WHY PROPOSAL WAS SUDDEN.

One Thing That Ford Youth Had Taken No Thought For.

"This is so suiden!" As he heard the guil speak these words the astonasked young man rose to his feet in andderment, "Sudden!" he repeated. "Did I hear aright? More than two mears ago, I believe it was, since I first met you. For several months after that I only saw you occasionalby, then gradually, very gradually, I Amereused my visits. It took six amonths to get on a formal calling basis: it took six months more to be a magutar visitor; six months more to wall you by your Christian name; and It is only during the last few months That I have ventured, with many misgivings, even to hold your hand. And mow, after all this gradual development of my love, you tell me that my electaration is so sudden. Do you call "I do, indeed," she This sudden?" meplied calmly. "But for what reason?" The young lady replied, with pasme degree of hauteur: "Simply this." I hardly imagined you would dare to speak to me like this for another two years at least_considering your preswot salary."

HOW THE EXPERT KNEW.

Something Even Ordinary Man Might Have Discovered.

"Mr. William Kopfer is a well-Minown resident of Denver, Col., and man artist upon the violin. He is a econnoisseur in instruments. A friend and his told him that he possessed a good imitation Stradivarius and Mr. Mopfer requested that the violin be Throught him for inspection. The inestrument was in a bad state of repair. and its owner fixed it as well as he would with a generous quantity of exice, before taking it to the expert. Konfer drew the violin from its case and drew the bow slowly across the sstrings. 'Ach!' he exclaimed. 'Dere moust be a new E string.' A new string was substituted and again Kopfer tried the tone. He bent his ear anx-Sousiv to the instrument and his bowfing head was almost affectionate. But the seemed still unsatisfied. Der iss aco much glue, he announced sadly. "What!" exclaimed his friend. 'Is it possible for you to tell that by the some?' 'Ach, Herr Je! Nein,' was the quick retort. 'By der schmell!""

The Worth of Nurses.

Contrasting his Indian experiences with those in South Africa. Field Marschal Lord Roberts said that for the Mrst two or three months of the siege of Delhi not a single case of amputation survived, and at Lucknow the fact, it would hardly be possible to describe what the wounded and sick soffered during the Indian campaign from the overpowering heat, the awarm of insects, the stench, the lack of surgical and medical treatment and the want of proper nursing. During the South African war a totally different state of affairs prevailed, and the presence of trained nurses contributed to the difference.

Scared from School.

The small girl in the night school was answering the questions put to her by her teacher, says the Baltimore News. "Why did you stop going to day school, Maria?" asked the teacher, kindly. "I'll tell you," replied Maria, confidentially. "I was getting taking all right in day school and I was spin to keep on until I was real learned, when one day a man came in and 'zamined the children. mand what do you think he said? He ssaid that I had to have my tonsils cut out and wear eyeglasses and have add my teeth pulled, an' so I went Some and tole my mother, and she zays, 'You kin jes' stay at home; I min't goin' to have you insected for no mehoo! - and so I went to work."

As Far as He Could Go. in his infant breast, possibly, he is aberishing the hope that he will ultimately reach the age when "the fel-Jury will call him Bill." but at the "agreement time he has "just turned two." rand Willie is a conventionalist of no mean attainments for his years. The eather day he was taken out visiting, mnd, among other things, was called rupon to "count the cars of a freight grain." He was compelled to rely upson his memory, but "counting the sears" is a favorite daily occupation as they bass within sight of the windows so his home. This is the way he did žt: "One, two, three, four, five, six, meven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, ca-

Gevernment Trains Housekeepers. Household economy has been given milicial recognition by the Belgian government in the establishment of domeetic training schools. The curricu-Esm includes the maintenance and scleanliness of dwellings, furnishings, Bounday work, cutting, fitting, making and repairing of ordinary garments; scooling, and, in the miral districts, gardening, dairy work and the care and poultry. In addition there are lectures on hygiens, domestic economy. scare of children and nursing of the sick. There are both elementary aschools and those for advanced pupils. The latter teach dressmaking, lace making, embroidery, flower making and so on.

His Excuse.

