

MODERN FIDDLER.

... old-fashioned fiddler, how your distant mellow tones
... reed-like croonings are sobbing,
... while the croon
Of tender heart-born melody in misty music
... swallows
In far, faint dreams where cadence
... beams across life's dim lagoons.
When you played the "Devil's Dream,"
... old fiddler, long ago,
Or "Fire in the Mountain" blazed from
... your strings and bow,
Or "Nellie Gray," "The Flying Cloud,"
... or "Where the Waters Flow,"
With finger tips upon its lips your music
... quivered so.

And while enchanted cherubim were
... knocking at the door
The tapping of your massive foot kept
... time upon the floor;
A halo seemed to take the place of that
... old hat you wore,
Your rugged hands were like two hands
... that charmed me more and more.

Oh, rare old-fashioned fiddler with your
... music unsurpassed
From out the gloom of other years, the
... gloom that's deep and vast;
Come and play your music through, I'd
... hear you to the last,
Oh, come to me from mystery where time
... has held you fast.
—Denver News.

Like a Tale that is Told.

It was one of those June afternoons
... when one is filled with the joy of
... living, and London was bathed in
... mellow sunshine. Mrs. Varney leaned
... back in her victoria as it bore her
... through the park and along Piccadilly,
... delighting in the beauty of the day,
... the vast blue space above her and the hum
... of moving life around. She was one of
... the women who enjoy life and love to
... bask in the sunshine. As they passed
... an imposing-looking club, a man stand-
... ing on the step raised his hat. In re-
... sponse to Mrs. Varney's signal the car-
... riage drew up to the curb and he came
... across the pavement.

"What a glorious afternoon," she
... said, after the first greeting, "and I am
... going to spend an hour of it under a
... roof."
"Any particular roof?"
"The Academy."
"Won't it be stuffy?"
"Will you try the experiment with
... me, or are you otherwise engaged?"
"I am at liberty, and shall be delig-
... ed."

He took his seat beside her, and they
... drove on once more.
"I was so pleased to meet you again,"
... she said, with a ring of genuineness in
... her tone.

"And I am glad of this opportunity
... for a quiet talk; it was an impossibility
... the other evening. You have been
... abroad ten years—what are your im-
... pressions on returning? It must be so
... very interesting to go away for such a
... long time."

"It was not always interesting."
"The coming back must be—meeting
... people again and drifting into the same
... current once more."
"Yes, I find a pleasure in seeing things
... —and people."

She flashed one of her bright smiles at
... him.
"I was a girl in the schoolroom when
... you came to say goodbye; it seems cen-
... turies ago."

"You had a brown plait down your
... back."
"My pigtail! Oh, I discarded that
... soon afterward. I came out that win-
... ter you know. Married Mr. Varney the
... following spring, and have been a
... widow four years. It represents a life-
... time, doesn't it? Have I altered very
... much?"

He looked down at the beautiful, smil-
... ing face.
"If it were not for the regrettable ab-
... sence of the pigtail, I should say not at
... all."

"How nice of you. But, really, I have
... altered, of course. And you look—
... older."

"I feel older."
"There was something of sadness in
... his voice."

"I was not a very young man when I
... went out, and India—especially that lit-
... tle cit on the Plains—does not tend to
... rejuvenate one."

"I wonder why you stayed."
"I was the fifth wife from the title, and
... a poor man."

"I see. How strange it all is."
The carriage turned into the court-
... yard of Burlington House, and they
... alighted.

"You have not seen the pictures yet,
... of course," she said, as they went up
... the stairs.

"No, my time has been fairly well oc-
... cupied, for the two weeks I have been
... home."

"Then I must show you all those that
... are talked about, and one or two I like,
... that are not talked about."

Conversing lightly, they entered the
... rooms and Mrs. Varney drew her com-
... panion's attention to the pictures of the
... year, showing a good knowledge of her
... catalogue, and amusing him with witti-
... cisms.

As they entered the third room a
... small picture "on the line" caught his
... eye, so that he went forward, almost
... abruptly.

"I spent my boyhood there—and left
... it behind me."
His voice was very grave, and a thro-
... w look had come into his worn, brown
... face, so that she checked the idle words
... —slinging to her lips and stood beside him
... in silence while he gazed at the little
... picture, and stood before it.

