

THE GRUMBLER.

The grumbler growls at Nature's plan;
He's sorry that he's human.
He doesn't want to be a man,
Nor yet to be a woman.
He'd hate to be a beast or such
As share the fish's lot;
In fact, 'twould not annoy him much
If he were not.

He takes you by the buttonhole
And grumbles in your ear.
He tells you that his very soul
Is shriveled up and sore.
He wishes he were dead and gone,
But whew! you'd make him hot
To hint the world would still jog on
If he were not.
—Catholic Standard.

IN THE NEXT ROOM.

"ENGAGED to be married!" slowly uttered Theresa Middleton, and to think that Blanche Follett should have been the first of the graduating class to wear an engagement ring.

"How soon are you to be married, Blanche?" asked Sophie Dean.

"I don't know. As soon as Guy's father returns from Europe, I guess."

"What a funny old man, all in snuff color, that sat next to us that afternoon at dinner!" laughed Sophie. "And how he stared at us. I shouldn't wonder if he wasn't some rich old widower."

"Horrid old fogie!" said Theresa. "Do you know, girls, he has taken the room next to ours?"

"What do you think?" exclaimed Sophie, coming in the next morning dripping and radiant from her bath. "Old Snuff Color is sick! The doctor was there half an hour ago, and I just saw the waiters carrying in ice for his head."

"Some horrible fever!" cried Theresa, turning pale. "I mean to change to some other hotel at once. Blanche—"



"I MEAN TO KEEP YOU ALWAYS."

where is Blanche? How provoking when we are in a hurry to decide the matter!"

It was more than half an hour before Blanche Follett returned, and when at length she entered the room Theresa and Sophie were half through the task of packing their trunks.

"Blanche!" cried the former, petulantly, "where have you been?"

"In the next room with the sick old gentleman, doing my best to nurse him."

"Blanche!" shrieked Theresa.

"Well?" was the calm response.

"Well, are you mad?"

"No—only human. If it was my father," added Blanche, courageously, "do you think I should permit him to be alone and unattended in a hotel like this?"

"Blanche, are you crazy?" cried out Miss Dean. "What do you suppose Dr. Archfield would say to risking your life thus?"

"I do not feel there is any risk," said Blanche, calmly. "Moreover, I believe Guy would bid me do my duty at any and all hazards."

"Well, then," said Sophie, "I wish old Snuff Color would die and be done with it, for it won't be half so pleasant without you, Blanche."

"Old Snuff Color," however, as Sophie irreverently termed him, did not die.

"My dear," he said to Blanche Follett, "I have much to thank you for. Before yesterday I never knew the soft touch of a daughter's hand upon my brow, the music of a daughter's footsteps around my bedside. Nor shall I consent to part with them now. I mean to keep you always, my child."

"Does he mean to adopt me?" she asked herself.

"For I do not think you have once suspected," he added, with a quiet smile, "that all your secret charitable offices have been rendered to Guy Archfield's father."

"Mr. Archfield, senior, is in Europe," she said hesitatingly.

"He was, my dear," the old man answered, dryly, "but he returned on the Ariadne, and is here by your side. I telegraphed to Guy this morning. He will be here in half an hour to confirm my words. Little Blanche, will you give me a daughter's kiss now?"

"My own Blanche, you have won his heart," said Guy Archfield. "The only doubt I ever entertained about our marriage—his consent—is solved at last. He honors you as you deserve. And the prettiest of all Blanche Fol-

lett's wedding gifts was the parure of diamonds given by her wealthy and eccentric old father-in-law.

And Theresa Middleton and Sophie Dean cried out in chorus, as they had cried out before many a time: "Blanche is the luckiest girl!"—Indianapolis Sun.

DIVING INTO VAST DEPTHS.

Extraordinary Feats Have Been Performed by Famous Experts.

At what depth can a diver carry out his functions? How long can he remain under the surface? What is the effect of high air pressures on the human system? One well-known firm of submarine engineers limits the depth of descent to twenty-five fathoms, or, say, 150 feet. But operations have been carried out at greater depths than this, and perhaps the greatest distance below the surface at which a diver has succeeded in working is thirty-four fathoms, or 204 feet. This was accomplished by James Hooper, who descended to the ship Cape Horn, sunk off Pichidanque, South America, and sustained a pressure of 88½ pounds on every square inch of his body.

