

**FIVE *.THOU

me off. I'm awfully sorry, but said. the Governor won't give way. I'm really fond of you, and I think you are of me, but-

"O! why didn't I want to marry a decent barrister, a doctor, or even a journalist, instead of an Earl's younger son?" said Miss Muriel Mallett, with a frown on her pretty face, and a tear or two in her large, limpid eyes-eyes which made all the men think, wrongly, that she was poetical and sentiment-"But, seriously, can you give me

The Hon. Bob Martindale looked at her. She was just his ideal-tall, wellbuilt, but with a saucy face in which the big black eyes seemed out of place, if fascinating. There was in her countenance the strangeness which, according to Bacon, is necessary to great beauty. She affected a tailor-made gown and was always well groomed; yet, though her dress was a trifle mannish, in the brusque movements which showed that she was fidgety, glimpses of gossamer stocking and fine Valenclennes revealed themselves, and showed that she had a conscience in costume that would have delighted the hero of Gautler's novel with the famous pre

"My dear girl, if it were a question of risking my life, or anything like that,I wouldn't hesitate; if it were even one of those affairs of fellows who for a few hours of—of—well, you know, gladly die, I'd be there; but—but I can't They have brought me up as a swell without any profession, and I'm a bit of a fool, and I couldn't live on your earnings as actress, so there

Miss Muriel sighed. Bob was a handsome fellow and manly, and he would have the title and estates some day if two obstacles were to disappear.

"I did like you, Bob, and do, and you were always straight. I should like to have been your wife. If only we'd some money to run a theatrical com pany with!

"Yes, if I hadn't been such a juggins as to blue the five thou, old Uncle Tom left me-I didn't know you then."

"Yes, if we'd the five thou.!" she started a little. "You will marry me if ever I have £5,000? O, you'd have to work, have to be my manager." He nodded.

"It's a promise for two years?"

"Yes.

"Honor bright?" "Yes, of course, if-

"If I run straight? Well, look here.

we've been engaged-honorably-and you want to break it off." He lowered his head, "I'm young, only 24 even at Somer-

set House. I'd like to have married you, and I should have been a good wife, too. However, some day I may want to marry some one else." The man shuddered.

"A broken engagement isn't a certificate of good character; you must give me one. That's fair.'

She got up and wheeled to him a little round table, on which was a croc-odile-skin writing-pad, with silver pened it, took out writing paper, and found him pen and ink. 'Now, then, write this-

"My Dear Miss Mallett: It is my painful duty to tell you that I have made fruitlessly a desperate effort to gain my father's consent to our marriage. He utterly refuses, saying that he is so old-fashioned as to object to have an actress as daughter-in-law, Therefore, I am compelled to break off my engagement with a woman whom I still love and esteem."

The Hon. Bob signed the letter sad

'Now, be off. I've to go to rehearsal. more, if within two years I have five thou, as capital, you promise you will marry me?"

'Yes, darling, on my word of honor!" With a swift movement she threw her arms around his neck and kissed him passionately. A minute later he found himself in the street, sad and bewildered.

That evening there was rejoicing in the big mansion in Belgrave square, and the Earl of Hexham drank too much in honor of the return to re-

We'll soon find you a wife, my boy," he said, over the port, which he drank in honor of the affair and in defiance of gout and doctor's orders. of your rich American trash, but some one of decent family and the sort of solid, reasonable dowry that a younger son deserves."

Next morning at 12 o'clock, when the Earl was vainly trying to put on his boots without swearing at the pain,

Y dear girl, you'll have to let | thought she'd have done it, sir," he

"Done what?"

"Look; the beastly thing says, "The plaintiff claims damages for breach of

promise of marriage." Bring me my slippers!" shouted the Earl; "damn the horse! send round the brougham!

Off he went to Lincoln's Inn Fields. "You'd better settle," said Mr. Pon-der, the old family lawyer. "Settle!" he shouted, "settle! I'll

show up the baggage, the —! I'll put every detective in London on the job. I'm not afraid of court, and when the jury hears what she really is-" "But the scandal?"

"Don't talk aljout scandal; enter an appearance, and leave the rest to me."
"My dear Governor," interrupted Interrupted Bob, who had accompanied him, "be fair to the girl. I didn't think Muriel

would have done it; but she's perfectly

straight—I'd stake my life on it."
"Nonsense, Bob! You're a fool, and you'd better stay abroad till the affair's over. I'll attend to it. I'll show her how to fight," The Earl's eyes gleamed. "We'll teach her, won't we, Ponder, what litigation means?" Then he told a lengthy, stale tale of his successful lawsuit about right-of-way-a success which added a new mortgage to the family collection.

