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TEN MINUTES
TO TWELVE
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rested by a boat nearing the bank-a

long, unwieldy, flat bottomed affair,

presumably the ferryboat-guided and

propelled by a couple of negroes with long poles. In the end of the boat near-

est the shore sat a man on horseback

His reins were gathered up, his body

bent slightly forward, and his knees

clamped the sides of his horse. Even

I'll bet a hat that's a fox hunter."

"Here he comes—pelting!"

"There goes the engine-confound it!"

These and other comments flew about

the car, and every neck was craned for a

As the boat neared the bank the horse-

man had lifted his steed, touched him

with the whip, and cleared the remain-

ing feet of water at a bound. The horse

staggered and slipped, his hind legs

plashing into the water, but recovered

himself with the vigor and address of an

animal used to rough scrambling, and,

laying back his ears and stretching his

limbs, raced forward toward the sta-

tion and the train. Excitement thrilled

through the car. All the windows on the

side next the river were open, and heads

were thrust out with the faces set in one

direction. Exclamations, conjectures,

contradictions and offers of bets passed

freely; the passengers on the eventless side stood in the aisle and bent forward.

striving to peer over the shoulders of

their more fortunate companions. Fifty

yards-thirty-fifteen-one more effort.

and he would make it! In their eager-

ness the men hung far out of the win-

The engine was getting up steam— vibrating and twitching; the conductor,

unwitting of the excitement, waved his

hand to the engineer; the cars were in

motion—he had been left behind! he had

it? Everybody questioned everybody

flattened against the glass of the end

As the train moved the horse had

the rider had thrown himself from the

saddle, caught the handrail, and, with

a swerve and spring worthy of his quad-

on the step of the platform. It had been

a reckless thing to do, rash and fool-

hardy; but the success of the feat ap-

peared to modify its risk in the minds of

ing but admiration of its agility. That

quisitive lady whose imagination had

train rounded a bend, and the gentle-

find himself a seat without other com-

He was a muscular, broad shouldered

man, with a clean shaven face, blue-

gray eyes, a brown mustache and close

cut hair. His clothes were trim and set

to his figure, his linen was above re-

proach and his hat the regulation struct-

ure with which fashion had crowned the

male populare; but there was that about

him, whether in the capable look of the

hand and forearm, the alert glance and

decisive movements, or all taken to-

gether, which caused the beholder, in-

voluntarily, to strip from him civilized

accessories, invest his sturdy frame with

flannel and corduroy, clap a pistol in the

rear pocket of his trousers, a horse be-

tween his knees, and set him on a prai-

rie with a lariat on the saddle peak, a

storm growling along the horizon, and

an unruly bunch of cattle close at hand.

action and ability to cope with physical

The place he selected was directly be-

hind that occupied by Dr. Royal, and he

slipped out of his overcoat and threw it

across the back of the seat with the gest-

ure of a man who considers the garment

a superfluity. As he settled himself he

opened his window, letting a rush of

For half an hour the monotony was

unbroken save by the usual trivialities

of travel. Then the newcomer bent for-

ward and scrutinized the man in front of

that sounded like "the devil!" rose and

came swiftly round to the adjoining seat.

Dr. Royal was huddled against the win-

dow with his head dropped forward on

his breast, apparently asleep, but when

the stranger lifted him gently into a

more comfortable position and turned his

face to the light its pallor was ghastly

"Has anybody got a pillow?-and an-

other rug?" The young man raised his

voice and looked about him, reaching

With instant helpfulness both articles

over at the same time for his own over-

sympathetic interest set toward the sick

posite rose superior to the natural ex-

ultation of a prophetess whom the event

has justified, and tendered her shawl

and a tiny silver flask with no thought

save for the sufferer's relief. The con-

ductor hurried forward followed by a

brakeman with some bits of board, pro-

cured in the baggage car, which they

laid across the seats and heaped with

rugs and overcoats, improvising as com-

fortable a resting place as circumstances

would permit. The train was a local,

and had no sleeper attached. The con-

ductor seemed troubled, and repeated

the story he had given earlier in the day.

he averred impatiently. "He's been

badly smashed up, and is only just out

of a hurry to get where he's going to.

A brother Mason handed him over to me

this morning, with orders to look after

him and help him all I could. He seems

to need taking care of, if ever a man did."

'How do you know he is?"

"Is he a Mason?" questioned a bystander, then added, superfluously,

of the hospital. He seems in the devil

"The fellow has no business traveling,"

and the eyes had a semi-conscious ex-

cold air into the car.

pression of pain.

The man's whole atmosphere suggested

ment than curious glances.

By no means. There he stood on the

dows and prepared to cheer.

missed it, after all!

been "a regular circus."

straight jacket."

"He'll get left!"

"No, he won't!"



They all noticed him, even in the flurry of settling into their places, adjusting hand luggage and attending to the requirements of children. The conductor brought him in with great care, as one would handle fragile china, and settled him in a seat on the left hand side. A brakeman followed with hand luggage, and the two men bestirred themselves to make their charge comfortable, lowering the blind to keep the sun from his eyes, folding a railway rug over his knees, and unlocking and turning the seat in front in case he should

wish to put up his legs. When the conductor and his satellite had betaken themselves to their various vocations in other parts of the train, the invalid turned his face to the window and his fellow passengers took note of him. His height was medium, but seemed greater by reason of pallor and emaciation, his eyes had circles under them, and the droop of his figure indicated physical weakness. Evidently a man just out of a serious illness and hardly yet in a condition to travel. At least such was the dictum of the lady on the opposite side, given with emphasis to a girl on the same seat.

