E CONTRACTOR OF

This is the place I loge the best, The little brown house, like a ground-bird's Hid among the grasses and vines and trees,

Summer retreat of the birds and bees. The tenderest light that ever was seen Sifts through the vine made window screens, Sifts and quivers, and flits and falls

On home-made sarpets and gray-hung walls. All through June, the west wind free The breath of the clover brings to me, All through the languid July day I catch the scent of the new-mown hay.

The morning glories and scarlet vine Over the door-way twist and twine; And every day when the house is still, The humming-bird comes to the window-sill.

In the cunningest chamber under the sun I sink to sleep when the day is done, And am waked at morn, in my show white bed By a singing bird on the roof o'er head.

Better than treasures brought from Rome. Are the living pictures I see at home; My aged father, with frosted hair, And mother's face, like a painting rare.

Far from the city's dust and heat, I get but sound and odors sweet. Who can wonder I love to stay, Week after week, were hid away In this sly no k, that I love the best, The little brown house, like a ground-bird's

FRED RAINOR'S PLEUGE.

"Only nine o'clock! What a long valvet cushions of the lounge in Judge's amnor's family sitting-room.

her lap, and she turned to a vase on the stand beside her, and examined the rare flowers that it held.

"I do wish you would come, Charlie," she continued; "your flowers worry me. Can I wear them and accept his wealth, his love and an enviable position in society? Such an oportunity comes but once to a penniless orphan. flowers in my hair Fred's imagine looms

shoulder, she soid:

was alone. You are not going out at flannel. this late hour?"

from off his shoulder, and started on.

"Do you still like me, Maze?" my owr brother.'

me. Do you belong to him? Are you stood on the rug.

On the olive-draped mantle are grand-

to receive them.

ence of God, I swear that, as long as I the pretty refuge of this proud and in-retain these flowers, I will not touch a dustrious girl, who is self-respecting drop of liquor. If I keep them and my enough to earn her own living rather one year?"

You may. Be true to yourself, and I will be true to vou." At that moment the bell rang. "Go to the sitting-room, Fred, and I will join you in a moment,

trust me?' in the sitting-room, where we will leave eral's letter is dated "South Beach, below them for a time that Maze may tell him | Mayport, August 13, 1882:" of the battle she had fought early in the

in reality no relationship existing be- seen. years old her parents died, and, by a strange commotion in the surf was some mismanagement, during the last noticed. On nearing the shore, it was his firm friend, and when, upon his sharks, and the the other of saw-fish. It death-bed, he asked him to take her and was high tide, and the water was quite between them, he readily consented. monsters, "God will reward you," said the the water.

do it for the love I bear you. I will be twenty were in view, was fierce and a father to her."

my words, God will reward you." often thought of the dying man's prophecy, and considered it fulfilled, for Maze had always been faithful and given them fifty teeth on its margins. It was found the Big Injun; the High Muchy-Much of the ranche. He's the Gevernor and Arabi Bey has throwed off on him," said the train-dispatcher of the North Park a daughter's love, and frequently he was | that one of the sharks had bitten a piece heard to say that if Fred, his only son, out of his side equal to a foot square, were half so dutiful or loving, his cup of through which his bowels protruded. At joy would be full to overflowing. But one time it looked as if another pair of of late Fred had been leading so wild a the combatants would be stranded, for in life that they feared he would not only their struggle they came so near the bring diagrace upon them, but would shore that they touched bottom all the soon be lost to them forever. His time, but they finally managed to join

When Maze heard her uncle and aunt seeing the terrific fights of sea moncoming, she bade Fred go to his room sters. for the night without seeing them, but | My daughter will carry the saw of the to be sure to meet them the next mornobeyed with a joyful heart. A few pleasant words having passed between osities. Mrs. Rainor and Maze in regard to the evening that each had spent, the latter prepared to go to her room. "Don't hurry, my daughter," said abroad.

Mrs. Rainor. "You are so radiantly besutiful to-night that it cheers me to look at you. Are you happy?"

"Yes, indeed, auntie, and you and uncle will be, too, in the morning. I am going to have company to breakfast, and you will be ready to receive my guest. You can never guess who it is, and I won't tell you, so good night;" and bestowing a loving kiss upon each, the beautiful girl left them.