"Yesh." m' dear," began Luschman, m rather late to-night, but you-er --see I -- "Come now," said his wife, "be honest, for once. Why didn't you tell the truth?" "Well, m' dear, I'm 'fraid you wouldn't b'lieve me. Truth a stranger'n fiction, y' know."

BEAUTY AND ITS AGE.

The Only Way to Keep Young Is-to Keep One's Heart Young.

"No woman is worth looking at after 40, or worth talking to before." is a cynical saying which has not much of the proverbial grain of truth in it, for it certainly is a fact that in society to-day the women who have the greatest and less are the more or less matured ones who have realized that, since grow old we must, the least we can all do is to grow old intelligently. "It is a man's own fault-it is from want of use-if his mind grows torpid in old age," said Dr. Johnson, and there is no reason why when we feel ourselves no longer of the crowd we should not still derive a certain mild pleasure from looking on at it from the outside. The only really old people are the ones who have never had any strong interests in life, who have never felt anything, done anything, or been anything in particular. The only possible way to keep young is to keep one's heart young; the only preventive to old age a boundless capacity for sympathy, the possession of which will prove in the long run far more efficacious in its youth-prolonging qualities than the most advertised Methuselah mixture or the latest bacteriological discovery claiming to destroy the bacilus of antediluvianism. -Pictorial Review.

MUST HAVE BEEN A WONDER.

Chinaman's Glowing Advertisement of His India Ink.

The late Ambrose L. Thomas used to collect curious advertisements and one that he valued highly was a Chinese advertisement of India ink.

This curious screed, translated, is as follows: "At the shop Tae-shing (prosperous in the extreme), very good ink, fine, fine. Ancient shop, great-grandfather, grandfather, father and self make this ink. Fine and hard. Picked with care, selected with attention. I sell very good ink; prime cost is veery. This ink is heavy, so is gold. The eye of the dragon glitters and dazzles, so does this ink. No one makes like it. Others who make ink make it for the sake of accumulating base coin and cheat,

while I make it only for a name. "Plenty of mandarins know my ink -my family never cheated-they have always borne a good name.

"I make ink for the 'Son of Heaven' and all the mandarins in the empire. As the roar of the tiger extends for every place, so does the fame of the dragon's jewel, the ink of Taeshing.

Largest Building Stone.

The walls of the Acropolis at Baalbek are truly called Cyclopean, says Sunday at Home. The famous Trillthon, the largest stones ever used in building, measure respectively 65, 64 and 63 feet in length, each block weighing about 750 tons. How these huge masses were accurately placed in position 20 feet above the ground is a problem which modern science, with all its appliances, leaves yet unsolved.

Above them are Arab fortifications. The quarries whence these gigantic materials were obtained are among the most interesting features of Baalbek. Here may still be seen the method of work of the ancient quarrymen. stones vertically hewn lying almost ready to the hand of the builder. One of these stones, to which the Arabs give the name Hajar-el-Houbla, measures 69 feet in length and weighs 915

M. de Saulcy calculates it would take the united efforts of 40,000 men to put this huge block in motion. This quarry is now used as a necropolis by the inhabitants of Baalbek.

Our English. Sidney Lee, the London Shakespearean scholar, thinks well of English as spoken by Americans. His views were expressed in addressing a new British association, instituted "to help to maintain the correct use of English. and to promote the due recognition of English as an essential element in national education." In Harvard, he said, there were 20 professors of English, while in Oxford there was but one, and this was a fair example of teaching in the universities in the two countries. Possibly this attention to English is partly because America has more to contend against, but it is due partly, without doubt, to fresh interest and laudable ambition.-Collier's

Perfect Double of Senator. Fred Ireland of Detroit, an official

stenographer of the house of representatives in Washington, is almost the exact double of Senator William Alden Smith of the same state. Even in Detroit, where both are well known, Mr. Smith is often spoken to for Mr. Ireland and vice versa. Speaker Cannon once rode in the same seat from Paris, Ill., to Chicago with Ireland. whom he has known many years, and called him "William Alden" all the

'Twas a Draw. Squiggs-That French duel was

.. Squaggs-How's that?

Squiggs-Why as soon as the principals had produced their naked swords, the affair was called a draw.

A Mind's-Eye View, "And is your castle in Spain a sky

scraper?"

"Yea; 14 fairy stories high."—Harper's Weekly.

