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Among novelists the palm for the greatest quantity of writing, so far as mere amount is concerned, is generally conceded to Charles Dickens.

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\*

A woman would never think of singing in a street car, but men apparently have no hesitation in giving vent to their feelings in merry whistling in such a public place.

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A West African king is the owner of an umbrella which measures six yards in diameter and affords shade for a table with 80 diners.

A battery of modern German artillery, using the new quick-firing guns recently supplied to them, can fire 60 shots a minute at a range of over five miles.



For Mills, Mines, Shops and Farms; Steel Log-



# THE WIDOW ::::: : M'CLANE .....

F that's you, Elvira," said the | done. He couldn't chop wood for it or

a-noddin', to sort of keep you company

She did not allow her reminiscences

to interfere with her work. The move-

ment of her needle kept time with the

"I've blu watchiu' you, Elvira," she

went on, looking over her glasses at

the younger woman, "ever since you've

bin a widder, an' it seemed to me you

were goin' over the same old road I

went over. It's a mighty hard road.

There ain't no soft places in it. I've

seen you tryin' to get along, livin' with

your sister. I know what that is, I've

bin all through it. An' there's one

thing I can tell you from experience."

She paused for an impressive moment

and stabbed the air with her needle by

way of emphasis. The needle pointed

"What is it?" she asked, dodging in-

"If you want to find hard hearts in

the time of trouble," unswered the

while you're at it."

movement of her lips.

straight at Elvira.

cially if you're pore."

voluntarily.

66 widow McClane, "don't stand bring in the kindlin' or make the fires. there with the screen door wide I had to do all that. He got so after Come on in. Do you s'pose I a while he couldn't do nothin' but set open. want to be shooln' flies out of the house in the chimney corner an' nod; but s'long as you've got to work anyway

all the rest of the summer?" Elvira hurriedly shut the screen it's kinder good to know you've got door, but she was too late. A fly had somebody settin' in the chimney corner flown in.

The widow laid down her sewing and, advancing cautiously, flapped her blue-checked apron. The fly, retreating, lighted on the screen, where he buzzed defiantly. With her left hand the widow opened the door an inch or so, and with her right she made covert passes at the fly. Her outstretched fingers traveled stealthily across the screen and up and down, while her large mouth sympathetically worked itself open and shut. From the street she appeared to be affected with a sort of mild insanity; but when a fly was in question the widow' McClane cared little enough for the opinion of the people on the street.

After further effort she succeeded in corralling the fly, flung wide the screen door, spread out her fingers and let him go. Dazed by his sudden release from imprisonment, he remained suspended in midair for a drunken moment, then winged his way straight into the sunlight. The widow fastened the hook with a

vicious clamp.

"There!" she exclaimed, returning to her chair by the window and taking up her sewing, "if there is one thing in the world I hate above another, it's files."

"I'm sorry I made so much trouble," said Elvira, wistfully, twisting the corner of her aprou.

"'Twasn't no trouble," responded the widow. "Leastwise not much. Set down. You make me nervous enough to fly to the moon, standin' there fidget-

Thus admonished, Elvira timidly ensconced herself in the nearest rocker, from which vantage ground she furtively watched the widow, whose grim, weather-beaten face now bent over her work. Her needle moved unevenly back and forth until the thread shortened itself to a finger's length. Taking two or three decisive stitches one above the other, she drew out the needle and bit off the remaining thread.

Then she spoke. "Well, what is it, Elvira?" she inguired.

A faint flush rose to Elvira's eyes, creeping thence to the roots of her hair. "It's about Joe," she answered.

"So he's asked you to marry him, has he?"

"Yes," assented Elvira, the flush ivid under growing more scrutiny of the old woman's eyes. "If you've come to ask my advice." said the widow McClane, "I say, marry him."

town that it aidn't tear down the widder woman's fences an' leave all the rest a standin' high au' dry? Au' lawyers! They're allus layin' for the widder woman's money, allus!

