to note instances of an entirely different character. Abraham Lincoln, while a resident of New Salem, Illinois, followed various vocations. With the rest of them was a "storekeeper" and postmaster. On a certain occasion one of his friends, having learned that an agent of the Postoffice Department and a "drummer" were in the village—the former to collect what was due the Government from Lincoln, as postmaster; the latter to receive from him, as "trader," what he was owing the firm represented by himself—and knowing Lincoln was never overburdened with spare funds, went to the store and offered to loan him a sum sufficient to meet the claims he was so soon to be called upon to settle. "You are very kind," said Lincoln; "but I do not think I shall require your assistance." Within a few moments the agent entered their presence, and Lincoln took an old stocking from a drawer, out of which he poured a lot of copper and silver coin—the latter mostly in pieces of a small denomination. "There is the very money I have taken on account of the post-office," he said to the agent, "and I think you will find the exact amount due you." It was, to a cent. This business had hardly been concluded, when in came the "drummer." Lincoln had recourse to another old stocking, with a similar result. So soon as the two were again by themselves, the friend said: "I suppose, were a third creditor to present himself, a third stocking would enable you to settle with him," smiling. "Yes," returned the future President. "Look here," and he held up three other stockings. "In each of these is the sum I severally owe to three parties—the only persons in the world to whom I am, pecuniarily indebted. I see you are amused at my way of transacting business. I never allow myself to use the money that is not mine, however sorely pressed I may be, and I intend to be prepared to pay my bills when they become due, without delay or inconvenience to those whom I owe. The simple system which I have adopted—using a stocking to represent each creditor and placing in it the money, to be passed to the creditor himself at some future day—renders the former unnecessary and the latter possible."

PERSONAL AND GENERAL. Diarsell: A definition of liberty—do as others do, and never knock men down. A little learning is not a dangerous thing to one who does not mistake it for a great deal. The truly strong and sound mind is the mind that can embrace equally great things and small. Walter Savage Landor: No ashes are lighter than incense, and few things burn out sooner. If an offense come out of truth, better it is that the offense come than that the truth be concealed. Greensboro, D. C., has a paper called the Daily Battle Ground. We suppose it is a domestic issue. The free man thinks of nothing less than of death; his wisdom consists not in meditation of death, but of life. Truth is better to light by time and reflection—falsehood gathers strength from precipitation and bustle. It is better to wear out than to rust out. We must not only strike the iron while it is hot, but strike till it is made hot. We take lessons in art, literature—a thousand things; but that high sense of honor, man's obligation to man, is forgotten. Benefit your friends, that they may love you still more dearly; benefit your enemies that they may become your friends. Vanity Fair says that England is being rapidly renounced to a fortress in the ocean, without self-supporting food powers. The first advertisement in a newspaper appeared in 1648, and the first paper devoted exclusively to advertisements and shipping in 1657. Charnook: God often lays the sum of his amazing providence in very dismal affections, as the limner first puts on the dusky colors on which he intends to draw the portraiture of some illustrious beauty. Fenderson was at the theater the other night. "It was a burlesque, a take-off, wasn't it?" asked Smith. "Yes," said Fenderson, "that's what it was, I guess. They had taken off about everything they dared to do." The Paris Figaro propounds this conundrum: "Give two widows of the same name, same social condition and character, one of whom had a husband and the other a good one, which of the two will have the strongest desire to get married again?" Senator Hoar has been visiting Westminster, Massachusetts, seeking information concerning the former home of the Garfield family. It was from this little town that Solomon Garfield grandfather of the president, departed to enter the army of the revolution. The weeping willow is said to have been brought to America by Lafayette on his second visit, who planted it on Washington's grave as his tribute to the great man. The tree flourished and from it clippings were taken, and thus has it spread all over the United States. A San Francisco lady wanted her little girl to bathe in a room, the windows of which opened into the yard, in which were some fowls. "But," said the little girl, "I don't want to bathe before the chickens." "Oh, never mind the chickens," said the mother. "Well," said the little woman, "I won't bathe before the rooster, anyhow." Opium Smoking in British Burma. A return just published contains a copy of a memorandum by C. U. Aitchison, Chief Commissioner of British Burma, on the consumption of opium. The Chief Commissioner says his attention had been specially directed to the change which was gradually coming over the Burmese national character, of which the principal cause was said to be the growing habit of opium-smoking. When on a visit to Akyab he was waited on by a large deputation of the most influential natives of the town, who presented a petition describing in very forcible language the misery entailed on the population by opium, and praying that the traffic in opium might be altogether abolished in Arakan. The Chinese population in Burma consume opium without any apparent bad effects, and do not smoke to excess; but the Burmese seem quite incapable of using the drug in moderation, and the dealers tempt young men to smoke by giving them at first opium to smoke. Among the Burmese the habitual use of the drug saps the physical and mental energies, destroys the nerves, enfeebls the body, predisposes to disease, induces indolence; filthy habits of life, destroys self-respect; is one of the most fertile sources of misery, destitution, and crime; fills the goals with men of relaxed frame, predisposed to dysentery and cholera; prevents the due extension of cultivation and the development of the land revenue; checks the natural growth of the population, and enfeebls the constitution of succeeding generations. That opium-smoking is spreading at an alarming rate under our rule does not admit of doubt. On this point the testimony of all classes of officers and of the population is unanimous. The quantity of opium consumed in 1879 was more than double what it was in 1869, and the prosperity of the country was less than the consumption of opium was greatest. Missed a Car. An excited man rang the door-bell at John F. Myers' well-known drug store last night. "What's the matter?" said John. "Open the door." "Who are you?" said the drowsy druggist. "Missed a car." "Well, I don't care a continental if you missed three," said John, as he retired. Presently the bell rang violently again. "What's wanted?" asked the ever ready purveyor. "Missed a car," was the answer. "Well, what do you suppose I care if you missed a whole train of 'em. I'll take a shot at you if you don't clear out." "Yes, but I want a prescription. My name is Mist'er Carr." "Well," said Myers, "why in thunder didn't you say so?"