"Number 2237," Mrs. Varney said
... consulting her catalogue. "The Old
... Church at Brentwell in Norfolk."

Perhaps her greatest charm was that
... she always understood.

He turned in a moment or so.

"It was very good of you to bring me
... here," he said.
"I am glad you have been interested.
... Now, shall we go back into the sun-
... shine; I was going on to my sister's to-
... tea. Do you remember Ethel, the other
... girl? She is married now. Will you
... come and see if she has altered?"
"Thanks, I shall be pleased."

When the slow afternoon train stopped
... at Barton Gate, Lord Farehaven alig-
... nted from a first-class compartment,
... the only traveler.

"Luggage?" interrogated the porter.
"No, I have only my bag; can you
... send it on to the Crown at Brentwell?"
"There's no fear o' that, I think. Some-
... 'un is sure to be goin' that way. If not,
... I'll send one o' my boys."

So Lord Farehaven went through the
... gate and along the well-remembered
... road to Brentwell village, a distance of
... two miles, which he soon covered with
... his easy, swinging stride.

There had been no one to speak of in
... the Crown all day, for it was haying
... time and every man was in the fields.
An old man sat by the fireside, although
... no fire burnt on the hearth, and smoked
... meditatively; no sound save the tick of
... a grandfather's clock broke the silence.
Then a firm step sounded without, a
... hand raised the latch, and Lord Fare-
... haven entered the low-ceiled kitchen
... which served also as bar.

"Good day, Mr. Rolfe," he said pleas-
... antly.
"Good day to yew, sir, though I
... don't rightly know how yew be."

"A stranger to these parts for many
... years. My name was Steele—Hubert
... Steele—when I lived about here."

"Steele? Ah! my memory ain't what
... it was! I'm going on eight-four year
... come Michaelmas, y' see, an' I forget
... names an' such like."

"Can I have a bed here to-night?"
"Ah! that yew can. I'll just call my
... gran'darter," the old man replied, ris-
... ing to the back door, which, when open-
... ed, disclosed a vista of meadows and
... haystacks. "Liza! Liza!" he
... called in his old, feeble voice. "Where's
... that there mawther gone? Arter them
... chaps that's raking in the medder, I'll
... lay, Liza!"

He hobbled out of sight, and Lord
... Farehaven sat himself on the warm
... sofa that he remembered to have stood
... in the same place twenty years ago—
... when Gabriel Rolfe had been a hale old
... man with a face like a ruddy pippin
... and with a hearty voice.

"Liza came in presently, a shy girl of
... some 16 years, and from her he learned
... a good deal of the changes time had
... wrought in the little village. Then he
... ordered some dinner to be prepared for
... him, and strolled out into the village
... street and toward the church.

The old church at Brentwell stands on
... slightly rising ground and commands
... an extensive view of the broad fen land.
Lord Farehaven leaned upon the low
... stone wall that skirts the churchyard,
... gazing at the sacred edifice, while his
... boyhood memories crowded thick and
... fast around him. He remembered just
... such a June evening as this—sitting be-
... side his mother in the old worm-eaten
... oak pew, listening indolently to the ser-
... vice, with his attention wandering ever
... and again to Pleasance Greenacre, sit-
... ting on the other side of the aisle, some-
... times turning her gray eyes shyly to
... meet his, and a shaft of golden light
... striking through the west window,
... turning her long, fair hair into a living
... name. How he had adored her—twenty
... years ago. He wondered if she were
... alive—a wife and mother perhaps; and
... wondering still, entered the iron gate
... and walked among the green graves,
... some with stones at their head, some
... neglected and forgotten. In one corner
... he came upon a little flower-covered
... grave, surrounded with white stones,
... and having a cross at the head. It bore
... these words:

"To the memory of Pleasance Green-
... acre, who died on Easter Day, 1885."

The setting sun shone full upon the
... stone, as in years gone by it had shone
... on Pleasance Greenacre's golden hair.

It was Sunday afternoon and Mrs.
... Varney had strolled into Kensington
... gardens, preferring the shade of the
... trees to her drawing room—a view
... shared entirely by the two fox terriers
... who accompanied her.

She found a comfortable shady seat,
... and settled herself down to think; and
... her thoughts were of Lord Farehaven.