Bright and early the next morning Maze was flitting back and forth from dining-room to kitchen, and from kitchen to dining-room, giving her orders for breakfast, the servants all the while eyeing her in perfect amazement, for such a thing had never before been heard of.

"I am going to have some friends to breakfast," she explained, "and I want things arranged according to my own taste. I will also wait upon the table myself.

he approached them. "Mother, father," he said, taking a hand of each, "through the influence of that dear little womon," bowing his head to Maze, "I am resolved to lead a better lite. Will you take me back to your fall like a block to the ground.

hearts as of vore?" Too happy to speak, his mother laid her head upon his breast and wept. His father walked around the table to where Maze was standing, and taking her in his arms, said: "God has, indeed, rewarded

Long years have passed since then, evening it has been !" sighed sweet lit- but as Maze sits in the midst of her tle Maze Cranston, as she sank into the grandchildren, telling them of their grandfather's pledge, she is more beautiful than ever. A tear glistens in She had been exceeding restless all the Grandpa Fred's eyes as he produces a evening. She tried to sew, but after small bunch of faded flowers; and the taking a stitch or two her work fell into children, guessing at the tender memories they call forth, leave them alone to live again the happy hours of their youth, with the fixed purpose of doing some great good, as grandma did.

A Love of a Room.

A young working girl of this city, by the exercise of her own innate good taste, Now every time I attempt to fasten the and putting every spare penny where it would do the most good, has furnished up before me? I see, 'tis to remind me | forth a charming room at comparatively that you, dear Fred, have for years oc- small expense and sufficiently esthetic cupied the place in my heart that to please the most fastidious person. Such a burden I could not keep pace with my Charlie now wishes to fill. Why can't I The floor, painted by her own hands, is comrades. In fact, I soon lost sight of their do something to help Fred lead a better a dark walnut shade, partly covered by a columns, and could discern nothing around me life? Poor auntie's heart is breaking, and large rug made of cheap ingrain carpe, but the white and silent plain. I still walked uncle is no longer cheerful and happy, in a small pattern of cream and olive on, when presently appeared a troop of Cosas he used to be. Oh, that I might be bordered by a broad band of plain olive ticulations and wild cries. the means of restoring Fred to his friends and to a true life? But uncle and aunt olive, flecked with pink, finished by a will be here soon. I must rouse myself, narrow olive frieze, terminating at the cost me, not to abandon him. I laid down on and not let them think they have corners with a cluster of four tiny pink the ground, and covered him with snow; then wearied me. I will go to the library and get a book. Lounging in this lazy way will surely accomplish no good."

Consers with a cluster of four tiny pink fans. One window faces a dingy brick wall, and she painted the window panes in bright water colors, following a pretty their lances right and left, while the horses Suiting her actions to her words, con- traced pattern, which gives a bit of trampled us under their feet. One of these As she passed through the dimly-lighted room. Stained glass quite effective in the pretty heavy beasts set his foot upon my arm, and room. The other window is draped crushed it. My friends, I did not speak, I did hall, she met Fred preparing to leave the bouse. Laying her hand gently on his puslin depending from rings on a plain to stife the cry of torture which nearly escaped house. Laying her hand gently on his muslin, depending from rings on a plain houlder, she soid:
"Why, Fred, you here? I thought I with a heavier curtain of olive cotton

The furniture is light wood, and a "Yes, I am, Maze. What difference lamp with a rosy transparency stands on does it make whether I go or stay? No a 5 o'clock tea table of unvarnished wood, one cares for me now, not even father and and throws a soft light over the room, mother; they never say a word to me. | which also contains books, shelves of Not much wonder I go from bad to pine, a couple of second hand easy chairs worse. Nor will I keep you standing and a small dry goods box for shoes, here either;" and he slook the tiny and covered by her own hands with pink and olive cretonne. A large clothes-"Dear Fred, stop one minute. Please horse, on which she pasted the story of stay in to night; I am all alone. Hang Cinderella in Walter Crane's pictures up your hat, and go to the sitting room over olive paper, shuts off the wash stand with me. You do not know how I long and bedstead from vie v. The toilet acfor your company, or how it grieves me cessories, set off with fresh sprigged to see you going astray. Don't you re- muslin over a pink lining, are a pink and member, Fred, what good times we used | white washbowl and a large pitcher of to have? I do, and I have missed you so the quaint shape that comes now in the cheaper grades of china; a second-hand wardrobe, draped with a portier of olive "Indeed I do, as dearly as I could love canton flannel, contains the unsesthetic dust-pan, brooms, and other homely ar-"But, Maze," said he, drawing her ticles necessary to neatness and comfort, closer to him, and gazing earnestly in all trifles of that description bought at her clear, dark eyes, "there is but one the five-cent counters. A pretty willow thing that can save me. A sister's love rocking chair, ornamented with olive does not satisfy the cravings of my heart. and pink ribbon, and a knitted hassock Charlie Lane's devotion to you maddens to match, the two latter Christmas gifts,