"This thing of not belongin' to nobody," she went on, "that's the worst of it. To think you haven't got even a good for nothing man to set down by you of an evenin' an' talk to you. When things go wrong, and they mostly go wrong, if you've got somebody to complain to it takes away half the trouble of it. Suppose you fall down an' hurt yourself. Where's your shoulder to cry on? Suppos'n you cut your finger. Who's to wrap it up for you an' the the ends of the two threads, sayin' he's sorry for you, even if he ain't? Suppos'n the world gets blacker'n usual, so black you can't see a sign of day breakin' nowhere, an' you fall to sobbin' about it. Who's to put his arm around you, an' say, "There, there? Nobody. Nobody in the world! I tell you, it's a mighty lonesome life; a mighty lonesome life!"

As Elvira sat silently listening a sudden fear sprang into her eyes. What if, since she had started out over the same road the widow McClane had traveled, she should be forced to travel it to the end? What if there awaited her, too, twenty years of that lonesome life. A sickening thrill of apprehension shook her. She looked away from the woman before her, who, old and wrinkled and careworn, sitting there stitching, stitching for the sole purpose of keeping body and soul together, seemed the incarnation of desolate widowhood, to the window. The fear in her eyes gave place to a smile.

"There's Joe!" she cried. "I do believe he is comin' here. He must er seen me an' followed me. Yes, there he is, waitin' for me. Good by, I must be goin' right away."

And she was all in a flutter of happiness as she rose and went out to him. The widow McClane followed her. She carefully closed the screen door, again fastened the book and looked out at the two as they nodded gayly over widow McClane, "you don't never need their shoulders at her and walked arm in arm around the corner.

to go outside of your own family; spe-"He ain't half good enough for her," she said aloud. "He's knock-kneed an" Her mouth, snapping shut with the last word, settled itself into hard, firm ' pigeon-toed, an' cross-eyed in one eye,



A Right of Burial, Despite the growing dis. finding space for the internet He mon within the walks of y ster, at least one noble fault joys a preacriptive right of ) These are the Dukes of Sec land, who have the exclusive spacious vault in the Chap Nicholas, This vault, while last resting place of the Seyler

opened as recently as 1883 to the remains of Lady Perer, the sister of the present duke.

Mrs. Olive-It is runned the neighbors that your hard old, but on last night. Is it true?

truth in the report. He strap several times, but failed to ; You know, he played with the k hine last season. - Chicago h Nows.

### Ireland's Oldest Church

The oldest Christian structury ence no land is a remarkable building with the dently very ancient, but wood well preserved, at Dingle, is . imagine Kerry. It is popularly known, hear ne "Oratory of Gallerus." Whoth was history does not say, but, in the oratory has stood practically an for more than 1,000 years is have be probably one of the courter Shnabe Patrick.

### Where Rubber Comes From

principal rubber-ma The region is the valley of the Amus greater portion of the rubberg merce coming from Brazil, Va and the the United States of C . Inbor o Much, however, is contribut Central America and Mexica product of Africa is steadily is ing, and the planting of many sands of rubber trees in India government supervision will place that country prominently list of rubber-growing lands.

Must Have Been Rad. Hicks-Here, take this 2 cm

Hicks-Take it, I say! This go buy yourself a better eigarth you're smoking !!"-Somervillela

Policeman-Mr. Smartle, tome had news for you. Yes was burglarized last night, and ; carried off everything.

am. It was only vesterday marked down my goods 25 perce

"She sent me a Catholic pi said a woman whose friend hal her a photograph of a liaphael donna and Child" for Christmat-York Commercial Advertiser.

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"He ain't much acount, accordin' to what people tell me," ventured Elvira apologetically.

"He's as much account as the ones that's talkin' about him, I reckon," retorted the widow. "They ain't any of 'em worth shucks as far as I can see; but that ain't here nor there. He's a man, an' any sort of man is a protection to a woman, if he aln't any better than just a scarecrow, hung up to keep away the hawks. The world's full of hawks on the lookout for widder women, waitin' to peck 'em to death the



first chance they get. I've been a wid-

der nigh on to twenty years, an' 1 know."

"My old man was like Joe," she said. returning to the subject in hand. "Ife wa'n't much account, kinder projec'in' around at first one thing au' then another an' not doin' much of anything after all, but he kept off the hawks. Pore feller, he had asthma. You could hear him most a mile off a-wheezin an' a-wheezin'. Sometimes I thought it would set me plumb crazy the noise he made, but many's the day since I'd bin glad enough to hear him wheezin' agin. That there asthma kept him from doin' pretty much everything he oughter it? Did a storm ever blow over this outdoors."