She called him Hubert to herself, be-
... cause he had been Hubert when he was
... her brother's greatest chum, in the
... days before he went to India. Hubert
... Steele had been her ideal, and Lord
... Farehaven did not fall far short of it.
She had been very glad to meet him
... again, more glad than she cared to ac-
... knowledge—and he had seemed glad,
... too. Looking up she saw him approach-
... ing, and her pulses quickened.

"I learned you were in the gardens,"
... he said, seating himself at her bidding,
... "so decided to follow you."

"I hardly expected you to-day, or any-
... one, and so I brought my poor doggies
... out for a run. They hate London. Have
... you been away? I half thought you
... would be at the opera last night. Ethel
... and I looked in vain for you."

"I ran down into the country for a
... day, on Friday, and only returned at 8
... last evening."

She remembered the picture.
"And is it like what it was?"
"Like and unlike. It all seems so un-
... real—like a tale that is told."

"I know that feeling—as though one
... had been some one else in those far-off
... days. The past never satisfies me. Some
... people live in the past; I think the
... present is the happiest time. It is a
... mistake to treasure up dead rose leaves
... when the roses bloom every year."

"And yet the scent of the dead leaves
... is sweet."
"Not so sweet as the freshly gathered
... roses from the garden."

Lord Farehaven looked gravely at her.

"We may not all pluck them," he said.
"Perhaps it is because we do not dare
... —or do not care," she replied softly.
"Gladys," he said, taking her little
... gloved hand in his own. "Will you
... show me where to gather the roses?"
"Mainly About People."

ODD LONGINGS OF CHILDREN.

They Want Money Purses, Scent Bot-
... tles and Gold-Headed Cans.

"Children's wants are often surpris-
... ing," said the matron of an institution
... for homeless little ones. "Once there
... came here a poor, little, neglected, half-
... starved, lame girl.

"A charitably disposed woman took
... her for a drive. On the way home she
... brought the child through the shopping
... district.

"Now, tell me what you want most
... of everything you have seen. Is it a
... doll?"

"Please, ma'am, I'd like a bottle of
... scent," was the unexpected answer, as
... she pointed to a bottle of cologne."

On another occasion a lady who was
... visiting the institution asked a small
... boy what she must bring him for
... Christmas. "A walking-stick with a
... gold head," he said quickly.

"That is the way with the children,"
... the matron explained. "They have
... never been used to playthings and they
... don't miss them.

"An instance of this was an orphan
... who had been brought around during
... her seven years of life from one poor
... family to another. None of them had
... been able to give her more than barely
... enough to eat and a few old cast-off
... rags for clothes.

"A wealthy woman became interest-
... ed in the unhappy tot after she came
... to us.

"You're to have a new dress and a
... new hat," she told the wif, "and some-
... thing else nice. Now what is that some-
... thing else?"

"Is it a purse—a money purse?" she
... shouted. "That's what I've always
... wanted more'n anything in the world."

How He Got Even.

One of my most successful excursions,
... says the author of an entertaining
... article in Modern Jerusalem in Frank
... Leslie's Popular Monthly, resulted from
... the opportune appearance of a goat on
... top of a stone wall. It was down near
... the bazars.

"What is the goat doing up there?" I
... inquired.

"He has gone up there to eat," said
... the dragoman.

"To eat?"
"Yes, to—what you call pasture."

"Pasture on the roof?"
"Yes, it is large. Many things grow
... there. You wish to go up?"

It ended in our getting two Moslem
... lads to show us a place where it was
... possible to climb the wall with the help
... of cracks for hands and feet. At least
... it was possible for them to climb it, but
... I slipped when about halfway up, and
... came down sprawling. The Moslem
... lads laughed heartily, which was mortif-
... ying; so when we finally got safely up
... (I was pulled and boosted) I made the
... dragoman translate the proverb which
... says that every man is good at his own
... game. And I offered them a plaster
... each to imitate me in a little thing that
... any lad in my country would do easily.

"Stand on your left foot," said I, "like
... this. Bend your right foot up and hold
... it in your right hand—so. Then go
... down slowly until your right knee
... touches the ground—so, and come up
... again."

The Moslem lads tried this several
... times, and went sprawling after each
... attempt, while I laughed.

"Tell them that is my game," I said,
... and felt better.

The Continued Story.