THE THOUGHTS OF YOUTH.

Boy's Ambition Probably Shared by Many of His Age.

Mrs. M. G. Black, of Gardiner, Ore., who has received one of the last gwards of the Carnegie hero fund for saving three young girls from drowning, was talking about brayery the other day.

"Do I think that bravery, heroism, can be cultivated? Yes," she said. "In a sense I do. Heroista is unselfishness carried to its highest point, and children can certainly be trained to be unselfish.

"There is only one way to teach them that, though, and that is the way of kindness. Reat and bully children, and they won't grow up unselfish, but the opposite."

· She smiled. "I knew a little boy," she said. "Once, at a party, I had a long con-

versation with him. "'And,' I said, as I helped him decorate a pink egg, what are you going to do when you grow up?" "Looking up from the egg with-a

frown, he answered:

"Whip papa."

UP THROUGH THE AIRSHAFT.

Quite Easy to Learn Family Secrets in New York.

"It beats all," said a westerner as he sat in the smoker, "how many family secrets you can learn in New York without knowing any of the families, or even their names." "What's your system?" a New

Yorker asked. "Why," was the reply, "I've been here two weeks, visiting a relative who occupies an apartment. Through the walls and through the airshaft-on which four or five other apartments open-I learned details of a will fight in one quarter, of an impending divorce in another, and of a son's embezzlement in a third; to say nothing of why one family couldn't pay rent on time, how the husband and father of another was worrying his wife into the grave by drunkenness and extravagance, and sundry other skeletons sup-

posed to be closely gnarded. "Great place, New York. I'm glad to get away."-N. Y. Globe.

Many Royalties in Germany.

Germany is ruled by one emperor, four kings, six grand dukes, seven princes and one simple count. These sovereigns occupy very different degrees of importance, even in the eyes of their own immediate subjects, but in one degree or another they all enjoy the dignities and privileges of kingship and all akve to face some of the responsibilities of state. Every one of them has a capital and a court of his own. Some of the capitals are not very big cities, but they are all very proud. Among them are places with populations of 11,000, 9,000, 6,000 and 5,000. Arolsen, the capital of the principality of Waldeck-Pyrmont, has only 2,620 inhabitants. The entire population of the principality of Lichtenstein, the smallest of them all, is about 9,500 souls. The capital is Vaduz, with 1,139 inhabitants.

Life of Our Coal Fields.

If the rate of consumption of 1905 were maintained indefinitely, without change, our coal would last approximately 4,000 years, but if the constantly increasing rate which has marked the consumption during the past 90 years be maintained, our coal will practically be exhausted within

It does not seem probable that the rate of increased consumption will be affected materially for a great many years to come, and hence the estimate of 100 years will be nearer the truth than 4,000 years. The real life of our coal fields probably will be some where between these extremes, and it seems probable that it may be about 200 years.-National Geographic Mag-

Mauled by Lions and Leopards. Now and then a man is brought into camp having been mauled by a savage ilon or leopard, which cases never fail to excite interest.

A man named Kelly is now in with his left arm and head badly mauled, by a leopard. Another man, Van de Riet, has just arrived from the north with an arm badly maimed by a leopard. Being too far away to get medical aid, he healed his arm by applying hot meal poultices.

Mr. Thornton, who had a big lion enter his hut some months ago, and who had both hands fearfully mangled by the brute before his boy could shoot it, has returned to his farm. Brokers Hill corresondence Bulawayo Chronicle.

Such is Fame. A policeman who witnessed a motor accident in Paris, in which Mme Re-

jane's chauffeur was implicated, had gravely noted down the following: "In the automobile was a lady, Reju or Rejane, who says she is an actress." Obviously, this Parisian policeman

did not feel quite convinced that "Re-

ju or Rejane" really was an actress, even although she did say so.-Gen-A Lesser Evil. Messenger-Your wife has eloped with your chauffeur.

The Commonest of All. "Every man hugs some delusion." "Yes, especially if it wears petti-

Husband--Thank fortune! Now I

won't have to break it to her that the

cook has left.—Harper's Weekly.

QUEER WAYS OF FIGHING.

Trout Killed with a Hammer-Masked Lake Fishermen.