"Promise me, Fred, that you will not ma's Nankin teapot, two tall silver candrink any more, and I will give you dlesticks and a large ginger jar, not decthese flowers that Charlie sent me to orated and spoiled with gummed-on picnight, as a proof of my preference for tures, but left in its pristine blue and white beauty, filled with white daisies As she spoke, she took them from her hair. Fred eagerly held forth his hand to receive them.

gathered on Sunday afternoon walks. Two or three photographes of good subjects, that are better than chromos and "Maze; dear," said he, "in the pres- cost less, hang on the wall and complete pledge for one year, may I claim you in than to be dependent upon her rich relaz tions.

A Fight of Sea Monsters.

Gen. F. E. Spinner, the man of mar-I wish to go to the door myself. 'Tis velous chirography, formerly treasurer Charlie; he was to call on his way home. of the United States and member of con-If I wear his flowers, I am his; if not, gress, and now a resident of Florida, all is at an end between us. Can you writes the following to the Florence Dispatch, vouching for it as "no fish story, In a few moments Maze joined Fred but truth, every word of it." The Gen-

Early yesterday morning, as I went for my usual sun bath, accompanied by Though Maze called the judge and my daughter, Mrs. Shumacher, we wit-Mrs. Rainor uncle and aunt, there was neesed what has probably seldom been

tween them. When she was scarcely six | The ocean was unusually placid, but year of his life her father lost his fur- seen that a fierce battle was raging betune. Judge Rainor had always been tween two schools of fishes, one of care for her as his own, for the sake of shallow, so that the caudal and the the friendship that had always existed dorsal fins, of both these kinds of sea monsters, were constantly seen above

The onslaught of each of the com "I ask no reward, Cranston. I will batants, of which from sixteen to terrific. A disabled saw-fish was "I cannot speak my thanks, but mark stranded. I waded i : to him, and with That was fifteen years ago. He had him the "coup de grace." He measured mother grew thin and pale with grief, and there was a cloud of gloom hover- after fifteen minutes all the belligerents ing over them that only Fred could disappeared, to the great relief of those who cared more for sea bathing than for

captured fish to her home as a memento

To make a traveler feel at home, you must loosen his grip on the countries walk and Danbury. Where are the

CAPTAIN OBSTINATE.

My story commences (said an old soldier of he "Grand army," who had left one of his arms on the field of battle), on the fifth of November, 1812, a short time after the battle of Wiazma. We beat a retreat, not before the I want you to get a good night's rest, so Russians, for they were at a respectful distance from our camp, but before the sharp and bitter col 1 of their detestable country—a cold more terrible to us than the Russians, Aus-

trians and Bavarians all put together.

During the preceding days our officers had told us that we were approaching Smolensko, where we should get food, fire, brandy and shoes, but in the meantime we were perishing in the glaciers and continually harrassed by the Cossacks. We had marched six hours blew the drifting snow in our faces, and from ime to time we stumbled over the frozen corpse of a comrade. We neither spoke nor sang even complaints were no longer heard, and that was a bad sign. I marched by the side of my captain—short, strongly built, rough and severe, but brave and true as the blade of his sword. We called him "Captain Obstinate," Fred was the first to respond to the for when once he said a thing it was fixed-he bell. As the judge and his wife entered never changed his opinion. He had been wounded at Wiazma, and his usually crimson face was then ghastly pale, while a ragged white handkerchief, all stained with blood, was bound round his head, and added to the pallor of his countenance. All at once I saw him stagger on his legs like a drunken man, then

"Good beavens! captain," said I, bending over him, "you cannot remain here." "You see that I can, since I do it," replied

he, showing his legs.
"Captain." said I, "you must not give way, and, lifting him in my arms, I tried to put him on his feet. He leaned on me and attempted to walk, but in vain; he fell again, dragging me with him. "John," said he, "all is over. Leave me

here, and rejoin your company as quickly as possible. One word before you go! At Voreppe, near Grenoble, lives a good woman, eightytwo years of age—my mother. Go and see her, embrace her for me, and tell her what you will, but give her this purse and my cross. "Is that all, captain?"

