# YORKVILLE ENQUIRER. ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY.

L. M. GRIST'S SONS, Publishers.

CHAPTER XXIV.

A Ghost.

3 Jamily Newspapen : for the Promotion of the Political, Social, Agricultural and Commercial Interests of the People.

TERMS ..... \$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS

#### ESTABLISHED 1855.

#### YORKVILLE, S. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1913.

### NO. 14.

## OLD IRISH CUSTOMS.

Curious Rites at Funerals, Weddings Etc. Of wedding customs the most pe

way stock, and by private purchase culiarly Irish is the coming of the acquired the balance. "straw boys." This, with the custom The heavy equipment purchased for the canal work made it necessary to of killing a wren on St. Stephen's relay the road-a double track forty Day, is merely a pastime, and as miles long-with 80-pound rails, and such is eagerly kept up by the young otherwise improve the property. Since men and boys.

Although a great number of peo-1904 the equipment has been renewed, tablished a steamship service between and there are now 100-ton oil-burning ple can be happily dancing on a mud comotives, large and comfortable day, floor, says the Ave Maria, still space does curtail the possible hospitality parlor and hospital carriages, as well possible to raise the money to begin as forty-ton freight cars. They are fit- of a newly-married pair and there ted with comfortable bunks, loose beds are always some neighbors who canand easy chairs, to accommodate men not be included among the wedding who are injured or fall ill while engag- guests. isthmus would pay; but it did not en-

completed its purchase of the French

rights on May 4, 1904, it came into pos-

session of the 68,887 shares of the rail-

ed at any part of the canal works. Any young men who have been omitted dress themselves up in white Thence they are taken by train, ordineard it coming—the carriage driven at further of the prise in history—an enterprise in history—an enterprise of the high mortal, that their scheme in any or special, as the case may be, to would prove the dazzling bonanza which it did. The provest of the prise in history—an enterprise in history—an enterprise of the high mortal, that their scheme in any or special, as the case may be, to color or Ancon, where well-equipped ware masks plated elaborately in the bost it did. As the construction of the Panama canal progressed it became necessary in everything relating to the suc-

claims the bride for a dance. To take The commercial usefulness of the Panama rallway has been somewhat any refreshments would be quite incorrect; the "straw boys" merely handicapped by the canal work, be-

cause all considerations are made sec- dance and go away. ondary to this. At present it cannot The custom belonging to St. Stephy handle all the freight between the east en's Day is still observed in the east and west coasts of the United States ern countles of Ireland, where "straw that could be procured, but it does car- boys" are no longer known. It must ry an average of 35,000 tons of com- be a very old custom, for the killing mercial freight a month. This is about of a wren dates back to the times half of the total freight carried, the when Ireland was invaded by the balance being for the construction of Danes, and a wren by dropping onto the canal and for rallway purposes .-- the Danish sentinel's drum is said to Chambers Journal.

have given warning to the invaders that the Irish army was at hand. Now the wren is killed by boys who have never even heard the origin o

the furze have succumbed when they were Though his body's small, his family's

trate!

give a copper toward keeping alive this old, old custom.

s a custom of religious sentimentis that of placing a lighted candle in every window on the night of Christmas Eve, the idea having originally been to show that if the holy family had to come to that house they would failing and faltering strength to re- have found a welcome, instead of the trieve it. The firing-line cannot spare repulse of the householders of Bethle-

"To light in the birth of the Redeemer of the world," so it was explained by an old woman, who still possessed one of the triple holders for rushlights that in the old days tured candles have taken the place of

The custom of keeping a goat with

cows and a bantam with hens may be

It was one to be remembered, Mercy with this hag?

Dill's first night in the haunted Medford house, where treachery and violence had made her an unwilling prisoner. The unhappy girl, plunged in the depths of misery and despair, bereft of help and hope alike, paced the dreadful chamber back and forth, wringing her hands like one distracted, trying to think out some plan by which she could acquaint Val and Miss Affry with her situation. Val! The thought of him was like a dagger in her heart. Through all her confusion of mind, one purpose took clear and decisive shape ore her. She must escape from this

THE AMERICAN COUNTESS

By ETTA W. PIERCE.

lace-from Discordo's power-or die! She tried the door; it was fast and strong. She looked the chamber carefully over; it contained no outlet save window and chimney. The former was two stories from the ground, narrow, set with small panes and nailed up with great care. Above the bed, she discovered a cupboard in the well and covered a cupboard in the wall, and climbing up to it found it full of rub-bish-old newspapers, a pot of paint, dried solid, a box of red ochre, two or three stumpy brushes, some rusty nails of the smallest value. In an agony of despair, the girl sank down on the dusty floor of her prison and wept as if her heart would break. Hour after hour dragged by. The chamber was dark as death. A deep silence fell upon the house-her precious pair of jailors had retired for the night, evidently. And now new terrors overwhelmed Mercy. Discordo's story of the man who had been murdered in that very chamber twenty years be-fore rushed back upon her memory. She began to hear strange sounds all about her in the darkness-groans faint, smothered cries, loud knocking. Wild with nervous terror and excitement, Mercy sprang upon the miser able bed, and crouched down there in a heap, shaking from head to foot. Knook, knock went the ghostly hand,

somewhere overhead. A long-drawn groan, ending in an unearthly screech, came from the window. Did the soul of the murdered man indeed haunt the scene of his death? Suddenly Mercy became aware that something living was in the room, moving over the dirty There was a vein of true courage in the girl's nature. She arose to the occasion, sprang up from her crouching posture, and presently deried two or three gray shapes, long and lean, scampering away into the corners. Rats! She drew a great corners. Rats breath of relief.