On the Track of Outlaws.

CHICAGO, July 29.—A dispatch from the Maple Spring Camp, Eau Claire county, Wisconsin, says that new life has been infused into the pursuit of the Williams brothers by the arrival of eight Indian scouts, with thirty bloodhounds, employed out West by the U. S. Government. The scouts are headed by Buffalo Charley and Yellowstone Kelly. With these names the public was made familiar during Custer's and Miles' campaigns in 1876 and 1877. Buffalo Charley's parents, brothers and sisters were killed by the Indians over six years ago, since which time he has devoted his whole heart to the work of tracking redskins and fugitives from justice generally. The trail of the outlaws will be taken up in the vicinity of Doolittle's camp and the scouts will go ahead with the entire pack of bloodhounds, making such a hunt as was never witnessed in the Big Woods before. The pursuit of the Williams brothers has been kept up since the tenth of July, when they shot down two men in the streets of Durand and escaped to the wilds of Wisconsin. They are a dangerous pair and know how to fire a fatal shot without taking aim. Edward and Lon Maxwell are the real names of the outlaws, who are keeping Wisconsin in a fever heat and it is only a late year that they have become known as the Williams brothers. In the early part of the war the father and mother of the then mere lad lived in Fulton county, Ill., upon a farm. In 1874 they moved to Washburn, and subsequently to Colchester, in McDonough county. Edward worked on a farm out of town. One day he rode into town, ordered a suit of clothes at a store and said he would call for it. That night he broke into the place, got his clothes and retired to the farm. Dines, the clothier, went after him with a warrant. Young Edward pulled open his coat, displaying a bowie-knife and a couple of revolvers. While Dines was in the house Edward stole his horse and drove off. Chase was

Mystery of Exchange.