"That is all, God bless you! Make haste. Adieu!" My friends, I do not know how it was, but I felt two tears roll down my cheeks. "No, captain," I cried, "I will not leave you; either you come with me, or I will remain with

"I forbid you to remain."
"You may put me under arrest, then, if you like, but at present you must let me do as I

"You are an insolent fellow." "Very good, captain, but you must come

He bit his lips with rage, but said no more. I lifted him and carried him upon my shoulders like a sack. You can imagine that with on, when presently appeared a troop of Cos-

The captain was by this time completely insensible; and I resolved, whatever it might from me, and in a few minutes the Cossacks had dispersed.

When the last of them had disappeared I quitted my refuge, and proceeded to disinter the captain. To my joy he gave some signs of life; I contrived to carry him with my one arm toward a rock which offered a sort of shelter, and then I laid myself by his side, wrapping my cloak about us both. The night had closed in, and the snow con-

tinued to fall. The rear guard had long since disappeared, and the only sound that broke the stillness of the night was the whistle of a bullet, or the howling of the wolves feasting on the corpses that lay stretched around. Heaven knows what thoughts passed through my soul during that dreadful night, which, I felt sure, would be my last upon earth. But I remembered the prayer which my mother had taught me long before, when I was a child at her knees, and, bending low, I repeated it with

That did me good, and I felt astonishingly calmed when I returned to my place by the captain. But the time passed, and I had fallen into a state of half-stupor, when I saw a group of French officers approach. Before I had time to speak to them, their chief, a little man, dressed in a furred pelisse, stepped toward me, and said: "What are you doing here? Why are you away from your regiment?"

"For two good reasons," said I. pointing first to the captain and then to my bleeding arm. "The man says true, sir," observed one of those who followed him; "I saw him marching in the rear of his regiment, and carrying this

The emperor-for, my friends, it was he!gave me one of those glances that only he or the eagle of the Alps could give, and said: "It is well. You have done very well." Then opening his pelisse, he took the cross which decorated his green coat, and gave it to me. At that instant I was no longer hungry, no longer cold; I felt no more pain from my arm than if that awkward beast had never touched

"Davoust," added the emperor, addressing the officer who had spoken to him, "see the man and his captain placed in one of the baggage wagens. Adieu!" And making me a motion of the hand, he went away.

Here the veteran ceased and resumed his

i'But tell us what became of Captain Obsti-

nate," cried many impatient voices.

"The captain recovered, and is now a general on the retired list. But the best of the joke was that as soon as he got well, he put me under arrest for fifteen days, as a punishment for my infraction of discipline. This circumstance came to the ears of Napoleon; and after laughing heartily, he not only caused me to be set free, but promoted me to the rank of a sergeant. As to the decoration, my children, here is the ribbon at my button-hole, but the cross I wear

next to my heart." And opening his vest, he showed the precious relic, suspended from his neck in a little satin

The Kerdive.

"Well, what you hear about the Keydive?" said a Last Chacce man yesterday in front of the postoffice.

"He's having quite a picnic as near as I can get at it. Old Gum Arabic and the Kerdive have had a set-to, it seems, at Alexander," said a man from the Oregon Short Line. "Well, now that Arabi Bey has soured

on the Khedive, I 'spose we may look for perdition to be poppin' purty plenty,' said the fat man from Council Bluffs. "Speaking about the Kerdeeva," said a young man with tight pants and a

wealth of peeled nose, "what is his posi-tion relative to the Egyptian Govern-"Why, the Keddiv is the High Tycoon; the Big Injun; the High Muchy-Muck

branch. "Well, what did he want to throw off on the Kerdeeve fur?" interrogated the cow gentleman, just in from the trail. Just then, however, the man was called away, so that he never got at the true inwardness of the Egyptian trouble, and is a little mixed also in the pronunciation

of the Khedive's name.- Boomerang.

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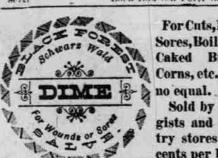
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