The groaning began anew. She fol-lowed it to the window. After much listening, Mercy decided that the unearthly sound rose solely from a long, gaunt fir-bough, which swung back fir-bough, and forth in the night wind, and scrapblood began to grov Just as the warm again in her veins, a ray of can-dle-light crept in under her door-she thud of a crutch on the stair, and then the voices of two jailors. "Drat the house! His danged ghost is a-walking here yet!" said Joseph. "Groans in the chimney, raps on the door, feet a-shuffling overhead! Hold up the light, woman! You're shaking fit to drop." "Oh, Lord!" quavered the voice Sally; "hear him! A hundred dollars a night woudn't pay one to stay in such a place. It's worse than any reg'-lar graveyard under the sun." "Murdered folks will have queer ways woman,' returned Joseph; "they make it a point never to keep to their graves. See for yourself-nobody's here. The girl is safe enough. Who could get into the house through our locks and bars? Try her door, simple

A faint spasm crossed Mercy's color less face, but still she did not speak. Of what use could it be to bandy words Sally waited a moment, and finding that the prisoner was not inclined to converse with her, she said curtly:

"Rap on the wall if you want anything, and I'll come," and then she retired, carefully locking the door behind her. had no appetite, yet she force ed herself to eat a little of the food knowing well that she would need all her strength. What was to be done? How could she send word to Val of the

and silently departed as she had come. The afternoon waned. Darkness gathered on the wooded hill behind the haunted house, and in Mercy's forlorn prison. Despairing, worn out with per-plexity, fear and sorrow, she saw the night fall again. No lamp was allowed her in her den, and presently the gray rats began to scamper about the floor and all the obnoxious noises of the preceeding night made themselves heard with new violence. A high wind was blowing, and the shrieks in the himney, the rapping and scratching on the roof, became appalling. The gaunt fir-tree outside Mercy's window thrust its arms against the pane like some black ghost. A dozen demons seemed glibbering in the walls and at the door. Below stairs, old Joseph and his wife were shivering and shaking in mortal terror. Cowardly and supersti believed in the murdered tious, both farmer's ghost, and expected to see it walk at any moment into the kitchen Plainly, life at the haunted house was likely to be as unpleasant to them as to their prisoner.

"The foreigner will have to pay for all this, old woman," quavered Joseph as the importunate sounds made the as the importunate sources made the two draw nearer together over the fire; "that's how I console myself. When I hears a groan, I says, 'Five dollars for that strain on my nerves!' and when I gets a big scare and trembles, I sets it down at ten. Mr. Discordo will have a fine bill to settle afore he's done with me. Oh, Lord! what's that?" Far up the rickety stair the tumult of knocks and groans—loose shingles flapping on the roof and dead boughs pounding the clapboards—grew deafen-

she would try. In a fever of apprehension she waited for night to fall. Should Discordo close to human succor and companionappear before she had time to make ship. her experiment, all would indeed be Wit lost. Fortunately, the twilight gather-ed dark and threatening. A wild wind sighed round the old, black house; rain fell at intervals-Mercy could hear it on the roof and against the pane. Just before the last of the daylight disappeared, she took from the cup-board the box of red ochre, the pot of

white as a spirit.'

oard above the

"Tonight!" murmured Mercy, clinch-ng her small hands at her side.

"So he told me when he went away,"

aid Sally. Mercy did not taste her dinner. She

Presently her eyes fell upon the cup

paint, red also, and, with a little water from her jug, mixed the two together. Then she drew a sheet from the bed, smeared it in a frightful manner, fold-How could she send word to Val of the How could she send word to Val of the Vile durance she was in, and warn him to have faith in her, and believe no falsehood of Discordo's making? It was a question not easy to answer. Escape she must; but how? Wearly, hopelessly the day dragged on. At noon Sally appeared again, with a tolerable dinner for the prisoner. She cast her ferret eyes about the chamber to make sure that all was right there, to the state of the

Sally grinned. "Do you think me a fool? Mr. Discordo told me expressly that you wasn't to leave this chamber. So, ghosts or no ghosts, here you'll have to stay. Maybe, if you ask it as a favor, Dis-cordo'll take us from this place altoould both Joseph and I."

dropped her

in the house tonight. I wish you'd been in the house tonight. I wish you d been hanged afore you ever told your fine gentleman of this place, which is no-wise fit for living folks to abide in." Joseph was too far overcome with himself to take umbrage at the words of his spouse. "The ghosts have got into the fire," he muttered; "it's sputtering and something hot."

stumped up to Mercy's door, upon which Sally rapped loudly, calling out: "Are you here, Mercy?" in am here," answered the girl from which Sally rapped loudly, calling out: "Are you here, Mercy?" in am here," answered the girl from cordo's arrival. within. you see any danged spirits? "De cried Sally "I hear them," answered the girl dry "Do you want anything?" room—a terrible, agonized cry. Direct-y after, both heard a fall. "No; go away. I would rather b ith ghosts than with you.' The two retreated, muttering, down andle the stairs "Come with me!" she cried. As for Mercy, she had enough real errors to think about, without conuring up imaginary ones. She groped her way to the corner, where stood the four-poster on which murder had once ear that scream? The two mounted to Mercy's cham-Her done, and flung herself down upon othing inside. "Val, Val," she sobbed, softly, in the darkness, clasping her slight hands as if in prayer, "wherever you are tovoice. A deep groan answered. The woman in prayer, night have faith in me! Let no one put her mouth to the keyhole and callset you against me. I will escape from ed again: this place, I will return to you, or ill die.' matter in there?" Another appalling groan. She took Then she fell at once into the deep, dreamless sleep of utter exhaustion, and, while the lean rats scampered a key from her pocket, unlocked the door and looked in, while Joseph peerand, about the floor, and the noises went

from her persecutor, she arose with a great burst of silent thanksgiving, stole out into the road again, and walked off in the track of Discordo's carriage. She must make her way back at once raise your spirits. Oh! that dratted ghost has begun again, has he?" with a frightened glance around the room, as a great commotion sounded sudden-ly in the chimey. "Yes" shivered Mercy; "the way he goes on is dreadful. Oh, Sally, take me downstairs with you—I shall die here!" Sally grinned. "Take the story of the raise your spirits. Oh! that dratted ghost has begun again, has he?" with

through the

bed. She opened it, in a trim garden beside the high-road

salvation. She ran toward it. It shone

Thank Heaven! thank Heaven!