"I wonder his people allow him to go about alone," she commented. "It seems positively brutal. He can hardly nself upright, and I'm sure the very look of him will keep me racked may give up the ghost at any moment." The girl glanced across. "Perhaps he hasn't any people," she suggested, "or is on his way to them." Then she added sympathetically: "Poor man! he does seem dreadfully ill. I wonder who he

So did the elder lady-so much, in fact, that, being of decided character and prone to get that which she wanted. were it only information about her fellow creatures, she put questions to the conductor the instant he returned to her vicinity. The facts elicited were few. but they served to deepen her interest and at the same time to divert her thoughts into a more personal channel. The sick man was a Dr. Royal, and on his way to his people somewhere in the mountains of Virginia. He had been badly damaged in a New York railway accident several weeks before, and, al though he had escaped with life and limb, it would probably be many months before he would be his own man again. So much the conductor disclosed, in a burst of unofficial confidence which he was made keenly to regret by having to combat womanly fears and prognostications, and also to pledge the honor of a railroad man that no accidents of any size or description had ever occurred in the past, or would be likely to occur in the future, to any train under his ad-

Meanwhile Dr. Royal sat quietly in his place, with his knees well covered and his traveling bag beside him. At intervals he would glance at his watch and administer to himself medicines from bottles which he manipulated with emaciated but steady fingers. From time to time the conductor would come to him with offers of : rvice, but he appeared averse to giving trouble or making a stir in any way, and, on the whole, kept himself so quiet that the interest of the other passengers waned, although each newcomer would treat him to a s.are of sympathetic or stolid curiosity, according to each individual nature. And so the day wore on, eventless, into afternoon. .

The brakeman dashed open the door of the rear car and sent his voice along the aisle. Nobody evinced other than passing interest, and it was apparent that the information concerned nobody present. The door closed with a bang, and the brakeman stepped back to the platform of the forward car. The engine gave a premonitory toot toot, the train rolled forward a little way and then came to a standstill. The invalid lifted himself and leaned on the window frame. Away in front he could see the dingy red round of the water tank, and so satisfy himself as to the cause of the delay. He let his eyes wander listlessly here and there over the prospect spread

It presented the rather poverty stricken aspect of the hill country in Decembera stretch of hills in the background, clothed with forest for the most part, but diversified by cliffs and the jutting forth of granite bowlders. At one point, nearly opposite the sick man's window, a red clay road circled and sidled down the hillside to the river at its foot—its objective point, apparently, a small ferry house upon the bank. The embankment on which the track lay was lifted above the low grounds, so that the view was and the hills beyond.

On the low grounds the corn stalks stood in straggling rows, upright or inclined at various angles according to the wind's good pleasure, and the furrows, surcharged with overplus of moisture, showed long slushy puddles half hidden, half revealed by tangles of cockle burrs,

Spanish needles and frostbitten pumpkin Dr. Royal looked about with dissatisfied recognition in his glance. Six years had made no appreciable change in the aspect of Upper Virginia, he thought. The soil was as good-witness the crop of weeds—the system of cultivation as inadequate, and the general look of | man once more, and even the lady opthings as peacefully thriftless as ever.

Had he been gifted with eyes in the back of his head and a focus through the opposite window his opinion would have been fully borne out by the dilapidation of the buildings near the station, the stretch of broomsedge and sassafras covered land around, and the joyous improvidence of a couple of negro boys who, with apples to sell and a trainful of possible customers at hand, suffered themselves to be seduced into inattention to business by a dog fight.

Debarred from this additional evidence, there was still enough within the sick man's range of vision to produce a feeling of discouragement which, in a well man, fresh from different conditions, might have developed into exasperation.

Even the roads are as bad as ever." he mused, glancing along the track which led across the low grounds to the broad opening on the willow fringed In an instant his attention was ar"How do you know I'm a man?" was

the sharp counter query. The passenger stared "The signs point that way, don't they?" pursued the conductor, elaborating from sheer vexation with the other's inconsequence. "Well, I'm a Mason myself, and that gentleman was given into my charge by a Mason, as I said before, and he's got the badge of the order pinned on his breast. That's as good evidence as a beard and trousers, I reckon. It passed, anyway." There was a smile at the questioner's

expense. The young man bending over the invalid moved his coat aside and glanced at the badge on his breast. He had been working away with professional skill and promptitude, and his instant assumption of authority and responsibility, as well as his evident ability to cope with the situation, suggested in the minds of the other passengers a surmise that he was practicing within his own bailiwick even before au abrupt announcement changed conjecture into certainty.
"We all thought," the lady across the

from a distance there was an alertness an eager precipitation, perceptible in his air and attitude. aisle commenced, then paused, smiling. "That I was a ranchman? Everybody 'That fellow wants to make the train,' makes that mistake, madam. I come from out there, and doubtless have a quoth the passenger occupying the seat just behind Dr. Royal. "He can't. look of the plains, so it's very natural. though-without wings. They must be Ranching isn't my trade, however. I'm about through watering. Great Scott! Dr. Hart Royal.' what a jump! Standing jump, too.

The sick man's eyes opened; his mind was torpid, but struggled to perform its functions. His lips moved and he muttered slowly; "That is my name, sir. Who wants me?"

Dr. Royal No. 2 was bending forward with his fingers on the sufferer's wrist, his ear inclined for the feeble words. He straightened himself, a trifle puzzled; then his expression changed to one of half quizzical amusement. He had known very ill men before to acknowledge their own names; even in a semi-conscious condition a name is a mental anchor. The sick man's traveling bag stood open near at hand, and in it was a silver brandy flask. Royal turned it so as to read the name engraved on the side, then his hand went to his pocket for his own flask. They differed in size and in other trifling particulars, but both flasks were labeled with the same name-John Hart Royal. It was a queer coincidence. Dr. Royal felt it so, and regarded his namesake with a whimsical of confused identity. He wonwhether they could resemble each

The other man lay with his white face and closed eyes thrown vividly out by the dull red background of the seat. Beyond the facts that both men were of medium height and had brown hair and mustaches and blue-gray eyes, there was no resemblance whatever. Even in health the face on the pillow must have differed materially in cast and expression from the one bending over it. It was older, and there were in it lines of thought and care which neither life nor experience rear platform, swaying with the motion | had traced upon the other. Dr. Royal of the train and gazing back to where No. 2 leaned back in his corner and let his horse stood, like a statue, in the midhis thoughts run somewhat in this wise: "A queer sort of happening, this-a fellow with my full name and profes-

sion besides, my double, in short, and cast on my hands in this overwhelming door supplied the information that it had fashion. I'll be hanged if I can make it out! Out yonder I'd cut loose from him as quick as lightning-pass him on to bounded on the track close behind it. the next lodge. A double would have to be the right sort of mascot to make it pay to tie to him out there. But here in Virginia"- He paused, the association of ideas producing a new thought. rumanous ancestors, had landed himself "Good Lord! suppose it should be! A similarity of names is no more a sign of kinship than a paper collar is a sign of a shirt; but it's safe to presuppose an indication in both cases. When that fellow the spectators and leave room for nothpulls together I'm going to ask him who is, everybody applauded except the inhis grandfather was. If he's Virginia born he'll have plenty, and trot 'em out een set working along accident lines on small provocation. Royals are, or used to be, as plentiful as cockle burrs earlier in the day, who observed with asperity that "men might consider that hereaway. My father-God rest him!sort of thing fine and spirited, but it was claimed to be one of a large family. It's not. It was idiotic foolishness, and its comical, though!-my almost breaking