"It's all very well," said Mr. Ponder, but that was chancery, this is common law. I'm sure we should make a mess of it. One of my articled clerks has set up in business in Bedford Row; he's a smart fellow, and will fight hard, and just suit you."

Bob went off to the Riviera, and lost all the money his father gave him. During his absence the old gentleman employed a detective-a fellow with splendid imagination, but very poor powers of observation-and the skirmishing was done under the Earl's supervision. Bob was to have staid away till after the trial; however, an urgent letter from a club friend of his father brought him home in a hurry. He arrived in the evening, and, going to the Carlton, learned that the case was in the list for next day. When he reached Belgrave Square and was shown into the library he found his father with Mr. Hicks, his Bedford Row solicitor. There was a row going on at a high pitch. "Pray tell your father he must set-

tle," said Mr. Hicks.

"Settle be damned!" interrupted the

old boy. "Settle, I say," rejoined the solicitor.

"You see, Mr. Martindale, Sir Edward says he won't cross-examine the plaintiff as to her character. He suggests that the material is absurd, and he does not believe a word of the detective's story-he says he'd sooner return the brief."

"And the check?" gasped the Earl. "Yes, and the check. He says there's no decent defense, and he won't try to support the detective's tissue of lies. Moreover, he insists that if he did he'd fail, and the damages and disgrace would be awful."

"What does it matter to me?" shouted the old gentleman. "It's not my it's my son's.

"That's a bit steep," observed the

"My retainer is from you, my lord,"

urged Mr. Hicks. "O. I'll pay your confounded costs, but where will they get their damages

from?" Bob groaned.

"They've told me they'll make him bankrupt," replied Mr. Hicks, "and his discharge will be suspended for two years at least."

"What has that to do with me?" said the Earl grimly.

Bob interposed: "Lord Salisbury has many claims on his patronage, and in my bankruptcy he'd find a decent excuse for leaving me out in the cold."

The Earl had no gout, but he managed without its help to use very vigorous language concerning sons, solicitors, advocates, and actresses.

"They will take £5,000 for damages, with a full apology and withdrawal in open court," said Mr. Hicks, "and £500 for costs."

"An apology! A withdrawal!"
"A withdrawal of all the charges

on the record."

Next day, to the infinite disgust of the reporters and the crowded court, Sir Edward, in a graceful speech, made an apology of the most ample character, withdrew all imputations, and announced that £5,000 would be paid as compensation for the injury to the lady, together with her costs.

The Morning Post, on the morrow announced that the Earl of Hexam had gone to Buxton.

When the honorable Robert, a day the Hon, Bob entered the library with later, received a letter from Muriel, a document in his hand. "I never saying she was most anxious to see

him, he took a cab to Brompton Crescent, and grew more and more perplexed every inch of the way.

Miss Muriel, looking very neat, naty, handsome, and piquant, with a prodigious glow of life in her eyes, shook hands with him warmly and made him sit down on the sofa by her side. For a quarter of an hour she stimulated his curiosity by talking about nothing in particular. At last his patience broke down.

"Look here, Ella." he said brusquely, stow the cackle and come to cues. I'm delighted to see you, and don't bear malice; but what on earth put it into your pretty head to send for me? She laughed loud, long, and heartily so loud, long, and heartly that at last he laughed with her.

Well, you are a goose!" she said. "I know it," he answered. "I dread Michaelmas."

"I think your brain is developing; you're growing witty. O, you haven't got there yet!"

"Well, but-

"Listen to me. The Hon. Robert Talbot Hiesmes Clarence Martindale made promise to Miss Muriel Mallett that if within two years she had £5,000 to finance a theatrical company with he'd marry her."

He gazed open monthed.

She wheeled up the little round table to him, opened the crocodile-skin writing pad with sliver edges, and took a bundle of crisp "filmsies" from the

"One, two, three, four," she counted out up to fifty; 'fifty' brand new Bank of England notes, each for 100 beautiful, shining sovereigns. You see, I've got the five thou."

He stared, mentally paralyzed, "The damages!" she shouted, hysterical with laughter.

"The damages!"

"Yes, and your promise." "Yes, but-

"There are no buts about it; you've promised, and you love me,"

He nodded. "And I love you. If the Earl hadn't played it so low down in the defense might have chucked up the game. As it is, I hold you to your word as a man

of honor. Will you marry me?" She looked into his eyes. He really loved her. She took hold of his left hand, his right arm wandered round her waist.

"Will you marry me?" she repeated, her lips an inch from his.