With a wild ringing in her ears, with her heart thumping like a trip-ham-mer against her side, she waited. Not long. Far off on the wet road she soon heard it coming—the carriage driven at

rate the vehicle tore past Mercy's place

of concealment as if upon an errand of life and death. It vanished in the night

from the window of a cottage standing

terror and excitement. She was free-she was safe-

the Power that had befriended and and espled at a little distance beau kept her through all her short, dark her a light the beacon of safety and her a light the beacon of the shore and the shore at the beacon of the shore and the shore and the shore at the shore at

poked at the rubbish crowded into its to the town. The gate was open. Mer

narrow space, and a thought, an in-spiration, flashed like lightning across covered with sweet-smelling vines, and her mind. Could she do it? At least crouched down there, half mad with

'ollowed by the words "Get up, old horse!" vords:

It was a heavy market wagon, pack-ed with boxes and barrels the whole overed with a piece of sailcloth. A lantern burned upon the seat, where, also, she discerned the figure of a cordo'll take us from this place alto-gether. We'd be glad enough if he middle-aged, honest-faced countryman jerking the reins over the broad back

The fir-tree at this moment dragged its boughs along the dilapidated clap-board with a hoarse shrick. Sally of his farm horse. Made bold by the to the wheel of the wagon and into the lantern light and quavered. tray and fled from the "Please, sir, is this the road to Bosroom as fast as her old legs would carry

Her appearance was decent enough Downstairs she went, to the kitchen for she had secured both her hat where Joseph sat quaking over a fire of green apple-tree boughs. shawl in her flight; but her face, shining through her drifting golden hair, "The old man's walking!" announced was like the face of the dead. The man Sally, her gray hair bristling upon her drew up his horse at once, looking cu-"there'll be no rest for anybody

riously at the figure by the side of his "Yes," he answered. "Oh, please, sir, is it far away?"

Mercy, in an uncertain voice. "Well a few miles, miss." "Would you kindly tell me the nam of this place, sir?" "Medford."

"it's sputtering and won't She drew back. He spoke to his and horse and moved on, but at the end of groaning and fizzling, but it won't burn. Shut the door, woman, and horse and moved on, but at the end of bring out the brandy bottle-let's take a few yards stopped again, as if struck with a sudden thought, and called to Mercy through the darkness: A gust of wind tearing through the "Here,

Take the candle and come with me, man," cried old Sally, starting up; "ten to one the girl's escaping! If we lose her, what'll your fine gallant say?" Hanging fast to each other, the two stumped up to Mercy's door, upon which Sally rapped loudly, calling out: to stumped up to Mercy's door, upon miss are you traveling to the city?"

cold meat and tea. "Drat it! you're as take her if possible. Away she went through the merciful darkness, follow-Miscellaneous Reading. ing the winding road which would ere ing the winning road which would ere long, as she rightly judged, lead her in-to reach of human help. Never did frightened bird fly faster. By the time Discordo alighted from his carriage at the down of the human help. THE PANAMA RAILROAD. baced up and down her prison like one the door of the haunted house, Mercy listracted, mutely praying for help to had reached a bend in the murky way he Power that had befriended and and espied at a little distance before Digging Big Ditch Has Caused Recon

fied to the advantage of the company in April, 1850. The concessionaires had struction of Line. in view the handling of the immigrant During recent years a strip of land surving about 470 miles, so that it trade bound to California and Oregon losely resembles a bent finger, has oc- then recently opened to settlement

cupied a large amount of public atten- and Aspinwall had already, in 1848, estion. Since the days of Grecian glory no such patch of land as the Isthmus San Francisco and Panama. The disof Panama has gained equal distinction covery of gold in California made it It has been the scene of stirring adventure and the site of the wealthiest city the undertaking. The promoters took in the world. It has been the subject the first steps on general principles: of epoch-making diplomacy and a they believed that a road across the

sphere of political disturbance. It the seat of the greatest engineering ter their minds, or the mind of any enterprise in history-an enterprise other living mortal, that their scheme

from time to time to abandon small cess of the undertaking, it was propossections of the original Panama railed to name the Atlantic terminus after the noise of the swift wheels died away on the wind; and then all was still. 1850-55 by three Americans—Aspinhim. It had been called Navy Bay, or 1850-55 by three Americans-Aspin- The Bay. The suggestion was adopted on the wind; and then all was still. For a while Mercy remained in her covert, listening, fearing; then as it became certain that her danger was over—that she was indeed delivered Tiger Hill was lifted and placed elsewhere, as the old line passed right ernment decided that the place should through the site of Gatun Dam and be called Colon, arguing, no doubt that Christopher Columbus was a locks. In 1910 the section between Peto dro Miguel and Corozal was shifted, much greater man than William H. Aspinwall. The former had visited the establishing a line permanently at an elevation sufficiently high to be above bay in November, 1502, and had named the level of the Miraflores lake; and on it Bahia de los Navios; and although February 15, 1912, the new line between Aspinwall was used very generally the

vice, as the rising water of the Gatun for a good many years, Colon became the legal name.