parent purpose of playing good Samari-The horse, satisfied with his inspectan to a kinsman in a tight place." tion of the retreating train, whinnied His ruminations were interrupted by a mountaineer in the next seat. The man loudly, kicked up his heels as one who had come in at the last station, and was exults in past prowess, and trotted down the embankment toward the stalk field. slowly taking stock of his surroundings. oblivious alike of duty and the alluring He slouched forward, with both arms on calls and whistles of the negro advanc- the back of Dr. Royal's seat, and glanced ing toward him from the ferry. The curiously at the sick man.

legitimate reward should be a cell and a my neck to catch this train for the ap-

"Pretty bad off, your friend thar, I man on the platform turned and tried reckon," he suggested cheerfully. "My stranger, you mean. Yes, he's the handle of the car door. It was a bit shaky. He's been overtaxing his locked, as the passengers had discovered to their annovance quite early in the acstrength, but he'll be better presently"tion, and by the time the conductor with professional mendacity in the prescame along and opened it matters had ence of the patient. "Some of you keep relapsed into a normal condition in the an eye on him, will you? I must speak car, and the newcomer was allowed to

He addressed nobody in particular, and

his glance swept the car, but he knew he could depend on his fellow passengers to attend to his request. The young lady opposite turned an interested, sympathetic face in his direction at once, and the elder one assumed an alert attitude and held herself ready for emergencies. Dr. Royal went forward into the smoking car. He had assumed control of the case with constitutional impetuosity. and now set about ordering it in accordance with his own judgment. The important-nay, the imperative-step, to his mind, was the removal of his patient, as speedily as might be, from the jolting discomfort of the train to some place where rest and quiet might be obtained. He questioned the conductor as to the capabilities of their next station, and learned, to his satisfaction, that twenty minutes would put them in Matoacca, a good sized town among the mountains. When, however, he announced his determination to remove the sick man to a hotel and stop over with him until his people could be summoned, the official demurred and suggested that the patient

himself should be consulted. "What for?" demanded Royal. "Every mile he travels is another nail in his coffin. He's bound to know that as well as I do. Didn't you say he had been smashed up? I don't know the extent of the damage yet, but I guess it's considerable; and he has lessened his chances by this journey. That fellow shall be undressed, overhauled and put to bed before two hours have passed, as sure as my name is Hart Royal. That's all there is about it. He'll have a tough fight for his life anyhow, and a losing fight,

without some help." The conductor caught at the name. "Royal." he repeated; "that's the name on his traps. He was put under my care special, you know. Are you kin to one

another? "God knows!" Royal replied, with a smile. "It isn't at all unlikely, if his people should be native Virginians. Mine came from hereaway, and we have the same name all through, which don't seem natural for mere coincidence. were supplied, a woman depriving her | I'll look after him a bit on the chance sleeping child of its pillow. The tide of that it may be so. Blood's said to be

> The man still hesitated "He was in the devil of a swivet to get on," he objected. "It looks sort o' mean to balk him, without giving him a

thicker than water.

show." Royal struck in imperiously: "Something a damned sight more serious than delay is going to happen if he isn't balked. I ought to know what I'm talking about, I reckon. I've been at the trade long enough to diagnose a case." Then he added more pacifically: "I know what's on your mind. I heard what you said to the fellow in the other car, and saw the man's badge, too. It's all right. This affair is as much my business as 'tis yours, and on the same ground-more, perhaps, if he joined the lodge in Philadelphia. Most 'meds' do." Then followed certain communications between the men which resulted in the complete withdrawal of the official pro-

"All right, sir," he assented cordially. as you say, it's as much your business as "tis mine. You understand why I perplexity. It was an awkward situation he was willing to admit but with the perplexity of the was willing to admit but with the perplexity. It was an awkward situation he was willing to admit but with the perplexity. It was an awkward situation he was willing to admit but with the perplexity of the was willing to admit but with the perplexity. was obliged to hold back at first. The

poor fellow seemed so set on gettin' on, and I'd been charged to help him."

Royal nodded. "He's too used up to "It can't be done," he announced de-



twelve o'clock to-morrow." precipitate one's self into the lives of other people, while in itself a simple matter, not infrequently involves consequences sufficiently complex to form a puzzle, the disentanglement of which will constitute a life work. It may fall naturally into the order of things to board a train like an acrobat, and, when there, to assume control and direction of any stranger whose mental or bodily condition may appeal to.human or professional sympathies; but when the life thus touched turns, octopus like, and clamps one with insistent and coercive arms and threatens to incorporate one with its own organism, the universally admitted fact of human interdependence loses some of its beauty, and most people prefer to treat it as a simple abstraction. Should an exception prove the above

is regarded as an anomaly, and imposed upon as though he were a fool. The change from the train to a hotel bedroom was made as speedily and deftly as possible, and the sick man stood it, on whole, better than his self constituted protector had dared to hope. That his namesake possessed unusual strength of will Dr. Royal had been quick to recognize, and his sympathies were touched by the gallant endeavor the poor fellow made to second every outside effort for

rule, it is dubbed "a survival" or "a bit

of knight errantry," and the perpetrator

"By George!" he inwardly commented, with the unconscious egotism which leads us to appropriate likeness in aught that seems to us admirable, "the fellow has good grit. He must be kin to me af-

his relief.