"I never let a man die at the end of a
... chapter," the historian Freeman once
... said, "because Johnny Green told me
... not to." The modern continued story
... exemplifies a like theory of pausing at
... the very brink of an absorbing event.
We sometimes complain of a novel
... which runs a year serially. Let us
... think on our mercies.

The first two parts of the "Astree,"
... one of the most famous of French no-
... vels, were published in 1610. An admir-
... ing public waited four or five years for
... the third part and several more for the
... fourth and fifth parts.

At the same time lived Mademoiselle
... de Scudery, memorable as the author of
... the first romances of any note written
... by a woman. She composed, and pub-
... lished by installments, novels of a
... length unknown to the feeble readers
... of to-day. Every story was originally
... issued in batches of small octavos,
... sometimes running to a score or so! Mr.
... Vincent describes her as "the most pit-
... tiful writer of fiction that the world has
... ever known."

The same seventeenth century illus-
... trates again the willingness of French
... writers to bide their time. The poet
... Malherbe wished to console a friend on
... the death of his wife. By the time the
... poem was finished the gentleman had
... been consoled, remarried, and was him-
... self dead!

Left Undone.

When one invests one's capital in a
... vocation or a mission of life, one can-
... not afford to have friends. The open-
... siveness of friendship does not lie in
... what one does for one's friends, but in
... what one does for regard for them,
... leaves undone. This means the crush-
... ing of many an intellectual germ.

Food Value of Fish.

Fish has very high food value; in fact
... is very nearly as nutritious as chicken
... or turkey.

Some men are bigamists, but one wife
... is more than the average man can man-
... age.

BOLD WOMAN BANDIT.

ESTHER VANCE, A BANKER'S DAUGHTER AND ACTRESS.

She Has Figured in Many Daring
... Hold-Ups in the West—Now Reported
... Lying at Her Home in Virginia City
... —A Dramatic Career.

The career of Esther Vance, bandit
... and convict, who is said to be dying at
... her home in Virginia City, Nev., sur-
... passes in dramatic interest the story of
... many a writer of fiction. She was born
... in St. Charles, Mo., the daughter of a
... banker, and received good educational
... advantages. She had a beautiful voice
... and the better to develop it she was
... sent to Paris to study music. After her
... father's death the fortune left by him
... melted away and in 1874 Esther ap-
... peared in San Francisco as a candidate
... for stage distinction. Her success was
... considerable, but she gave no effort to
... make it permanent, but sought enjoy-
... ment in long country trips, riding on
... horseback throughout the State, visit-
... ing the mining camps, and sometimes
... with companions, but more frequently
... alone, pursuing an erratic career, al-
... ways carrying a considerable sum of
... money, and moving about in saloons
... and dance houses equipped with a
... handsome brace of pistols. In the skill-
... use of which she gave exhibitions. She
... had many suitors attracted by the
... amazonian novelty of her life, but she
... preferred the company of gamblers,
... who had no interest in love-making, and
... finally she chose as her companion Bud
... Reece, one of the most notorious of his
... time, who changed his name to Vance
... and became known as her husband.

Known in Mining Camps.

When the prosperity of the Comstock
... began to fade away and sterner busi-
... ness methods reduced the miners' pay
... from \$40 to \$50 a day to \$5 and \$6 the
... gambling fraternity of Virginia had to



seek new fields. About the same time
... all the mining properties in the Sierras,
... both in Colorado and Nevada, were
... capitalized and operated by companies
... using the hydraulic system and the
... wild life of these auriferous lands set-
... tled down into orderly ways, and Bud
... Vance and his amazon partner disap-
... peared. They were heard of at Hele-
... na, Mont., at Leadville, and in Arizona,
... and finally came a story from Chihua-
... hua, Mexico, that both had engaged in
... a successful defense of a roulette game
... in which they were wounded, and the
... woman was shot in the side and seri-
... ously hurt.