Another remarkable feat was that of Alexander Lambert, who recovered \$350,000 in gold coin from the steamship Alphonso XII, sunk off Point Gando, Grand Canary, in nearly thirty fathoms of water, the actual depth of the treasure room being twenty-six and two-thirds fathoms, or 160 feet. This man also performed the daring feat of stopping the flooding of the Severn tunnel when a door in the drainage tunnel had been left open. The door was situated a quarter of a mile distant from the shaft, but equipped in his diving dress he crept that distance through a narrow passage full of water and closed the door. This plucky act enabled the pumps to overcome the volume of water which was flooding the working and allowed the completion of the tunnel to be carried out.

A further interesting case of deep diving is that of Angel Erostarbe, who succeeded in recovering silver bars valued at \$45,000 from the steamer Skyro, sunk off Cape Finisterre in over thirty fathoms. In this case the diver had to blow away portions of the vessel with dynamite before he could reach the treasure chamber. Three dives per diem were frequent and as many as five descents were made in one day. The maximum period under water was twenty minutes.

The effect of high pressures on the constitution is not found injurious when the work is carried out under ordinary precautions. A French scientist has gone so far as to claim that breathing compressed air is a remedy for asthma and emphysema. It is also said to excite digestion, owing to the great quantity of oxygen carried into the blood. It has been found that a period of two hours should elapse between a meal and a descent. In descending the movement should be slow, and if the pressure causes pains in the head this can be remedied by rising gently a few feet, when the descent can be recommenced. In ascending divers are recommended not to exceed a speed of two feet a second.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Mendicants' Wives.

Clergymen are more often the victims of professional mendicants than any other class of public men. An uptown minister recently had a caller who wanted the price of a meal. He was a well dressed, strong fellow, who told a hard luck story of lack of employment. Two weeks later the same man applied for the price of a railroad ticket to Danville, where he said he had found employment. After an absence of ten days the beggar returned to the minister's home last Saturday, saying that he had been ill and was unable to take the Danville job, but that he had been offered work in Springfield. Would the minister advance the money for the fare? No. Well, would the minister give him half a dollar to buy a breakfast? "I told the fellow to wait until I got my coat and hat and I would take him to a restaurant and pay for a meal," said the clergyman. "When I returned to the door he was gone. I started on a business errand, and as I turned the corner of the next street there stood my man with another fellow drinking out of a bottle. I stopped long enough to catch the fellow's eye, and he actually had the grace to blush. I know now how my previous contributions had been applied. I suppose I have been the innocent cause of many a man's taking a drink. But it is difficult to draw the line between the really deserving and fraudulent applicants for aid."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

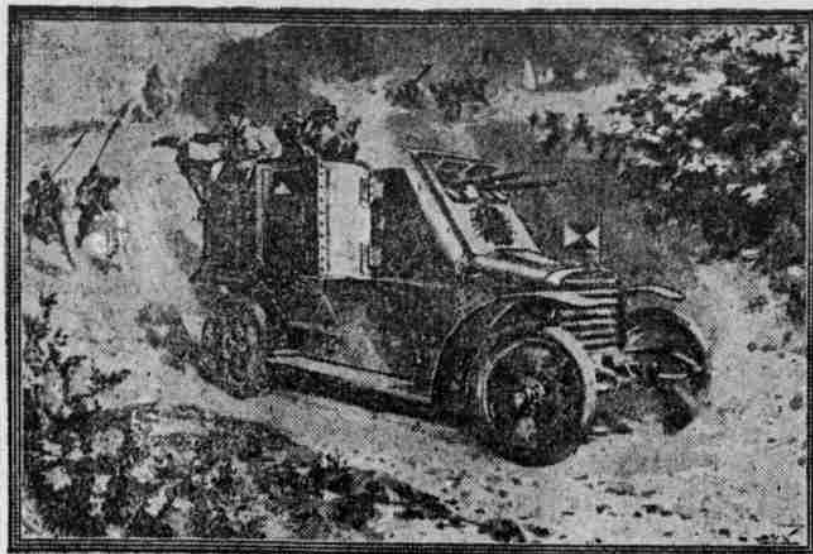
Even Bears Have to Rest.

"Why do bears sleep through the winter?" asked the boy who is studying natural history.