American consul for Aspinwall was flooded the old line between these made out at the state department in points.

perhaps as the unpalatable fruit of our lines: Panama canal, a new railway will have refused an exequater on the ground that been constructed, running from Colon there was no such place in the counestranged from light and joy, and our urgency of her case, Mercy stepped up to Panama, entirely on the east side of try. It was perhaps an ungracious act portion seems to be with those who the waterway, instead of continually on the part of a friendly state; and it is probable that Secretary Fisher so crossing the track, as it did previously. beaten down. It is then to be seen During the whole of the changes trafregarded it, since he would not have a fic across the isthmus was not susand known what manner of man or new commission made out for the conwoman we may be. No chain of cirpended at all although passengers for sul, preferring to send the official out

> any of us the moral right to do less roundabout way between the two cities exequatur would not be required. But, at each side of the republic. Engines of course, all subsequent commissions than our best, or to visit any private had to be changed at one point and were made for Colon, as the right of Colombia to label all towns within her the train taken back almost whence i territory had to be conceded.

ate the newly made line, which extended in a different direction. Here another locomotive attached itself at the head of the train, and it proceeded to the end of the journey. The new line of the Panama railway s 47.1 miles long, or slightly shorter winds, and, to the surprise of all who

than the old one. From Colon to Min- saw him, held his course straight away di, 4.17 miles, and from Corozal to past the lighthouse and the wharves, Panama, 2.83 miles, the old line is used under full sail. People looked and wonbut the remaining forty .niles are new. dered, and said beneath their breath. From Mindi to Gatun the railway ru... "'Tis our belief that you will soon be in general parallel to the canal and plled up on the reef!" And, sure enough

world over, especially by Americans Gatun and Matachin was put into ser-

lake, due to the closing up of the Cha-Even when the commission of gres river at Gatun, would soon have

Washington the Bogota government Finally, with the completion of the

some considerable time traveled in a as a commercial agent, for whom an

had come, so as to enable it to negotion (Aspinwall) were written and printed; and a funny thing happened, if a wreck can be called humorous. A captain, strange to the port, came sailing in one day before the strong trade

ascends from a few feet above the tide- he was! The vessel became a total to find all as we would have it. When rater elevation to nearly ninety-five wreck, and the cargo was lost. The mankind first came upon this trivial tallow dips those who keep up the

cumstances is conceiveable that gives

and personal grief upon those who have a sufficient burden of their own to carry. We are bound to go on living with all our might, and whatever sort For a time Colon-Aspinwall and Co-

failed to raise the money necessary to of the canal. When the United States

build the line. In December, 1848, a

concession was granted by the Colom-

bian government to Aspinwall, Steph-

ens and Chauncey, and this was modi-

of muddle we have made of the business thus far, we must summon our

one of us; if we must, perforce of our

wounds, be relegated to the field-hospital for a while, even there we can help others who are maimed and enfeebled even as we, to win their way back to a complete recovery.

PERSISTENCE.

set on earth to have a good time and every one kept safely for use at

the custom, and it is carried from A Quality That Counts for Much Ir the Work-day World. house to house, tied to a furze bush In the calendad of every life there the bearers being disguised in any old come days when it is not amusing to rags they can lay hands upon, and be in the land of the living-when, at each door the sing the doggerel own actions, we are isolated and The wren, the wren, the king of all

birds, On St. Stephen's Day was caught in

Come out, Mrs.--, and give us

And there are very few who do no

Another Christian custom-but this

ton." The door was tried. Then Mercy heard the two retreat down the stairs Sally muttering as she went:

"If we lose her we lose the money Oh, drat it! There goes the groaning again-he's a-coming after us!" and on in the noise of a rush and a tumble convinced Mercy that her kee epers also had their ghostly fears, and that her own simple explanations regarding the was searching stubbornly for his miss-strange sounds in the old house had not yet occurred to their superstitious souls.

A sudden composure came over her. She sat down at her lonely window in gloom and silence, and lifted up her glorious young voice, clear and sweet as a silver bell, in that most pathetic of hymns: 'Abide with me! fast falls the even

tide.

The darkness deepens-Lord, with me abide:

When other helpers fail, and comforts flee. Help of the helpless, oh, abide with

me!

She sat there, sleepless, all the night, On the woody hill under which the house stood, and which was the only thing visible from Mercy's window, the wan dawn appeared at last. She found a rickety washstand in a corner, and a jug of water, and bathered her white face, and smoothed out the masses of hair. By-and-by old Sally unlocked the door and entered, bearing a wooden tray on which were placed two or three slices of bread, an egg and

a cup of tea. "Here's your breakfast," leered the hope you slept well, dearle. a moment was she free from this ovhag. "I the ghosts and your psalmtunes I never passed such a night since I'll choke you if ord made me. you don't stop them dratted hymns! If lover; ou must sing, give us something live- was drifting away from her. ly; but religion I can't and won't abide

Mercy gazed steadily at the speaker. Afterward in the kitchen old Sally confessed to her husband that the girl gave her a turn, so cold and white and spirit-like she looked. "So Discordo has put you here to

guard me," said Mercy. "Yes; Joseph and I, my pretty. Per

haps you think you might knock me over and run off. Aha! old as I am, I've the strength of half a dozen like you; and down at the foot of the stairs her, and would not answer; Joseph is waiting, and he'd kill you she, with love's persistency, dead afore you could get out of the her cry with bitter tears, she We mean to keep you safe dearie, so don't try to play any tricks. leasure: Instinctively Mercy felt that it would be worse than useless to appeal to this Mercy awoke with a cry of anguish,

woman for pity or help. "Where am I?" she am I?" she cried at last; "where is this place?"