He replied affirmatively without a

word. There is now one obstacle the less between the husband of the fascinating Muriel Mallett and the earldom of Hexham, for his lordship died suddenly from apopiexy on getting a telegram from an old club friend concerning his son's marriage with the fascinating actress.-The Sketch.

Interviewing Casey.

A reporter of a New York daily once went to the office of the late General Casey to get some information concerning the Lydecker tunnel story. General Casey looked at the young man rather sternly at first, and the reporter expected but scant detail to follow. 'Come in, sir!" he exclaimed, in a tone of almost unpleasant command. The two doors of his office were open. The reporter was standing. The genwithout a word, went to one door and closed it with the utmost precision; then he went to the other door and closed it with the same precision. The reporter was in doubt. The two were in the room alone. Coming up to the newspaper man, he pointed his index finger straight at his eye, and said: "Sit down there, young man, and I'll tell you the —st story you ever heard," And he did.

A Long Shot. James Shields was elected to the Senate in 1848, defeating his predecessor, Senator Breese. Shields had distin-guished himself in the Mexican War, and at the Battle of Cerro Gordo he was shot through the lungs, the ball passing out at his back. His recovery was one of the marvels of the day. Shields' war record is believed to have secured to him his triumph over Breese. When the news of Shields' election was received, a lawyer named Butterfield was speaking of it to a group of friends, when one of them remarked: "It was that Mexican bullet that did the business." "Yes," retorted Butterfield, "that was a great shot, ball went clear through Shields without hurting him, and killed Breese one thousand miles away."

Fiery Dragons. In the "Statistical Account of Scotland," published at Edinburgh in 1793, there is an account of the "rare appearance" of flery dragons, which sailed through the rarified atmosphere of the Scottish highlands in the latter part of November and the first few days of September, 1792. According to the account, they had a "fiery red color" and made their appearance in the north, flying rapidly in an easterly direction. The account adds that "many people regarded the phenomenon with much terror" because it "was indeed a strange and startling sight to behold.

A Vacuum.

A perfect vacuum is a perfect insula-It is possible to exhaust a tube so perfectly that no electric machine can send a spark through the vacuous space, even when the space is only one centimetre.



Saw a Meteoric Stone Fall.

Mr. J. F. Black, a farmer, living about nine miles from Ottawa, Kan., saw a small meteorite fall on his land late in the afternoon of April 9 last, and going to the spot where it fell, picked it up. It weighs thirty-one ounces and contains a little iron, but consists in the main of stony material.

New Zealand's Gems. Agate-hunters from Germany are now exploring New Zealand with very promising results. Blue and white topaz and splendid specimens of amethyst have been discovered by them, as well as large pieces of quartz so filled with slender, rutile crystals as to resemble masses of matted hair.

Java's Man-Ape. Prof. Marsh, of Yale, has recently aunounced his opinion that the remarkable remains of a skull, teeth and other tossil bones found by Dr. Dubo's in Java belonged to an animal that "was not human, but represented a form intermediate between man and the higher apes." This opinion confirms the belief of the discoverer of the bones, who called the animal pithecanthropos, or "ape-man." The bones were found in ancient volcanic deposits, and belong, Prof. Marsh thinks, to the age known as the Pllocene

New Kind of Kites.

Meteorologists are now trying to study the atmosphere high above the ground with the aid of self-recording barometers and thermometers, etc., sent up in kites. This has resulted in a great improvement in the forms of kites, which are now constructed on scientific principles. At the headquar-ters of the Weather Bureau in Washington box-shaped kites, with open ends and sides partly covered with silk, are used. Instead of twine or cord, fine plane wire is employed to hold the kite. At the Blue Hill Observatory, near Boston, box-shaped kites have been sent up to an elevation of almost a mile above sea-level.

A Phosphorescent Party. Monsieur Henry, of the Paris Academy of Sciences, has invented a phosphorescent starch with which surprising effects can be produced. Used as a face-powder, it makes the countenance glow in a dark room with mysterious radiance. Recently a "5-o'clock tea" was given in Paris after dark, no light being employed except that supplied by phosphorescent starch sprinkled over everything in the room. The carpet, the ceiling, the pictures on the walls, the furniture, the teacups, the flowers, the faces, shoulders and dresses of the ladies all glowed and gleamed, making a spectacle that was at once startling and beautiful.

Oldest Man in the World. According to statistics collected in Germany the oldest man known to be living anywhere on the earth is Bruno Cotrim, a negro born in Africa, but now living in Rio Janeiro. Upon the same authority is based the seemingly incredible statement that there are 3,883 persons living in Bulgaria, each of whom has reached, or passed, the age of 100 years, making one centenarian to every inhabitants of that country! Germany, with a population of 52,000,000, claims only 78 centenarians, and France, with a poulation of 40,000,000, 213 centenarians, while Ireland, whose population numbers only 4,600,000, has 578 centenarians.