In 1885 Esther was back in California
... and soon afterward occurred the rob-
... bery of the California express in the
... Napa Valley, in which she, her husband
... and a Mexican were implicated. A
... number of other train robberies fol-
... lowed, chiefly on the line of the Cen-
... tral Pacific Road, and principally in the
... Sierras. The method of these was
... varied, but the description of the per-
... sons concerned was repeated and the
... figure and identity of Esther Vance be-
... gan to take form in all of them. That
... a woman took part in these exploits is
... well known, for, in female attire, she
... made no special effort to conceal her-
... self, as one instance on the Denver and
... Rio Grande Salt Lake City express will
... show. The evening train westward
... was just pulling into Colorado Springs
... when a man and a woman drove up on
... a buckboard with a large case contain-
... ing an enormous dog. The woman
... halted the agent and prepaid the ex-
... press charges on the dog to Salt Lake.
She attended the box to the car door
... and handed the express messenger a \$5
... gold piece.

"Take good care of my dog, won't
... you?" she said. "I will send him some-
... thing to eat on the trip—at Marshall
... Pass, say—and give him water, won't
... you?"

At Marshall Pass a man appeared at
... the car door with some meat and a pan
... of water. "I reckon I had better feed
... him myself," he said. "He's rather
... fierce." And thus he gained admission
... to the car. The pan would not go into
... the box and the stranger began with a
... knife to cut a larger opening for it. In
... the meantime the train started and the
... messenger told the visitor he must
... leave the car.

"In just a moment," was the reply,
... and as the messenger walked back to
... open the door to give him exit the
... stranger fired upon and shot him fatal-
... ly in the neck. He then admitted his
... accomplices, who were hidden on the
... front platform, and leisurely looted the
... car. Then two of them passed through
... the train and deliberately robbed every
... passenger. One of those who gathered
... the watches and money was told by the
... other to let the women alone. "Not at
... all," was the scoffing retort. "They
... don't need the money they never
... earned, and can get more the same
... way."

This person is supposed to have been
... Esther Vance, and there is some reason
... to think it was she also who shipped
... the dog, entered the sleeping car,
... changed her dress to a man's apparel,
... and shot the messenger.

In 1887, on the night of the 12th of
... July, the Bowwow stage, with passen-
... gers and mail, broke down in a shallow
... ford through Stony Creek. At the same
... time two horsemen rode up and volun-
... teered to aid the driver. They rode
... alongside of the stage and, taking the
... passengers on the drop of their saddles,
... carried them to dry land. Then with
... a lariat they made fast to the stage
... and helped to pull the vehicle to the
... bank. This being done one of them
... ordered the whole party, some nine in
... number, to clasp hands and to hold
... their arms high in the air. This com-
... mand was enforced with a pistol by one
... of the riders, who sat astride of his
... horse smoking a cigarette. His com-
... panion deliberately cut open the mail
... pouches, opened the letters, and stowed
... their valuable contents into his poncho.
Neither of the robbers wore a mask,
... but both had long black beards, which
... were afterward found to be false and
... were used for the purpose of disguise.
The passengers were then ordered to
... deliver their valuables, and the high-
... waymen with a mocking laugh rode
... away.

The pursuit was at once begun, and
... continued for days until the thieves
... were run to earth at a spring which
... issues from a cleft in the mountains
... and flows into Lake Tahoe. The only
... approach to it was by a narrow passage
... through which the stream flowed, and
... here Bud Vance made his last defense.
Three persons who approached were
... shot down fatally, but it was not until
... the surrounding hills were a con-
... dition of a fusillade after fusillade
... was poured down into the robbers' re-
... treat, that their answering fire was
... silenced. Then a rush was made up
... the gorge. The man was dead, shot
... with several bullets, and the woman
... was lying by his side, her hip broken
... by a ball from a Winchester express
... rifle. She was in man's dress, and was
... heavily armed. Being taken to Washoe
... County prison, she was recognized as
... Esther Vance and was indicted for rob-
... bery and murder.

GREAT JUMPING BY A MULE.

Over a Manger and Through an Open-
... ing 21x30 Inches in Size.

A most remarkable story, the truth of
... which is vouched for by Maj. B. K. Sel-
... den, the well-known street car man
... and several of his employes, concerning
... two full-grown mules jumping through
... a small window in the old horse car sta-
... bles in Manchester, has just come to
... light. The story, as related by Maj.
... Selden, and sworn to by several of the
... most reliable men in his employ, is as
... follows:

The blacksmith, Henry Dandridge
... (who has since died) was required to go
... to the stables daily to examine and re-
... place all shoes that had become loose or
... been lost while the mules were at work.
On the occasion referred to above he
... had purchased a new sheepskin apron,
... which the mules had never seen, and
... when Dandridge went into the stable
... without warning, one of them, "Bet,"
... became alarmed at the sight of the
... leather and leaped through the open
... window to the ground outside.