is all you need to know," grinned Sally. Now, take my advice, and be kind to Mr. Discordo, and drop your high and mighty ways. You're a proud one, stiff-necked; and holding yourself as lady-ta ta! Moll Dill's dainty as a daughter! generous as a prince. It's my opinion he means to marry you."

ceived him so basely, whose beautiful Mercy answered not a word. "Lor, he came to Joseph in a dreadful state of mind," went on Sally, glibproach ly, "and said how you was a-going to throw yourself away on another man, could never see that face again. get it on this side of the grave. place where he could take you weeks; and Joseph remembered house-he used to work on the the haunted chamber, consumed farm years ago, afore the old man was murdered. And so you're to have coun-try board here for awhile. Mr. Discoryou'd better treat him civil; for he might kill and bury you in the house,

ed warily over her shoulder. chimney and roof, slept undis-For a moment they could see noth-ing. Then from the bed in the corner, turbed till morning light. The second day brought no change in Mercy's situation. While Val Black out of the intense darkness and silence arose a shape, tall, terrible; shrouded in white from head to foot, and smearwas searching stubbornly for his miss-

rising

years before!

the haunted house under the hill

CHAPTER XXV.

morose, to the dark hints thrown out by Miss Affry and the London lawyer, Mercy sat in the dusty, rat-infested hamber of the haunted house, thinking over impractical plans of singing her brave gospel hymns, the maledictions of Joseph and and amid his wife, to whom this sort of music

was particularly offensive. She was forced to abandon all hope of exit by the window. It was nailed with great care, and as every unusual rought the alert Sally instantly to her chamber, she felt that any attempt to

force the sash would at once attract the attention of her keepers. On the third day Mercy proceeded to investigate the chimney, and found, to her dismay, that two stout, horizontal bars of iron had been placed across the

opening, and wedged so firmly that ne ower of hers could move them. Alas had indeed made fast his prison before he brought thither the unhappy victim. Another day passed-another and The fear of Discordo's return another.

weighed upon Mercy like a terrible nightmare. Sally's step upon the stair often made her heart stand still: not

er-whelming terror. And by night, strange dreams of Val assailed her. He was no longer her fond and faithful a broad gulf parted them. He abandoned her to Discordo. One night, as she lay asleep on the bed of murde corner, while the rats race the about the floor and the wind blew the

gaunt fir-tree noisily against the clap oards, Mercy dreamed of a great ship moving on the sea. She heard the rat ling of its cordage the voices of the sailors; and on its deck, looking like

some prince who had just found his do-minions (oh, strange vagary of sleep!) she saw her lover, Val Black. She call d to him, but he turned his face from her, and would not answer; and when repeated her cry with bitter tears, she heard his name of the place to which she had familiar voice, answer, in proud dis-been abducted; but she dared not familiar voice, answer, in proud dis-

ind such sudden heaviness of spirit as banished sleep from her eyes for the rest of the night.

'Miles and miles from Boston-that And at that very moment, far away on the restless Atlantic, Sir Valentine Arbuckle moody and sleepless, was ooking from his stateroom window up at the great stars that kept watch over

He's a fine gentleman, and grandeur, not of anything which lay pefore him, but of his low-born lovethe girl who had, as he supposed, de

face, wan with some mysterious reproach, seemed ever at his shoulder-ever before his shuddering eyes. He wanted to find a nice, quiet said to himself; neither would he for For eight long days Mercy pined in dread of Discordo's coming; never knowing that the latter was pursuing higher game far away at Newport, satwill be back in a few days, and isfied the while that his captive wa quite safe in the place he had provided for her. On the ninth day something

and nobody would be the wiser. As for your other lover, you'll never set eyes on him again-make up your mind to that!"

and she knew at once that she was safe with this man. Suddenly an appalling sound broke "Got business in the city?" he askthe silence of the kitchen-a long, la entable human shriek, somewhere it

"Yes," she answered: "I am going to the upper portion of the house. It floated down the stair and filled the find some friends there."

Thank Heaven! this reply seemed to satisfy him. He jogged on, calling out now and then to his stout horse. but Sally started to her feet and seized a giving her no further attention. She soon found that he was casting up some perplexing mathematical account in his "Oh, Lord! where?" quavered Joseph. "To her room, you fool! Did you mind; calculating the worth of his load perhaps—and the occupation kept his thoughts entirely averted from his

companion for which she was devoutly door was fast, and though they listened intently they could hear thankful. wagon being heavily laden, The "Mercy!" called Sally in a trembling

into the night before her, and thinking only of Val and Miss Affry. Nine long days she had been missing! No doubt they thought her dead. Every moment "What ails you. girl? What's the

that kept her from them now seemed like a century. They rumbled on, slowly but surely, and finally saw a great many lights shining far off-myriad sparks of fire against the gloom. Then they crossed

"Whereabouts are your miss?" said the driver. friends.