Destroying Friction

After calling attention to the fact that man was content with the use of oil to keep machinery in running order until he began to ride the bicycle, when he demanded some better labor-saver and invented ball-bearings, the Scientific American proceeds to illustrate and describe some recent applications of such bearings. They are employed for wagon and carriage wheels, for the carrierwheels of cable roads, and for the shafts of swift-running machinery. They practically dispense with the use of the oil can and greatly reduce the amount of friction to be overcome, thus adding to the effective power of all machines in which they are used. The singular fact is noted that Prof. Boys, of London, showed experimentally that ball-bearings, when properly constructed, are practically proof aginst wear, He demonstrated this fact by weighing the balls of a bicycle-bearing when they were new, and again after they had been subjected to long service. They showed no loss of weight.

American Soapstone. In the Ragged Mountains, in Albe marle County, Virginia, the scene of one of Poe's weird tales, exists a great deposit of soapstone which is said to be the finest in the world. It was discovered only about twelve years ago, but now a small colony exists at the spot and three quarries have been opened. The stone, which is very hard and

fine-grained, is cut out in bloca aging nine tons in weight, and ward is sawed into slabs. It ployed, among other things, for a chemical laboratories, tubs and p laundries, linings for fireplace dles, which need no greash; made of sonpstone, tables and a in hospitals and dissecting-room is said to have no effect upon the

Does Woman Earn Her Ke Thousands of women work

mines of Belgium, England and wall. In the first-named count formerly worked from twelve teen hours a day, with no Sunday The linen-thread spinners of Ne sey, according to the report Labor Commissioner, are branch of the industry compel stand on a stone floor in water p round, most of the time barefoot a spray of water from a revolve inder flying constantly against breast; and the coldest night b ter, as well as the warmest is mer, these poor creatures mus their homes with water dripple their underclothing along the because there could not be spar few moments allowed them whe change their clothing." are "exempted" from labor an by hardship!

Despite these washerwomen and linen-thread spinners, we is "it is woman's privilege genen be exempted from the care of a her livelihood and that of her spring."

It would seem to be time the libel upon woman should be by fair minded men. From all m ty the majority of women have faithful workers, rendering a equivalent in labor for their share of the world's goods. The of every industry bears testime this. In our own era, while w were still homekeepers, did the earn their livelihood? What we weaving, the sewing, the cooking doctoring, the nursing, the child "the work that was never done" was not earning a subsistence? in these days, when woman goal and receives the reward of her as publicly as man, she is no worthy of her hire. Her ances sweet and saintly soul!-did not è of recompense. But was it is due, and shall we refuse to ce because man was then a self-sufignoramus who deemed himself only one fit to acquire property! ular Science Monthly.

Will Not Submit to Dictation The subject of renewing the leges of the Bank of France will ly come up for discussion in the ber, after having been in she since 1892, when the senate app a bill for the purpose.

The bill has not since been my and the provisions included in it it is thought, be adopted without terial alteration. One of them, was to empower the bank to in its note issue from 3,500,000,000 to to 4,000,000,000, was passed as far as 1893. The charter expires of 31, 1897, and the proposal is to a it for a period of twenty years that date, in consideration of the making certain concessions a

state. Among these concessions is on which the bank is to forego all in interest on the government debt 000,000 francs, and not to deman payment of the capital so long ! charter is in force. The bank undertake the service of the man debt and transact other business the treasury, both at the head offer branches, free of charge, and mil annual payment to the latter for 000 francs during the first years currency of the new charter and 000 francs per annum subsequent is to open several new brain and make advances to agriculture operative societies.

It is not improbable that and will be made to convert the bank a state institution, but such a prodoes not command support either financial or ministerial circles, not in the least degree likely to with success.-Edinburgh Scots

Edison's Speech.

Mr. Edison has only once tris make a speech. It was before a seminary, where he had agreed # ture on electricity. He had ess a friend named Adams to operate apparatus while he talked; but ! the "Wizard" arose before his ence, he felt so dazed that he said: "Ladies, Mr. Adams will address you on electricity, and I demonstrate what he has to say the apparatus."

Heard While Waiting. A passenger, while waiting at a way station for his train, amused self by watching the queer look antics of a tailless cat as it played? on the platform. The stations happening to pop out of his office intending traveler pointed to the and said, "What kind of a cat is a Manx?" "No," replied the station ter, with a sly smile, "Brighton

A woman should at least be gn for one thing: she is never asked a pallbearer.

press."