"I wore a woolen musk when I cought that fish," said the angler, pointing to a mounted specimen above the sideboard, "and the thermometer registered 12 degrees below zero at the time. It was on take Michigan On the lakes the summer fishing will aggregate 130,000,000 pounds a season. There is a winter fishing, too, when men in windmasks sit over little holes in the thick ice and, at a polar temperature, watch their tleups. They don't catch much, but what they do catch they get seven or eight cents a pound for, and thus it is possible for the winter fishermen to earn \$12 a day. I'd have earned \$17 the day I went out if I had sold my fish. The little carp over the mantel was caught with a mirror, My line had a mirror behind the bait. When a fish approached his own reflection made him think that another fish was about to snatch the bait from him, and he bit greedily. The fine trout above the hole in the carpet I caught with a hammer. What? Yes, a hammer. That is the Georgia way. They wade up and down a stream and whack with a stout sledge every big stone they pass. Then they turn over the stone and find as like as not, a stunned frout underneath."-New Orleans Times-Democrat.

VIRTUE IN THE EELSKIN.

Worth Trying by Those Who Suffer from Rheumatism.

"Why don't you got an eelskin?" said the old "vegetable lady," as the master at one of our largest markets paused in front of her stand and rubbed his knee, giving utterance to a half-smothered exclamation that rhymed with clam, ham and words like those. "What good would an celskin do?" growled the market-master. "Don't you know," was the answer, "that an eelskin is the very best thing you can try for rheumatism? Some folks think that the ecl. being naturally limber and quick in its motions; gives a virtue to the skin, and this makes a rheumatic joint as limber as the eel itself; but I guess there isn't much in that notion. It's a kind of magic, you know. "But the celskin really does do good, and the way it does it is this: The eelskin is just like leather, only not so thick, and it feels like a piece of tough kid that has been soaked in oil. Now you wrap the eelskin round your knee and tie it on, or pin it on, it doesn't matter which, and it keeps the joint warm and the oil makes the skin soft, and after awhile your rheumatism is gone. People laugh at the idea and call it an old woman's notion, but some old women's notions are pretty good notions,"-Philadelphia Ledger.

Japanese Life Undergoing Change. America and Europe can see that Japan is being caught in the strong current of modern industrial and commercial organization and is being swept far away from the old moorings. A Japan of factories and mills, machinery and big corporations, wealth such as the country never before knew and a grim industrial grind strange to the Japanese is coming into existence. The whole color of Japanese life is changing. Wealth is making itself the usual object of worship in industrial and commercial nations. Will its votaries and the victims of its bitter rivairies—the human sacrifices of wealth abused and misdirected-emulate the feats of arms which amazed the world in the siege of Port Arthur and the great battles from Liao-Yang to Mukden?-Cleveland

World's Largest Diamond.

The American Magazine reports graphically the recent discovery of the largest diamond in the worlda diamond which weighs in the rough 3.024% karays. Translated into understandable terms, it is a stone weighing a pound and a third. Until the discovery of this wonderful gem the world's record in diamonds was held by the "Excelsior"-a stone of 969 karats-nearly half a pound avoirdupois. Three years ago the "Excelnior." which was badly flawed, was cut up into ten stones, valued at \$415,-600. This in turn utterly eclipsed all the other great diamonds of the world Thus: Kohnioor (after first cutting), 279 karats; Nizam of Hyderabad, 279; Regent or Pitt, 127; Duke of Tuscany, 133; Tiffany (yellow), 125; Orloff, 194; Star of the South, 124.

Precious Heritage.

Sweetness of temper is a precious heritage. It gives beauty to everything. It keeps its windows open toward the spice country, and fills the home with perpetual delight. The fortunate possessor of a sunny soul is God's evangel in a dark world. He is a living gospel-which no one will ever repudiate, and the blessedness of which all men will appreciate. The body will grow old and the smooth brow will be furrowed, but a happy disposition is an aureole to the gray crown of age. Blessed is he whose life looks out upon the land of Beulah and whose soul is responsive to the outlying vision.