In taking upon himself such arbitrary direction of a stranger's affairs Dr. Royal established his position, both to himsel and to his patient, by setting forth, in addition to the professional bond between them, the brotherhood engendered Either fact furnished, to his mind both a reason and an excuse for conduct which, he smilingly admitted, might strike a superficial observer as uncommonly like officiousness. "It's fortunate that I'm occasionally

justified by professional and other con-

siderations," he pursued, as he made his

patient comfortable, "for 1'm a born intermeddler. Other men are satisfied with poking a finger or two into neighboring pasties. I grab the dish." "A good thing for the original dishholder too, sometimes," the patient responded, weak enough to feel the relier of divided responsibility. "I've a lonesome sort of conviction that my pasty will turn out a sodden failure without pretty vigorous stirring from an outside spoon. The fact is, I'm in an uncommonly deep hole, and shall be thankful for a friendly hand to pull me out. You must not let me interfere with your own plans, however. It seems I've got to rest temporarily or else eternally; but that's no reason you should be inconven-

ienced." "That's all right," Royal declared. "Don't vex your mind on my score. I'm holiday making, and my time is at my own disposal. There's nothing to prevent my stopping over a week if I want to. Then I don't mind telling you that I'm interested in your case-would like to watch it a bit, in short. Force of habit, you see; there's nothing like it, eh, doctor? You know how it is your-

He talked cheerily, kind words overlying a kind intention, and both carrying soothing to the sick man, as meant that they should. The rules of the order enjoined assistance in cases like the present, and he was, moreover, in a mood for being helpful, or, as he might have dubbed it, officious. Since the partial examination to which he had subjected the patient his interest and sympathy had deepened. The outlook was more serious than he had supposed -was so serious, in fact, that all thought of continuation of the journey must be put aside. As he talked, Dr. Royal turned over in his mind the advisability of summoning the sick man's friends without loss of time, and only awaited an opening to request the necessary information concerning them casually, as

A clear coal fire burned in the grate, night was drawing in, and outside it was cold and dark. The flames danced up and down, violet where the fuel was only half ignited, and pale yellow down in the hollows where the heat was greatest; shadows played on the walls and sick man's bed, for there was no light in the room save that given by the fire. The face on the pillow was well nigh invisible, save when the flames flared up, when it would start out, distinct and prominent, the eyes wide open and watchful. "Doctor, will you make a light?"

Royal started. He had thought the patient asleep. As he complied with the request he remarked, quite care-

"By the way, friend, won't your people be expecting you? It may bother them, not understanding about the delay, you know. Women always put themselves in a fret. If you'll give me the address before you go to sleep I'll wire for you."

The answer was irrelevant: 'What time is it?"

Dr. Royal gave the desired informa-"Half-past 6," the sick man repeated. 'And the train leaves at 4:30 a. m. Nearly eight hours to rest and pull myself together. No; it won't be worth while to telegraph, thank you. They couldn't get it in time to make new arrangements. There's no telegraph office at their station, and a message would go past and have to be sent back by mail. It would reach them too late to do any good. I'll just rest a bit and go on by that 4:30 train. It's the only way He spoke slowly, as one who figures

out a situation. Royal faced round to the bed. "Are you aware of your condition?" he demanded gravely. "Perfectly," the other replied. "I've

watched the case from the beginning." It seemed hideous, this turning of one's science upon one's self; but neither man appeared to find it so. The one doctor made the statement and the other received it quite as a matter of course. "You know, then," Royal proceeded, speaking plainly because of the urgency of the case, "just what your chance is worth, even with all the help you can get from rest and quiet. To continue this journey will be suicide." The eyes on the pillow met his reso-

lutely, and the jaw squared itself. "I know that I'm to be married before 12 o'clock to-morrow, and that I've got to be on hand, dead or alive." Here was an unlooked for complica-

cidedly. "Your life won't be worth an instant's purchase if you quit that bed. It's an ugly tangle, but it won't help matters to invite death in to untie it. Delay may mean an hour or two of anxiety and mortification for the lady, but it means a deuced deal more for you. And it would be a poor sort of woman who wouldn't gladly submit to the one for the sake of the other. In short, the case is in my hands, and I don't choose to have it wrecked. Give me the address and I'll telegraph at once. I'll write, too, if that will make your mind easier. Anything else is out of the question. I'm going to give you an opiate now, and you must compose yourself and go to sleep. The sick man smiled, but his expression

lost none of its resolution. It amused him to hear the tone taken with him which he himself was prone to take with his own patients; it was like an unexpected glimpse of his own reflection. As for his chances, he could estimate their worth far more accurately than could his mon-itor, his opportunity for observation had been greater, and, as he had stated, he had followed the case from the beginning. To his mind the question involved was less one of choice between life and death than an estimate of endurance under diverse conditions and of hours ere death should come. His pain had been lessening for several hours, and a torpor was gradually stealing over his lower limbs, whose significance was unmistakable. His brain was clear and abnormally active, and he involuntarily trusted to his strength of will to clinch his grasp on life until his purpose should be accomplished. Like most forceful men he cut his margins close, and sometimes neglected to make sufficient allowance for nature.

He waved the opiate aside. "I don't intend to sleep yet," he declared. "Prop me up a trifle, please, and give me something to fight this cursed weakness. You look a fellow to be trusted, aside from the order, and I want you to help instead of hindering me. My marriage before 12 o'clock to-morrow isn't simply a question of anxiety or mortification to a woman, though that would be bad enough. It's a question of food, rai-ment, hope, joy—all the things which would go to make life full and, in a measure, satisfying, as set against the devil's grind of poverty and dependence, and for a woman physically incapacitated for holding her own in the scramble."

Royal put the rejected opiate aside and did as the patient requested. Then he drew a chair to the bedside and composed himself to listen. There would be to the legatees; and in the further event no rest for the bruised body, he knew, of the marriage not taking place at all, until the mind should be at liberty to rest also. He must get the load, whatever it might be, transferred to his own shoulders, or the case would be beyond his skill. It must be done quietly, too, for excitement might bring on internal hemorrhage, of which there was immi- of nearer kinship. nent danger.