"Because," answered his father, "the President does not go hunting then. They've got to sleep some time."—Washington Star.

Many a man's so-called happy home is happy only when he isn't there.

THE ARMORED AUTOMOBILE.



An important means of conveyance in business and pleasure, the automobile has also taken its place as an adjunct to the field of carnage. The German Kaiser has introduced it into his armies and is well pleased with the possibilities. In the bush and in the mountain passes, of course, the horseless carriage would be useless, but in the open and especially where good roads prevail as they do throughout a greater part of Europe the automobile is to take the place of horses in conveying officers from one part of the field to another. Its use will enable a commanding general and his aides to cover a much wider territory than would be possible with horses. In all German army maneuvers the automobile finds a prominent place. The machines used are heavily armored, carry quick-firing rifles to be discharged through loopholes, and are provided with cases of revolvers for use at close quarters. In actual warfare even the wheels would be protected by armored casings. Our illustration, from the London News, represents a group of officers traveling from one point to another and protecting themselves in a hot attack.

RAVAGES OF ROSE BEETLE.

A Destructive Insect that Attacks Roses and Grapes.

During the last few years complaints have been made in increasing numbers by fruit growers and gardeners of the ravages caused by the rose beetle. This destructive insect is called the rose beetle, from its attacks upon the buds and full-blown flowers of roses, which it burrows into and devours, but it by no means confines its attention to this plant. It is especially injurious to the blossoms of the grape, upon which it clusters in great numbers, and soon destroys all possibility of fruit, and the bay, and from whence we may see far into the sea, and might be easier impaled, having two rows of houses and a fair street. So in the afternoon we went to measure out the grounds; and first we took notice how many families were there, willing all single men that had no wives to join with some family, as they thought fit, so that we might build fewer houses; which was done, and we reduced them to nineteen families. To greater families we allotted larger plots; to every person half a pole in breadth and three in length, and so lots were cast where every man should be; which was done and staked out, and this was the laying out of Leyden street. An unfinished plan of this street is to be seen on the old records of the courthouse.

The street was laid out in reference to the water supply, for "there is very sweete brooke runnes under the hillside and many delicate springs of as good water as can be drunk."

Isaac De Rasieres, visitor from New Netherlands, gives this account of the architecture: "The houses are constructed of hewn planks, with gardens also inclosed behind and at the sides with hewn planks, so that their houses and courtyards are arranged in very good order, with a stockade against sudden attack; and at the ends of the street are three wooden gates. In the center, on the cross streets, stand the governor's house, before which is a square inclosure, upon which for patrollers (steen-stucken) are mounted, so as to flank along the streets. Upon the hill they have a large square house with a flat roof, made of thick sawn planks, stayed with oak beams, upon the top of which they have six cannon, which shoot iron balls of four and five pounds, and command the surrounding country.

Now Plymouth is a town of 10,000 inhabitants. Main street, the principal business street, below where it meets Leyden street, is now a well-macadamized street, with granite curbing and concrete sidewalk and substantial buildings on each side. The town is provided with a public waterworks, sewer system, gas, electric plant for light and power and an electric railway. Throughout most of its history, notable as a fishing village, thriving manufactures now provide profitable occupation for the townspeople.

Why Ice Floats in Water.

Water is the sole exception to the otherwise universal law that all cooling bodies contract and therefore increase in density. Water contracts as its temperature falls, and therefore becomes heavier and sinks until it reaches thirty-nine degrees. At this temperature water is the heaviest. This is the point of its maximum density. From this point it begins to expand. Therefore in winter, although the surface may be freezing at a temperature of thirty-two degrees, the water at the bottom of the pool is six or seven degrees warmer. Suppose that water, like everything else, had gone on contracting as it cooled until it reached the freezing point. The heaviest water would have sunk to the lowest place and there become ice. Had the water when at the bottom turned into ice, the stones would have locked it in their interstices and held it there, and before the winter was over the whole pool would be entombed in clear, beautiful crystal.

Little Satisfaction.

"Here, you!" growled the fat man in the corner seat of the crowded car, "my feet are not there to stand on!" "That's so," replied the quiet of-fender; "since you're sitting down you don't need 'em for that purpose, do you?"—Catholic Standard and Times.

FIRST STREET IN AMERICA.