Mercy told him. "I'll drop you close by; or, seeing it's ed down all its grim length with the ghastly sign of murder-a shape which

ghastly sign of murder—a shape which so late. I'll drive into the court, if you're into the faring, uncertain light of the afraid." She declined this offer with thanks. tallow candle, was enough to make the She was not afraid. In a moment she would be with her dear ones. She hair rise and the blood grow cold with horror. He had come back from his grave—the victim of murder—he was scrambled down from the wagon, bade a grateful farewell to this strange bodily from the bed on which who had befriended her in her need the foul deed had been done, twenty and. turning the corner of a street, found herself once more in Seedy The apparition moved toward the

Court. pair at the door. A wild flutter of blood-stained garments, a shriek of One eager rush along the pavemen and Mercy was at the door of No. 10. She looked up at the grimy, wooden wind in the chimney, and with a yell fit to raise the roof, Sally dropped her face of the old house. It was as dark as the grave. Everybody was in bed, candle and retreating backward, missed her footing and fell headlong down -landlady and lodgers alike. of course the stairs. At the same instant, the desperate hand of the ghost wrenched Timidly she rang the bell. No answer. Again, louder than before. No Joseph's crutch from his hold, and prelight, no sound anywhere. No. 10 was cipitated the wretched cripple after his wrapped in profound silence and darkompanion. She waited, listened; but no one

Dashing off the smeared sheet which wrapped her, Mercy leaped over the ness. came to open the familiar door to her. Miss Affry was wont to leave it unfallen bodies of her jailers and gained locked for the convenience of her lodgin one breathless rush the entry be-low. By a gleam of firelight, which isers, but tonight it was as fast as bolt and key could make it. The relocated line was made absosued from the kitchen, she found the

Oh, how could Val, how could Miss outer door leading to freedom and the Affry sleep, while she stood there, houseless and trembling at their blessed protecting night. It was fast. With all her might she pulled at the Once more Mercy pulled building an eighty-five foot level lock threshold? rusty bolt, drew it back with much difthe bell, but with the same result. Beficulty, and with one look at the bodies wildered and disappointed, she sat lying in a heap at the foot of the stain of the down in the darkest corner were they senseless or dead?-Mersteps, under the shelter of the dusty of construction, when several peculiar cy sprang like a deer across that acold grapevine. ursed threshold, and wildly away from

try not to disturb them," she said to herself, "but just wait here till morn-ing. It will not be long" ng. It will not be long." She drew her old shawl about her

A Blow in the Dark. shoulders, and tried to feel that every-thing was right. After all, she had Her little strategy had succeeded be ond her wildest expectation-she was

free! She fled across the field in which the Blacks in that little time. Nevertheless, a great sadness began house stood, till she came to a stone vall. Over this she climbed breathto creep wall. over Mercy-a foreboding of evil. How silent and dark was the court! In this section there have been placed lessly, and found herself in an open She was entirely ignorant rustle of the dry grape-leaves her start and tremble. Was it Every the her bearings, knowing not even made her start and tremble. Discordo's step that she heard advancing along the pavement? No-"I am done with you; you waste a moment in deliberation-her a rush of wind. jailers might already be in pursuit. Fly come back to the court to look for her and find her waiting there alone? The she must, somewhere, in some direction, and trust the rest to Heaven thought made her flesh creep. How-Heaven guided her and turned her face ever, her fears were groundless. Neithstraight toward the town. Mercy scurer her arch-enemy nor any other perried off like a hunted wild creature son appeared to alarm her. She asleep, at last with her head resting through the wind and rain. She had not gone far when the sound against the fast-closed door, and, undisturbed in her dark corner, slept on 000 which was considered an enormou of approaching wheels arrested her

A carriage was coming toward till morning. steps. the sea, thinking-thinking, not of her along the unfamiliar road. Instinc-Deepmoor Hall and his new wealth and tively. Mercy cast herself down in an When she awoke, the sun was rising over the roofs of the great city. She arose to her feet, cramped, confused, tively. Mercy cast herself down in an undistinguishable heap by the wayside, holding her very breath. It advanced rapidly—plainly the driv frightened. Where was she? One glance around the place answered her. Sh er was in great haste. In spite of the was safe in Seedy Court, close to Miss darkness, Mercy could see that it was Affry and her lover.

Surely the Blacks were awake by this time. She rang the bell, confident close vehicle, with a man on the box. and two reeking horses at the pole. As the swift wheels neared the spot where of an immediate answer; but none came. Glancing up at the house, Mer-cy, with a thrill of sudden, nameless the girl lay prostrate on the damp earth some one inside the carriage called out, oudly and impatiently: fear, saw that all its shutters were "Drive faster!" Merciful heaven! It was the voice belonging to Miss Affry's sitting-room,

and, raising herself on tiptoe, looked into that familiar place. It was empf Discordo! The horses turned into the lonely A bare floor and four bare walls ield and dashed across it toward the haunted house. In a few moments at alone met her sight. With a great shock he furthest he would know all. of astonishment and terror. Mercy saw felt, that No. 10 was deserted-that sprang to her feet and fied. Fear lent Val and Miss Affry were gone! But

(To be Continued.)

ustom are satisfied with setting feet above that level. At Gatun the captain and crew saved with inhabitable speck of star-dust, great difficulty. It was thought that the the whirling nebula and the geologic sometimes one, sometimes three canline, leaves the vicinity of the canal acons had performed their part, there diesticks in each window. skipper must be insane; but after he

and runs east along the valley of the Satun river to a point about four and a had been questioned the cause of his strange conduct was made plain. On his half miles from the center line of the canal, where it turns southward again chart was marked "Colon-Aspinwall," and skirts the east shore of Gatun lake and was not Aspinwall. after Colon? to the beginning of the Culebra cut at "Vat ish der madder?" he said; and he Bas Obispo. In this section there are could not be convinced of his error. He several huge "fills" of rock and earth, had found Colon all right, and was occurring where the line crosses the simply steering for the other place Gatun valley and near the north end of when he struck! He was an honest Culebra cut, where the line was taken old chap; the disaster was put down cound so as to furnish waste-dumps as a peril of the sea, and his insurance for the dirt excavated from the canal. paid.