"Take it easy," he said gently. "I'm going to help you. Put what you've got to say in as few words as possible and first I want to suggest something. Wouldn't a will set the matter right for the young lady?" The patient shook his head.

been a quarrel in one branch of the an thrown so absolutely upon his honor Royal family over the disposition of cer- and protection. Royal's pity for the pair tain property vested in northern securities. The family consisted of two brothers and a sister, and the property belonged to a maiden aunt who made her home with them. The aunt's affections had seemed pretty equally divided between nephews and niece, and without overt declaration to that effect on her part, the family feeling had been that the young people would share and share alike in the property. When, therefore, on the old lady's death it had been discovered that the entire estate had been willed to the niece without reservation, the nephews not unnaturally suspected, and what is more, being men of choleric temper, proclaimed aloud that there had

been undue influence. It is true that, while the men disported themselves according to their pleasure, woman had nursed and tended her relative with loving care and patience. But this did not strike the brothers as affording sufficient reason for the will being made so unequivocally in their sister's favor, since anxiety and care and household pains and troubles fell naturally within a woman's province. Perhaps they recognized the family foible, too, and the fact that to those who love dominion the possession of wealth is apt to secure it. They forbore from suit to break the will, first because the family lawyer assured them that they had not a leg to stand on, and furthermore because their very souls abhorred a public scandal. They made evident their sense of wrong in forcible and intemperate language, giving their sister to understand that they were distinctly disappointed in her, and then leaving her to her con-

For many years family relations were somewhat strained, and then the war broke out and all smaller fires were extinguished in the national conflagration. Miss Royal, by that time a woman past her first youth, and saddened by a dead romance, retired to a lonely plantation in the mountains of Virginia, where she led an isolated life, filled only with old books, old influences and old imaginings. Such neighbors of her own caste as were accessible were people with views as primitive and experience but little larger than her own. Her life and environment interplayed to foster conceptions of duty and of moral obligation such as to the world at large would be untenable, and, as time went on, her views became more and more unpractical, conservative and romantic. She was a woman of sturdy will and domineering spirit, and, while kind of heart by nature, prone to let that kindness flow only along channels of her own making. Her northern property, safely invested and well cared for, suffered no change

by the chances of war, and gave her, in her own eyes and those of other people. a fictitious but readily admitted value. Whether her conscience smote her about the money or not, the family feeling, so strong in the south, throve in spite of wrong and insult, and when the war brought troubles and financial straits and does no good. Try to rest." to the brothers the sister rallied to them, time and method. Her influence in her He was a man quick to trust his family increased in ratio proportionate to her ability to play Providence to them, and playing Providence-ordering the procession for other people in accordwould be best-was, as has been stated, the role for which the self willed lady

considered herself peculiarly adapted.

hind him a motherless and only daughhis child and brought her up as her own. condemned of the English wit about She also displayed vivid interest in the Hart Royal. To "jump in and scramble son of her other brother, not only be- through" as well as he could might be cause he was a lad of parts and promise, reckoned his rule of conduct. but also because he had been called "John Hart," after a beloved first cousin next half hour might, as a legal measwhose untimely death had caused her to ure, be open to question, but it possessed pass mateless through life. She had the the merit of tangibility and could be boy with her continually, and charged put into immediate execution. It was, herself with his education and establish- in brief, that John Royal, flat on his ment in a profession. That the idea of back on that which might well be his a marriage between the cousins should | dying bed, in Matoacca, should at the develop in her mind was only to be ex- appointed hour on the following day

emotional outlet, and she was not willing to let their lives diverge from hers or from each other's. She wanted to blend her past with their future so that, in some occult way, they might live out the life she had pictured for herself ere John Hart had passed into the infinite. Her motive was the highest of which she was capable. She yearned for happiness for them, and it never occurred to her that it could be secured in better ways than those of her own devising.

Her idiosyncrasy is not remarkable.

Human love in its manifestations is apt

to be compelling and coercive.

Matters went smoothly, for the boy's choice of a profession fell in with her wishes for him. There had always been physicians in the Royal family-some distinguished ones. The love of healing might be said to run in the blood. At one-and-twenty John Royal returned from Philadelphia with his diploma in his pocket, and further fulfilled his destiny by falling in love with his cousin Phyllis, then a girl of 16. A boyand-girl marriage was no part of Miss Royal's plan for the young people. She wanted John to become a distinguished surgeon, and as his whole heart, or rather mind, was set on his profession, she yielded readily to his wish for a few

An engagement between the cousins was sanctioned, and the understanding was that the marriage should take place as soon as, in her aunt's opinion, Phyllis should be old enough. Of the reasons for six years' delay of his marriage, and of his residence during that time abroad, John Royal did not speak; they were not germane to the matter in hand. His wish was to pre-

years in the Vienna and Paris hospitals.

sent the main facts of the case and to force upon his listener the necessity for immediate action. At the end of the six years news had come of his aunt's sudden death, and with it a letter from her executor informing him of the terms of her will. These were a little singular, and more than a little arbitrary, which, however, was in accordance with the character of the testatrix. The property, of considerable value and duly enumerated, with the exception of a small legacy or two, was left absolutely to John Hart Royal and Phyllis Royal as a marriage gift, provided their marriage to each other should take place between the hours of 11 and 12 o'clock on Dec. 28, 18-. In the event of the marriage not taking place on the day and during the hour appointed, ther were restrictions laid upon the property which would prove a serious annoyance the entire property was to be converted

and John to have an equal portion with the rest, but not a stiver more on behalf The story was given in short sentences, with rests between to spare the patient's strength. The energetic brain of the listener grasped the situation in its enthen leave the matter to me. You've tirety, and his sympathies were more overtaxed your strength already, but than ever aroused. To him it appeared there isn't any hurry now. We've got a terribly mean advantage to take of the eight hours before that train goes. But power which the possession of wealth confers. His first restive impulse was to say, "Let the money go to the devil, and marry the young lady to suit yourself;" but a glance at the face before "Not mine," he answered. "I'm worth him sent back the words unspoken. A nothing outside of my profession. It's a well man, hale and strong, could afford worse tangle than you think. Listen. to assert his independence, to take his Divested of all superfluity of detail, own hands. But when a man lay dying for which there was neither time nor the case was different; he must do that strength, the facts of the case were which he could, not that which he these: Some fifty years before there had | would, to secure the future of the wom-

into money and divided, share and share

alike, among her kindred of Royal blood

from the first to the third degree, Phyllis

grew apace, and he felt that there was not much he would stick at to circumvent the misery entailed by that "iniquitous will." as he styled it in his "Are there many kindred?" he queried, forgetful that his own name might entitle him to a position as residuary legatee. "Legions of 'em," John Royal responded irritably. "My aunt had forty-five first cousins, and the bulk of them of Royal blood. I've heard her say so scores of times. In the second count, God and the census taker alone know what the tally may be. 'Tisn't worth while even to wonder about the third. It's a good property, but the sands of Egypt wouldn't

divide up handsomely among the Royal After a moment he went on: "I feel like the veriest scoundrel that ever drew breath! But for her determination to bring about this marriage my aunt would have left her money to Phyllis. The only thing I can do for her now is to marry her before 12 o'clock to-morrow, and God only knows how it's to be managed! That cursed accident!" His eyes were filled with yearning pain.