Most of our readers are aware that the quotation of foreign exchange represents a premium considerable in excess of the actual fact; but we doubt whether all of them know precisely what is the difference. By the use of the bankers, the old Spanish dollar is as the par of exchange, one pound sterling being equal to four and four-ninths of these dollars. In point of fact, however, in the established moneys of Great Britain and the United States, a pound sterling contains as much gold as 4.44 4/9 of United States money, and this is the true par of exchange or rate which must be used in converting the money of one country into that of another. For instance, if anything costs £100 in Great Britain, its true value expressed in the money of the United States is \$487. Accordingly, it is a fact familiar to all bankers, that when exchange is quoted at 109, there is no real premium, but the true par has been attained; because if we multiply 4.44 4/9, which is the nominal par, by 109 4/2, which is then the quoted rate, we get \$487, which is the true par. We need scarcely add that it is owing to this circumstance that the exports of gold from the United States are not larger. If there existed such a heavy premium on bills of exchange as many people suppose, it would be immensely profitable to export gold to Great Britain. In point of fact, in view of the necessary expense of freight, insurance and loss of interest, the margin does not more than cover the risk. The United States half-gold, it may be added, contains 116 grains of pure gold, equivalent to \$5, the British sovereign, or pound sterling, 113 grains, equivalent to \$4.87 of the United States money.

Tunisian Feminine Beauty.

Plumpness, such as would be considered exuberant in the cold and critical North of Europe, constitutes the popular ideal of female beauty in the Regency of Tunis. Among marriageably young ladies of that province slenderness of form and delicacy of proportion are regarded with justifiable aversion, as disqualifications for the wedded state. The father a maiden the better is her chance of making a good and early match. To be abnormally obese is to be certain of drawing a prize in the matrimonial market, and the loveliest liteness remains unwooed, while homely corpulence can pick and choose from among a throng of eligible suitors. How deep a root this predilection for capacious charms has struck in the Tunisian manly bosom may be gathered from the fact that widowers, desirous to marry again, should they haply, moved by family or pecuniary considerations, select a bride whose dimensions are reported to fall somewhat short of those to which their previous experiences had accustomed them, are wont to send the "dear departed" girl and bracelet to the parents of their too exigent betrothed. On receipt of these articles conveying a hint that it might be expedient to make up for nature's shortcomings by the judicious treatment, the bride's papa and mamma proceed to fatten her with assiduity and dispatch. For some weeks she leads the life of a Strasburg goose, and when she has attained the necessary goodly proportion, her nuptials are celebrated to the entire satisfaction of everybody concerned in them.—[London Telegraph.]

Pet Names.

And now for one or two specimens of vulgarity of a deeper hue—vulgarity by which the morals of the country is deteriorated, dispositions are marred, and even, in the case at all events of one that will be named, the stability of the constitution itself is to a certain extent imperiled. Amongst these a very prominent one is the appallingly vulgar habit of calling every one, high or low, acquaintance or stranger, not excepting even the fair sex, by "pet" names. In the sanctuary of the family, and in that of long-standing friendship, the mutual address by "pet" names is a privilege according to affection. In the case of ladies it is a freedom not accorded to well-regulated communities to any of the other sex outside the family, unless, perhaps, to men advanced in age, who, from long and intimate acquaintance, have become as it were, domesticated in the family. It may be that the names of public men are considered public property, and that they have to pay this penalty of their prominent position. But it is carried among us to an offensive degree, which tends to rob the people of every sentiment of respect or defense. And the vulgarity is intensified by the hideous names with which American parents insult their children at an age when they are too young to resent it. Thus we have "Gusses" and "Jakes" and "Ikes," and a host of other barbarous abbreviations of a barbarous nomenclature, the very sight of which in print is equivalent of a powerful shock from a galvanic battery. A worthy Episcopal minister, in trying to do battle against this rage for uncount names, came to grief. He was baptizing a female infant. The godmother, who held the child in her arms, was a bright little damsel with a very pronounced lip, and when bade by his reverence to "name the child," said, as well as she could: "Luthy, thir." The good man thought she said "Lucifer." "Nonsense! I will baptize it by no such name. John, I baptize thee," etc. And so the little girl went into the world saddled with the name of "John."—[The Hour.]

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