### SHE WAS ALL IN . FLUTTER AS SHE WENT OUT TO HIM.

would look like that twenty years later. for a pore widder woman."

"If you've got a little money," the widow continued, "if you're independent of 'em, you're all right; but the good Lord help a widder woman that's pore. There ain't a forlorner creature on top of the earth. Yes, I've lived with my relations. I've worked like a nigger day in and day out, scourin', cleanin' an' scrubbin', an' then had the cost of my keep thrown in my teeth from mornin' till night. If I had it to do over agin I'd go an' hire out to strangers before I'd work for my kinfolks. A servant is welcome to what she can eat an' drink an' wages besides everywhere in the world except with her own kin.

"I've watched you slavin' over there at Sarah Ann's, Elvira, cookin' an' washin' an' ironin', an' when you was through, instead of vestin', like any other servant would er done, tendin' to the baby. I'd ruther break rock on a turnplke any day in the year than tend to a baby-while Sarah Ann run around to the neighbors a-tellin' 'em how she was bein' imposed on, havin' to take care of her pore relations."

Elvira gave a little sigh. She opened her mouth to speak, but the widow was before her.

"I was mighty glad when I see Joe a-shyin' round after you," she said. "Mighty glad. Take him. That's my advice. It don't make any difference how triffin' he is; take him. A woman has a hard time alone in the world. It takes a good strong woman to fight her way through. As I said before, the minute her husband dies she's common pickin' for everybody. Did you ever hear of a bank that falled but what it had some widder woman's savin's in

lines, Elvira, catching a glimpse of her but he's better'n nothin'. He'll kinder own red mouth in the narrow mirror, do for a prop. He'll stand up for her over the mantel, fell to wondering if it, agin the world that's suc ha hard place

#### Swiss Courtship Tactics.

Swiss maidens have wide and deep courtship license; but in many of the cantons they are allowed but a narrow choice of bridegrooms, it being a rigorously enforced, if unwritten, law that they must marry a youth of their own neighborhood. In many villages every marriageable youth belongs to a society whose sole object is to prevent any and every youth from outside from coming a-courting the maldens of the society's village.

The society has a password, frequently changed-almost never di-vulged. A lover of the village, if challenged, gives the password, and it is an "open sesame" through the on-guard ranks of the protective society.

He may climb and woo uninterrupt. ed, undisturbed. But the lover from afar must fight his way past the challenging sentincia or use the shrewdest and most successful stealth.

#### Japanese Dentists.

The Japanese dentists perform all their operations in tooth drawing with the thumb and forefinger of one hand. The skill necessary to do this is acquired only after long practice, but when once it is obtained the operator is able to extract half a dozen teeth in about thirty seconds without once removing his fingers from the patient's mouth.

#### An Inevitable Smash.

"Well, Kitty, where is all your parlor bric-a-brac?"

"Oh, Bobby got a football Christmas and it was too cold for him to play

The aggregate military expfa of the British empire has all during the last 30 years from a £25,250,000 to close upon £50,00

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DEAR MRS. PINEHAM:-I wish 70 publish what Lydia E. Pinkl Vegetable Compound, Sanative and Liver

have dot me. I suff Fb

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for fours with # trouble doctor # had falig the west also suf with per prostration, fa

all-gone feelings, pall tion of the heart, bearing down # tion and painful menstruation. Is not stand but a few minutes at all

When I commenced taking yours feine I could not sit up half a day before I had used half a hottle! up and helped about my work.

I have taken three bottles of b E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound used one package of Sanative W and am cured of all my troubles like a new woman. I can do all i of housework and feel stronger th ever did in my life. I now weight pounds. Before using your medica weighed only 108 pounds.

Surely it is the grandest medicipt weak woman that ever was, and advice to all who are suffering ! any female trouble is to try it al and be well. Your medicine proven a blessing to me. and 1 call praise it enough .- Mrs. LUCY Goope Holly, W. Va.