The doctor smiled cheerily and looked at his watch. "Don't fret," he said; "it's bad for you. The marriage is the main thing, and we can secure that. I'll take that 4:30 train and go after the young lady, and you can be married at once. The conditions, whatever they may be, must be put up with. It's a case of half a loaf or no bread. By the way, what are the conditions?" He rose as he put the question.

"That neither Phyllis nor myself shall touch one cent of the money for ten years, dating from midday to-morrow." "The devil!"

"You may well exclaim!"-speaking fast and bitterly. "The marriage before 12 o'clock to-morrow would leave my poor girl comfortable and cared for; after 12, as good as a pauper. And she's helpless-helpless"- His voice broke and he turned his head away. Royal felt something hot and stinging rush into his own eyes; his heart ached

for the pain he could not mitigate. The head on the pillow turned again; the eyes sought Royal's appealingly, coercively: "Man, have you no help for me?

Haven't you science or skill enough to put vitality into this miserable carcass sufficient to enable me to drag it a few miles further? Can't you do anything for me?" The sense of impotence was strong upon him; his voice was hoarse and feeble, his eyes showed that he knew beforehand what the answer must be. Royal put out his hand to him piti-

fully, but shook his head: "My poor fellow, God himself couldn't help you that way. Stop a minute and let me think. There ought to be a way out of it-there must be a way out of it, if only I were smart enough to see it. Don't fret, please. It exhausts vitality

The closing phrases were born of prohelping them through many a tight fessional instinct and delivered mechanplace, and only stipulating that she ically. His mind was busy with the should have her own way in regard to problem he had set himself to solve. judgment and to form new plans. Emphatically a man of action, prompt in conception, prompt also and untiring in execution, Dr. Royal's mind worked ance with her own ideas of that which habitually along positive lines. To rush at a difficulty and carry it by assault was the method which most recommended itself to him, and the active, practical When one brother died, leaving be- life of the frontier had fostered his natural proclivities. There was little of the ter of tender years, Miss Royal adopted "shivering and shaking on the bank" so

The plan he elaborated within the

YORKVILLE, S. C., WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1892. "I don't know how the law stands," the originator of the scheme admitted "and there isn't time to look it up. never heard of a marriage by proxy outside of a novel, to be sure; but if a man can marry by telephone I don't see why he can't be married by proxy. To me it looks as though it would give a fighting chance for immediate possession of the money. You can have the marriage recelebrated if the lady should prefer it. She will join you at once, of course." The sick man caught at the plan. His

own knowledge of the laws of the commonwealth in regard to marriage was nebulous, but to him also the scheme proposed seemed to offer a fighting chance, and even that appeared of price less value. His eagerness was pitiful, his insistence almost aggressive. The poor fellow, drifting into the shadow of the inevitable, yet holding back with terrible earnestness, with yearning tenderness, not for his own sake, but for that of the woman left to his care, the pathos of it dimmed Royal's gray eyes more than once, and acted as a spur to

his helpful, sympathetic nature. There was no question in the mind of either man as to who should be the representative. The bond of the order had done away with all strangeness or sense of obligation between them, even before the recognition of the deeper, human brotherhood had come. Royal made the necessary arrangements for the care of the sick man during his absence, and also provided himself with the wedding ring which he found in his namesake's pocket. The license would be waiting at the other end of the line, John Royal said; he had written about it from the hospital to the gentleman in whose family his cousin had lived since their aunt's

In the urgent need of haste it occurred to neither man that Dr. Royal, being a stranger, should have some sort of crelentials, or that it might be necessary for a proxy to have a written power of tation, as it were, from his principal. Nor did the thought that the similarity of name might cause a complication suggest itself. The sick man was unaware of the coincidence, and the mind of the other was filled with weightier matters. There was little time for

[TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.]

Miscellaneous Reading.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS. The institution of national holidays, n commemoration of great events in which the whole people have figured, , almost without exception, a thing of quite recent times, and belongs in a peculiar sense to republican, or at east popular, governments. Formerly, though holidays might be numerous, they had almost invariably a religious significance. They were saints' days' or church celebrations, of some kind. This is still true in most of the monarchical countries of the old world. Even in England almost the only hol- theatre at Manhattan Beach. It does per cent. of the total population of the from an ecclesiastial, significance, is the birthday of the Queen.

The greatest civic events connected with the history of the English people -events which have made a profound impression upon the history of the in which the powder is stored while world—are not commemorated by the awaiting requisitions from the sheds. regular public observance of their anniversaries-unless we except the decaying celebration of Guy Faux's Day. The United States was one of the first nations to set the example of creating public holidays which had a direct reference to the people's achievements in their own behalf. The observance of the Fourth of July dates from its first anniversary, and has never been interrupted since the establishment of the republic.

The French nation, with some vicisitudes and monarchical interruptions, has followed our example by making the 14th of July, the anniversary of the destruction of the Bastile by the people, a public holiday. The American people, extending the

same idea, have now three national holidays: Thanksgiving day, which commemorates a deliverance of the early colonists from famine and their preservation from various perils, Washington's birthday and Memorial day. as the loading of the cases is conduct-In Boston and its neighborhood the 17th of June, the anniversary of the The "cases" they make are mainly for battle of Bunker Hill, is regularly and | the large set pieces. The paper is enthusiastically observed by cessation thin and is rolled upon delicate steel of labor and public rejoicings. Of re- rods. The girls are clever and attraccent years the celebration of the day has been slowly extending through the environs of the city, and it is hoped by some that the observance may finally become national.

Mexico celeberate on the 5th of May, the anniversary of a great victory over the invading French army, half the sphere made. Then it is put and most of the other American republies observe the anniversaries of important events in their own history. The Italians make a holiday of the they are joined together and addition-21st of September, the anniversary of the entrance of the Italian army into

In Canada, the 1st day of July, which is the anniversary of the promulgation of the confederation of the provinces, is celebrated, and called Dominon, day. But it was reserved for the new Republic of Brazil to institute the most extensive and remarkable series of national holidays ever known. The provisional government of that country has issued a decree which declares that, "inasmuch as the republican system is founded upon a profound sentiment of universal brotherhood," and as "this sentiment cannot be properly developed without a system of public festivals destined to commemorate the continuity and solidarity of all the generations of man," it has seen fit to institute a series of holidays which will commemorate the points of made of chlorate of potash, shellac union between the history of Brazil and that of all peoples.