progress was necessarily slow. Mercy for the dirt excavated from the canal, sat motionless, voiceless, staring out Originally it was intended to carry the Later the Colombian postal authorities gave notice that all correspondence railway through the Culebra cut on a addressed to Aspinwall would not be forty-foot beam ten feet above the water level, but the numerous landslides delivered, but would be sent back to the places whence it came. Thus, fimade this plan impracticable, and the line was taken around the cut, and is nally, the present name was adopted; although for a long time, in the United known locally as the Gold Hill Line. Leaving the canal at Bas Obispo, the Gold Hill Line gradually works into the foothills, reaching a distance from the Columbus and Aspinwall will shortly be honored in another way in Colon. center line of the canal of two miles opposite Culebra; thence it runs down The statue of the former, a beautiful production in bronze, is shortly to be the Pedro Miguel valley to Paraiso, set up in the garden in front of the where it is only 800 feet from the center line of the canal. This section of new Washington hotel, now in course

grade of 1.25 per cent, and has a total bust of Aspinwall is to be placed in the grounds at the back of the hotel. The length of nine and three-eights miles. The sharpest curve on the whole line is latter is just as ugly as the former is such a creed is to live upon a lie. The seven degrees. From the south end of beautiful, and since they were landed world is what we make it, and every Culebra cut at Paraiso, the railway cn the isthmus both monuments have runs practically parallel with the canal to Panama, with a maximum grade of lives of the notable men they repre-0.45 per cent. Where the railway crosssent. Like the Tivoli hotel at Ancon, ed the Gatun river, a bascule steel the Washington hotel is being erected bridge has been erected; and a steelon behalf of the United States governgirder bridge, a quarter of a mile long, with a two hundred-foot through-truss ment, and will cater for tourists as well as accommodate official visitors to the channel span, is in use across the Cha-

gres river at Gamboa. Small streams canal zone. are crossed on reinforced concrete cul-At the time of the building of the

verts. Near Miraflores a tunnel 736 original line, railways were in their infancy, and the project of a line fifty miles across a notoriously unhealthy country was regarded as a distinct lutely necessary by the new plans of hazard. Money was scarce in 1851, and the Isthmian Canal commission for the progress of the work was not encouraging, as the line had been comcanal. Some serious landslides occurpleted only to Gatun seven miles inred on the new line during the process land. In November of that year a ship accidents happened to various kinds of unable to land its passengers at the mouth of the Chagres river, as sometaken and expense was necessitated by the crossing of the Gatun valley. From the point where the road leaves the been gone but nine days. Surely no Gatun ridge to the hills near Monte misfortune could have overtaken the Lirio, a distance of three and a half

miles, the line crosses the main valley of the Gatun river and its tributaries. cent annually. 5,500 000 cubic yards of embankment. The foundation of a part of this embankment was very poor, causing its Suppose he should base to be spread over a much wide area in order to reduce the pressure per square foot on the natural ground. and prevent upheaval beyond the foot of the slope. The total cost of the new line is estimated at \$9,000 000, Ameri-

can money. The first line cost \$7,000,-As late as sixty years ago the city of Panama was more difficult to reach N. Z., and Sydney, N. S. W., and up to than is Tibet today. The only means of communication after the rule of Spain had ended and the paved road across the isthmus from Portobello on in canoes or small vessels as far as either Gorgona or Cruces (Venta Cruz) and thence by mule-road through the diverted. Notwithstanding these losses densest of jungle to Panama. The isth-

mus was a complete wilderness from good dividends. shore to shore, when all at once it became a center of attraction for intercame a center of attraction for inter-ocean transit. The first concession for a railway across the isthmus was granted to a Frenchman in 1847, but he solutely necessary for the construction is a sign that he has more dollars than is old and ugly and his wife is young and beautiful, it may be a sign that he has more dollars than is old and ugly and his wife is young and beautiful, it may be is here to be a sign that he has more dollars than is one that grew over it. granted to a Frenchman in 1847, but he solutely necessary for the construction sense.

was a deal to be done to "this goodly frame, the earth," to make it thoroughly suitable as a place of human traced to an idea of luck, though it residence. It was a discouragingly big is also maintained that goats eagerly problem, and to many of an inferior seek out a pasture and soon clear it order among mankind it has proved of all herbs that would be injurious appalling. They became so scared they to cows if they were left for them to ran away from the big, brave things eat when the grass began to fail. there were to do, just as in the dawn The most interesting as well as the of history they fled in terror from the oldest and still most cherished cusroaming memmoth and behemoth toms are those that have gathered

awfully towering above them. It was round deaths and funerals. The caoine or "keen," so often mentioned all left to a few stout-hearted leaders to carry on the work of making the by Irish writers, is now to be met world ready for the century we live in with only in the west, where the soft now. Never were any citizens so blest plaintive voices seem to lend themas we are. Never were any given so selves peculiarly to it.

No one who has not heard a real much for which to be everlastingly grateful. Instead of a paean of grati- keen can imagine the wild melan-States especially, the old name was tude, however, many of us elect to better known. Curlously enough both whine a jeremiad. We look for the choly of the call that brings an unof anything sought-for lump to the throat of the passer-by. As soon as a person dies whose uppermost phase seems to por the women raise their voices in a high tend a triumph. There is no make-believe left in us; the willingness to incur the unexpected is atrophied far and die minor key, letting them fall in most heartrending wail. within our natures. We have no illu-This keening is undoubtedly a relic sions, no power of make-believe. The world is a sordid, brutal demesne of from pagan days, and indeed the blind, unquestioning way in which so the road is laid down on a maximum of construction on Colon Beach, and a "blind mouths" gaping upon us and grade of 1.25 per cent, and has a total bust of Appinguit is to be placed in the famished for our ruin. What a morbid, customs are clung to makes in many easy to believe that they date back to remote times. The question is perverted and even wicked way to look whether in these material days the at the human cyclorama! To live by fact of their having been clung to so tenaciously, without any reason hav-ing been assigned for them, will not one has a part, not to be shirked nor shifted, in the making. Nobody's role is unimportant. We think if we slunk

which almost eclipse the adventurous out by the back way, if we sauntered lives of the notable men they repre-For instance, lately going into a house where a child lay dead, we things would go on just the same. But found the furniture all turned upside own, chairs and tables alike standing they wouldn't. with their legs in the air.