Highway in Plymouth, Mass., Is Named After University Town.

Leyden street, Plymouth, Mass., the first street in America named after the famous Holland university city, from which the pilgrims came, was surveyed on Dec. 28, 1621, says the Municipal Journal and Engineer. The records state that "so many as could went to work on the hill, where we purposed to build our platform for our ordnance, and which doth command all the plain

WHEAT TO GROW IN ARID SOIL.

Experiments in Breeding Cereals Which Do Not Require Water.

An acre of ground near the northeast corner of City Park, being utilized by Robert Gauss, a newspaper man, as an experimental farm on which he is endeavoring to breed drought-resisting plants, so that millions of acres of arid lands in the West may be made productive, is attracting the attention of botanists and agriculturists in all parts of the United States, and experts connected with the United States Department of Agriculture are taking much interest in the results obtained by Mr. Gauss, says the Denver Post.

Mr. Gauss' experimental work, which he has been doing quietly for ten years, has become so important to Colorado and the West that the Park Board a few months ago told Mr. Gauss that it would set aside a tract of land for him. Prior to that time he used ground in Montclair. Since 1896 he has been following a theory which he first preached twenty years ago. The results have been remarkable.

Briefly set forth, this is Mr. Gauss' idea. Adapt vegetation to physical conditions. Make wheat which grows in a humid soil grow in an arid soil. Sow the wheat, or other plant, in the arid soil, and from the product take the seed which is the best and which came from the hardest of the plants and sow it the next season. After much selection of the best seed in time you will breed a plant which will not require much moisture.

The plan sounds simple enough and is directly opposite to the Campbell dry-farming system. Mr. Gauss' idea is to make the plants grow in the arid region regardless of the condition of the soil. Mr. Campbell's idea is to treat the soil so as to make the plants grow. The men have started from the two extremes. Both have been successful to some extent.

The theory of artificial selection advanced by Darwin and Wallace is being worked out by Mr. Gauss. During the ten years in which he has been at work he has convinced himself that drought-resisting cereals can be grown.

"I do not think the problems of acclimatizing cereals or species of any other kind," says Mr. Gauss, "to arid conditions have been solved. It will require a long time and much patient and careful work to reach the desired goal. But I am fully convinced that although the way may be long it is practicable to traverse it, and that it presents the most satisfactory solution of the problem of arid agriculture in that part of the country which lies east of the Rocky Mountains.

Mr. Gauss is a prophet who has pointed the way. From results thus far obtained by him it seems certain that in the course of time, perhaps a few generations, all the West will have become productive through the planting of seeds from plants which have been acclimated and which have become accustomed to an arid soil after having been raised in a humid soil.

FIVE MEN CAPTURE A FLEET.

Remarkable Act When Savannah Was Invested by Americans.

Lee tells another remarkable story, the romantic interest of which leads us to include it, says a writer in Outing. When Savannah was invested by the American army, Captain French, with a small body of British regulars and five small vessels, was stationed twenty miles up the river, and the proximity of the American force made him nervous. Colonel John White of the Georgia line wanted to capture this detachment, but no soldiers could be spared by the American general for the undertaking. Now the colonel was a determined and masterful man and resolved to make the venture on his own account. He persuaded his three orders and Captain Etholm to aid him.

At the fall of night they built a great many fires in the woods near the British post, arranged so as to give the impression of a hostile camp of large force. Then the colonel and his four friends, "imitating the manner of the staff, rode with haste in various directions, giving orders in a loud voice. French became satisfied that a large body of the enemy were upon him, and, being summoned by Colonel White, he surrendered his detachment, the crews of five vessels, and 130 stand of arms."

Colonel White pretended that he must keep back his troops, as Tory outrages had infuriated them and indiscriminate slaughter might take place. He took the parole of the British captain and soldiers not again to serve, gave them three guides, his orderlies, and hurried them away before daybreak lest the fury of his pretended soldiers should fall upon them. "The affair approaches too near the marvelous," adds Lee, "to have been admitted into these memoirs had it not been uniformly asserted at the time, as uniformly accredited and never contradicted."

Ample Explanation.

Harkins—Why doesn't Walker stop to speak? I thought he knew you? Barkins—He used to, but I introduced him to the girl he married. Neither of them recognize me now!—Tit-Bits.