The government, consequently, establishes nine national holidays. The charged. On all sides there were the 1st of January is to be devoted to the | mute evidences of perfect cleanliness. commemoration of universal brother- The floor had a polish like that of hood, the 21st of April to the events highly rubbed marble. The benches which were the precursors of Brazilian | were free of dust, the windows clean independence, and the 3rd of May to and the walls glistened like the floor. the discovery of Brazil.

The 13th of May also becomes a holiday, and is to "commemorate the great giant crackers, are made in the brotherhood of all Brazilians." The 14th of June "commemorates the re- warm. If they were made at this time public and the liberty and independ- the paper would absorb the moisture ence of the American peoples." The and the crackers would be worthless. 7th of September is to honor the independence of Brazil, the 12th of Octo-scene of their explosion. The fuses ber the discovery of America, the 2d are prepared beforehand, but aside of November the memory of the dead, from this the actual completion of the and the 15th of November the glory of piece is not perfected until the day the country of Brazil in general.

feathers or a pound of lead? This workshops. was a favorite question with "schoo committeemen" of the olden time, and always to be "A pound of lead!" surprise. For the pound of feathers moom, could easily be proved to be the heavievidence needed.

one of the pans of a balance. For the feathers a light muslin bag reached the dreaded spot.

will be needed, and care must be taken that feathers and bag together do not trampled track lay behind; but near old piece of Grecian sculpture repreweigh more than a pound. When the the middle of this dusty space stood a sents a player on the bagpipe dressed bag of feathers is put into the other luxuriant island of grass three feet in in the fashion that is known today as pan of the balance the beam will, after | diameter. a few oscillations, come to rest exactly level.

seems to be proved. But place the bal- well as horses, have an instinctive with women the big hat.

ance upon the receiver of an air pump, with lead and feathers undisturbed. Cover the whole with the glass bell jar and exhaust the air. Slowly the feathers sink and the lead "kicks the The pound of feathers is beam." heavier than the pound of lead! The truth is that what we called a pound", was not such in fact. For the atmosphere buoys up everything within it in proportion to the bulk of the object, and the feathers being of great-

extent than the lead. Removed from this supporting medium their true weight is made evident. Charles Reade propounds a similar uestion. In one of his novels a Jewsh trader is made to ask: "Which is the heavier, a pound of feathers or a pound of gold?" After awhile he explains, to the satisfaction of his audience of miners, that the feathers are

er bulk than the lead, are supported by the air to a considerably greater

the heavier. Gold, he says, is weighed by troy weight, while feathers are weighed by avoirdupois; and as the twelve ounces in a pound of troy contain but 5,760 grains, while the avoirdupois pound contains 7,000 grains, the pound of feathers is, of course, 1,240 grains heavier than the pound of gold!

MAKING FIREWORKS.

There are in the United States today eight large factories in which fireworks re made. Six of these recently formed a fireworks trust, the object being, as in all such associations, to regulate and adhere to a fixed scale of prices. Aside from these eight concerns there are a dozen smaller ones, and from all combined we must expect not only the supply for July 4 next, but also the enormous supply for the political gatherings of presidential year. A rough estimate at the present time indicates that at least \$2,000,000 will go up in smoke in '92 in the States alone, says

the New York Recorder. To supply the enormous quantity of fireworks, probably less than 1,000 the errand is one which demands persons are employed. This is the season of the year when all the preliminary work is done, the most important of which is the making of 'cases," i. e., the paper tubes for Roman candles, rockets, etc. The more delicate work is done in the spring, when the days are lengthened and the air is dry. It is a notable fact that "cases"

are never filled on damp days, the rea- number of places in the United States son for which is obvious. Down at Parkville, near Coney Island, is a piece of land isolated from any dwellings, and on it are about thirty frail, wooden sheds. They look like dolls' houses at a distance, and when close at hand one is amazed to At the other end of the line the returns discover that they are of the flimsiest | are no less remarkable, for there are character. This is the plant of one of only seven cities with a population exthe largest fireworks firms in the ceeding 400,000. There is abundant world, a firm that is not a member of room for growth in these cities and the trust and which yearly entertains | towns, but the places with 1,000 or thousands of persons at its big amphi- more population already contain 41 the reason which prompts the erection of such cheap buildings.

At some distance from the sheds was oaken door. This was the magazine One of the latter, much larger than its neighbors, was the first visited. It is called "the wet rolling shed." Half a dozen men were at work within, each assisted by a boy, who pastes the sheets of damp paper for the experienced

He can roll a gross of cases a day. As fast as he completes a bundle it is strung up to dry. Ordinarily this would be a long process, but it is quickened by the heat from a big stove. These "cases" vary in diameter from half an inch to two inches, and they are made for all kinds of fireworks, principally, though, for rockets and Roman candles. Some of the former are massive affairs, and while they are made for the general trade their cost precludes the use of them except for extraordinary

In the dry rolling shed girls are employed. The work is light and clean and practically unattended by any risk, ed in a distant part of the grounds. tive and seem to be thoroughly happy in their out-of-the-way workshops. In another shed the paper bombs are made. This work requires much patience and delicacy. The worker has a sphere in front of him and over this he pastes bits of paper until he has away to dry, and while this process is going on he forms the other half. When both sides are thoroughly dry al strips of paper and glue complete the bomb, with the exception of a small hole, which is left open for the recep-

tion of the charge. The work of filling shells is in the hands of a few men. They labor at a bench, and a certain amount of powder is poured into the small opening by means of a funnel. A rammer packs it tightly, and when finished the time fuse is inserted. Then the opening is hermetically sealed and the bomb is

Passing from one shed to another we saw at a short distance a substantial building. In it is stored the powdered charcoal, of which tons are used every year in the manufacture of fireworks of the cheaper grades. Saltpetre, sulphur and charcoal are the ingredients used in squibs and crackers. Colored fireworks are for the most part and mineral salts. The next building visited was the

one in which the large rockets are Firecrackers, from the ordinary squib you can hold in your hand to the spring when the weather is dry and Set pieces are usually made on the of the celebration. Skilled workmen are employed in this branch of the work and they can complete their Which is the heavier, a pound of labors on the field as well as in the