There is too much to be done to let any one of us "loaf on the job." If "Is that to make more room fo there's anything that stands in the way people coming to the wake?" we inquired of a woman standing near. of our serving the commanding gen-eral with the whole of our vital effi-"Sorra room, daughter!" was the reply. "Tis just a fashion we have." "But why?" we insisted. "What cacy, it is our duty to get rid of that obstructing circumstance. The admiris the reason?" himsel

able man is he who leaves "Not a know do I know," she concompletely out of it when there is work to be put through. He is to be work to be put through. He is to be the one factor negligible in the faclessed. "Maybe the corpse's father But neither from the "corpse's tory. The life of the civil engineer, for father" nor from anyone else have we example, is filled with enterprises that een able to discover any explanation require a man to put his personal of a singular custom that is not conease and conveniece quite out of his thought. That is what stamps this one Of late years wakes had been made of the greatest of the profess sions. At the end of an active career a man has more than a pile of money to show for have been much discountenanced, and t. There stands the visible monument in certain dioceses they have gone back to being what they originally of laborious application and unwearywere, the watching of a dead person's

ing patience, of fine contempt for in-

dolence and the line of least resist-ance, of real ability that follows unfamily around the coffin. In times happened, landed them at Colon, places the rule against the indiscriand at once the railway came into use minate distribution of drink at wakes have been somewhat hard to enforce. swervingly the plan that it has made, sparing no pains in the ultimate fulfil-ment. Such work as that is of no in-The rates charged were exceedingly ment. Such work as that is of no in-terest to the man who hasen't it in him to persist. He is ready to cry "halt" was the exclamation of a certain old high, but the service was prompt compared with the canoes on the river. before the word "go" is given. He pre-ters to sit and twiddle his thumbs and ulations. widow on hearing the bishop's reg-From 1852 to the present time the line has paid a dividend of from 3 to 61 per fream of what a fine thing it would be

to do, if it could only be done. To the brown habit that has been previously Clearing was begun in May, 1850, and the first train crossed the isthmus on January 28, 1855. As originally con-ahead of his time. To the pe always ed with the blessing of the scapular of Mount Carmel is put upon him fatally ahead of his time. To the persistent livery. No house is without a mono-one, who means to begin, continue and livery. No house is without a mono-one, who means to begin, continue and livery. No house is without a mono-one, who means to begin, continue and livery. No house is without a mono-one, who means to begin, continue and livery. No house is without a mono-one, who means to begin, continue and livery. No house is without a mono-one, who means to begin, continue and livery. No house is without a mono-ter is nothing like blessed and laid by in case of sudden To the persistent so that he may die wearing Our Lady' structed the line was 47 miles and 3 making the start that is half the bat- need. Formerly two saucers were al-020 feet long, and the summit was 263 feet above sea level. From the begin-ning the traffic in passengers and goods veering weather-cock and fidgety ba-nor on his coffin, one containing snuff, or on his coffin, one containing snuff, the does the could way used by rometer of his own moods. He does the other earth that had been blessed. was heavy, as the route was used by not ask himself whether he likes the It is only within late years that advantage has been taken of the tacit people all over the west coast of North idea of the deed or not. He goes ahead and South America. Until an arbi- and leaves the others gasping and revocation of the law which forbade trary decision of the management guessing. It takes a deal of scalding any act of Catholic worship to take with hot water to induce him to loosen place in public graveyard. It is the exception now for the priest not to drove them from the trade, there was a his hold. "To endure and endure and to be accompany the funeral and bless the line of steamers which carried Euro-

withstood," without losing nerve or temper, this is the acid test of the strong man. To await the desired con-summation without losing heart of now seldom needed. pean freight from Panama to Welling, that period-1868-no regular steam-

The snuff, however, is still there ship route lay through the Strait of grace and skill keeping faith where we have pledged it-this is the persistence and in some parts each man is pre-Magellan to the west coast of South that must count in the long run. For sented with a pipeful of tobacco America. In 1869 the railway across the the "happy warrior," intrepid and un- which he smokes as he follows the the Atlantic, had become a ruin, was either by sea or by the Chagres river, a considerable amount of the goods thing more than a fighting chance to in cances or small vessels as far as traffic and almost all the passenger to the scale beam the way he wants it to the chagres river, a considerable amount of the goods thing more than a fighting chance to the scale beam the way he wants it one churchyard which is washed by in the delicate balance between victory the Atlantic we counted the bowls o everal hundred such pipes lying and defeat .- Philadelphia Ledger.

around the newlymade graves. The reason for the snuff and prob ably for the pipes was hard to find. Only one out of many persons quesexplanation tioned could offer any This one was a woman who said that

to Connemara alone.

When a person is near death a

traffic and almost all the passenger traffic for California and Oregon were in traffic, the line continued to pay

In August, 1881, the French Canal company purchased 68,887 of the the

da Every man owes himself a living, and it's up to him to discard his coat and display the busy signal.