Maj. Selden says he came in about
... this time, and upon learning the cause
... of the excitement, ordered the man to
... go back into the stable, and when he
... started the mule reared up and was
... about to repeat the performance. He
... feared the mule might not be so for-
... tunate in the second jump and told the
... man to come out of the stable.

The "Maggie" mule, says Maj. Selden,
... jumped through a window the same
... size on the opposite side of the stable
... and as far as he could discover, upon
... close examination, neither of them re-
... ceived the slightest scratch. Heavy
... tracks were plainly visible on the out-
... side where the "Bet" mule landed and
... made an effort to turn and again face
... the window, she being still halted by
... a scuffling on the inside. The halter
... chain, four feet long, was attached to a
... beam four and a half feet above the
... floor on which the mule stood.

Window opening, 1 foot 9 inches by 2
... feet 6 inches. Trough, 2 feet wide. Top
... of trough to floor, 2 feet 11 inches. From
... bottom of window sill to ground out-
... side, 4 feet 7 inches.—Richmond Times.

RECENT INVENTIONS.

Fruit jars can be quickly and easily
... sealed or opened by a new machine,
... which has two independent levers, pro-
... vided with adjustable collars, to en-
... gage the cover and jar respectively, a
... pull on the levers tightening the collars
... and turning the cover.

Type faces of a new typewriter are
... arranged on nine type bars in rows of
... three each, with shifting keys for ad-
... justing the bars to strike the letters
... desired, using only nine keys to print
... the letters and two shift-keys to raise
... and lower the type bars.

Improved hooks and eyes have the
... central portion of the eye broadened
... and flattened with a shoulder on either
... side of the center, which prevents lat-
... eral movement of the hook and the two
... members can be separated only at the
... widened portion of the eye.

A detachable tie-retainer has been de-
... signed for use with plain collar-but-
... tons, a flat piece of metal being slotted
... through the center, with an enlarge-
... ment at one end for the insertion of
... the head, the ends of the device being
... bent over to form an open loop.

A Canadian has designed a water
... cycle which offers very little resistance
... to the water, the floats which support
... the propelling mechanism being com-
... posed of two long cylinders of small
... diameter, with the ends brought to a
... point to decrease the resistance.

To rapidly decrease the area of a
... canoe sail a new reefing device has a
... light brace set in the sail parallel to
... the boom, the latter being suspended in
... brackets which allow it to be revolved
... by pulling a cord, thus winding up the
... sail and drawing it down on the mast.

A Connecticut man has patented a
... switchturning mechanism which can
... be operated by the foot, comprising a
... vertical spring-controlled rod set in the
... car floor, with a foot plate at the top
... and a wedge-shaped head at the lower
... end to swing the switch in either di-
... rection.

Lazy, Happy and Penniless.

The Porto Rican men, especially those
... of the lower class, are apt to be idle
... and lazy and to lounge around the house
... while the women work. The women
... and children have the privilege of doing
... their own farming, begging, stealing,
... and vending. They are happy, content-
... ed, and hungry when they have no
... money, and they are as hungry, happy,
... and contented when they have money.
In fact, they never have money. If
... they need a dollar, and they can get it
... by working one day, they will work one
... day. If they get 50 cents a day, they
... will work two days. Contact with the
... Americans has aroused their cupidity,
... but has not stimulated their activity,
... and they think now that one day's
... effort should be as productive as two
... were formerly. The American occu-
... pation and the enhanced purchasing
... power of the money has, therefore, re-
... duced the necessity for working one-
... half.

The men gamble when they have 5
... or 6 cents, and they always lose. How
... they are all successful in this direction
... is one of the unexplained mysteries, but
... they all go broke, and they are all hap-
... py in their personal poverty and con-
... tent to absorb malarial plasmodia and
... suck sugar cane.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Carnegie's Scotch Manager.
... Andrew Carnegie's manager at his
... Scotch estates is the man who ought
... him to operate a telegraph instrument.

When a man forgets to get his wife
... if she needs any money it is a sign the
... honeymoon is on the way.

A ship is probably capsized because
... the rigging costs so much and it always
... keeps a man on the deck-out.