HER YOUNG WERE SAVED.-A herd the first rash answer used almost of 5,000 beeves were toiling over the love, courtship and marriage was sas, says a correspondent, leaving begentleman from Keokuk county, who lonely trail from New Mexico to Kan-Then from the older pupils would sas, says a correspondent, leaving become the reply, "Both alike." If this hind them, across the grassy plains and question were asked today, our old- valleys, a swath as bare as if it had time querist might receive a decided been swept by the fiery breath of a si-

Suddenly the leader of the herd, a er. A simple experiment is all the huge steer, started back in terror, gave vent to a snort of warning, and moving With any accurate scales weigh out to the right, passed on. Those immea pound of lead, using ordinary shot diately in his rear turned to right or to Scotland, where they have been in for convenience. Pour the shot into left, and their example was followed use for a long time, but it was an inby each long horned pilgrim as he strument upon which the ancient

When the herd had passed, a wide,

A herdsman rode up to the spot and

NO. 19. and well-founded dread. Instead of a serpent, however, the grass tuft contained only a harmless killdee plover, covering her nest, while her wings were kept in violent and constant motion. Seen indistinctly through the grass, she

had evidently been mistaken by the steer for a rattlesnake. She did not take flight even at the cowboy, but valiantly pecked at his boot as he gently pushed her to one side to find that the nest contained four

unfledged killdees. ODDITIES ABOUT HORSES .- In that portion of Genesis which tells the story of Joseph, the famine, etc., we find the first historical allusion to the horse, and further on in Holy Writ we read of the horses of the great wise Solomon, which numbered 40,000that is, if the 40,000 stalls for horses are to be taken as a criterion. Prior to 1066 the horses of England were never shod, William the Conqueror being the person who is given the credit of introducing horeshoeing into

the British Isles. The high State official and the rich people of Egypt have a peculiar aver-sion to riding the horse, their favorite mount being a species of white ass, which is held as being a semi-sacred animal. Fine specimens of these snowwhite creatures are seldom sold for what would be less than \$1,000 in United States currency.

The Tartars have a species of hairless horses, which all have beautifully striped white-and-brown hoofs and "glass eyes." Pliny the Elder mentions a breed of horses, "from a land far to the north of Lybia," which was distinguished on account of a woolly mane which extended from between the ears to the root of the tail! Henry VIII. put a stop to the raising

of inferior horses in England by having all slaughtered that were under 13 hands high at the age of 5 years. In Japan the man of "quality" nev-er forces his steed out of a walk If speed the rider dismounts, tie the fore legs of his animal together and strikes off at a brisk gallop on foot.

GROWTH OF CITIES .- One of our exchanges concludes, after studying the census, that probably no one who has not obtained information on the subject could make a reasonable guess at the containing 1,000 or more inhabitants. The guesses by the uninformed are usually from 10,000 to 15,000, but the United States census discloses only 3,715. Moreover, there are only 2,552 that have a population exceeding 1,500. more rapidly than the country at large a low, solid structure with a heavy having 8,000 inhabitants or more, the combined population of such places being 22 per cent. of the whole. In 1890 there were 448 such places, containing 29 per cent. of the whole population-Scientific American.

SCHOOL BLUNDERS .- A teacher in a public school gave out a list of words Among them was the word chasm. A little girl looked in the dictionary, and not being quite satisfied, inquired if "chasm" meant "gap." The teacher absently replied, "Yes," but was astonished when she presented her paper with this sentence: "When I am sleepy I always chasm." But this is hardly equal to another teacher's experience in a little district school some years ago. She gave out words for analysis. "Bank-note" was one of them, and the teacher's astonishment may be imagined when one young lady brought the following unique analysis "Bank-note is a compound, primitive word, composed of 'bank' and 'note." 'Bank' is a simple word, meaning the side of a stream; 'note,' to set down. 'Bank-note,' to set down by the side of a stream."

The late Bishop Doane, of New Jersey, was strongly opposed to prohiwith brandy, wine, etc. On one occa-sion the Rev. Mr. Perkins, of the Sons of Temperance, dined with the bishop, who, pouring out a glass of wine, de sired him to drink with him. "Can't do it, bishop. 'Wine is a mocker.' "Take a glass of brandy, then." "No. 'Strong drink is raging.'" By this time the bishop, becoming excited, remarked to Mr. Perkins: "You'll pass the decanter to the gentleman next to you." "No, bishop, I can't do that. Woe unto him that putteth the bottle to his neighbor's lips.".-Philadelphia

WHY HE DID NOT GO .- Some people do not have very religious reasons for not doing things, but their reasons are natural and instructive. We clip from an exchange this: "A friend who kept a meat market was once importuned to go and see the circus. declined the invitation, as he was not interested in such performances. Be ing urged to go, and asked what his objection was, he said: 'If I should go I should see so many folks there who are owing me for meat that I should not take any comfort seeing the per-

A corporation has been organized under the laws of Kentucky to purchase lands to erect hotels on, in all cities of 15,000 and upwards of inhabitants in the United States, the capital stock to be \$75,000,000, divided into 750,000 shares of \$100 each. To be eligible to become a stockholder in this syndicate it must be shown conclusively that the applicant has been a commercial traveler for a poriod of not less than two years, which fact entitles him to buy ten shares of stock of the

Whether Texas plants more or less cotton this year than last, it seems certain that she will make a great deal more of bread and meat. Farmers there seem to be rapidly taking up the sound notion that it will be good economy to make cotton the money crop and to subsist upon the products of their own farms. When this becomes the rule throughout the South, it wil be the richest agricultural region in the world.

The record for quick time in broken in Fairfield, Ia., by an old came, met an old lady, fell in love with her, proposed, was accepted procured a license and was married to her all inside of thirty minutes from the time he first laid eyes on her-Correspondence of Chicago Herald.

Bagpipes are generally ascribed Greeks and Romans played. Nero is said to have performed upon it, and an the highland costume.

dismounted, expecting to find a rattle- Both men and women have their So far the verdict, "Both alike," snake, a creature of which cattle, as failings. With men it is the big head;