The Days of Youth. Mrs. Housekeep-"Go away. You're nothing but a lazy old tramp and you were never anything else. Don't tell me -" "Ragson Tatters-"Yer mistaken, lady. Ah! dey wuz a time ---" Mrs. Housekeep-"None of your lies, now!" Ragson Tatters-"I wuz goin' ter say, ma'am, dey wuz a time w'en I was a lazy young tramp."-Philadel* SADDLE OF HUMAN CKIM.

Remarkable Object in Possession of Philadelphia Man.

Human skin can be premared, tauned and made into distable articles as successfully as can the skin of horses and other animals. The paulting leather is very purch Pho does'dn or pigskin. William Hanself of Philus delphia has the largest article which has ever been known to be mall from human skin-a beautiful pure white saddle-and any one examing it would be at a loss to tell the kind of skin from which it is made. The pores have a familiar look, but the skin itself is of an astoniching thickness. The saddle was made from the skin of a man. A woman's skin, generally speaking, would be too delicate. Human skin leather is a very rare article and there is no general trade in it. Sometimes a physician will have a piece, made into a cover for an instrument case, and occasionally medical students get enough to be made into a purse or a pair of slippers. Patients sometimes have a belt or a book made from a limb which has been amputated.

DAMAGE DONE BY WOLVES.

Ranchmen Suffer Heavily From Depredations of Animals.

Vernon Bailey, of the forest reserve bureau at Washington, who has been making an investigation of the ray ages of wolves on the ranches of the southwest, reports that in a certain part of New Mexico he learned that a moderate estimate of the stock killed by four wolves of which he got trace was a vearling co- or a calf every three days, or approximately 100 head of cattle to each welf. Counting all as calves," says Mr. Bailey, " at the low rate of \$10 a head, each wolf would at this rate cost the ranchmen \$1,000 a year. This estimate of \$4,000 for the four wolves leaves out of consideration the five to ten hungry offspring of each pair, which begin to kill stock for themselves in the fall and continue to do so as long as they live."

Not Looking for Millions. The head of a large concern engaged in the manufacture of various kinds of machinery, and especially that which is used in equipping plants. has a letter from a basiness correspondent which he prizes very highly. It came in response to an estimate submitted as to the cost of an equipment for a saw mill. The man had written to the house stating that he wanted to set up a saw mill and asked how much it would cost to supply it with the necessary machinery. This was right in line with the business of the house and after a careful estimate a modest total was reached of \$3,000, and the man was informed that it would require at least that amount to give him what he ought to have. The response received by the firm was brief and to the point. "If I had \$3,000, what in thunder would I want with a saw mill?"

The Boy Who Fall Down. At Ausburg, in Bavaria, they have some curious laws and ordinances. An American family from Wisconsin were stopping there list December, and one of the sons, a boy 13 years old, slipped on the lev sidewalk one day. He was at once arrested and taken into court on the charge that he had fallen down to make trouble for other folks. It was held that when the boy fell down a number of people stopped to see if he had been burt. Also, that the shopkeeper before whose door he had fallen felt humiliated over the circumstance. Also, that he frightened a horse. Also that when a policeman came up he could not talk German to him. The case was tried in court, and the boy who fell down instead of standing up was fined three dollars.

High Nest for Hen's Brood. "Two or three days ago," said a farmer near Lamar, "my wife began to tell me that she heard little chickens, and that it sounded as if they were on top of the house. I laughed at her and told her that I guessed she was going crazy. But this morning she insisted that I get up on top of the house and look. I climbed up on the roof of the porch and sure enough there were an old hen and five as fine chicks as you ever saw. She had built her nest in some dry leaves under a projection of the roof. The old ben's plans had been all right. but she had failed to figure on getting her brood to earth."-Kansas City Times.

A Business Girl.

In Naples there is a girl 11 years old in the fruit business, and she is doing so well that she employs 12 men and boys. She began in her father's fruit stand at six years old. She is now accounted one of the sharpest buyers in the trade, and it is predicted that by the time she is 15 she will be one of the richest. She cannot read or write, but has to sign her name by making an X. Several fruit dealers have been fined in court for trying to injure her business.

The Brute.

"What am I going to do, Harold?" called out a woman from the window of an apartment house to her husband who stood on the stoop lighting his cigarette. "What shall I say to the landlord? He's coming around this afternoon for the last time and you know it." "I will leave it to you, my dear," Harold replied blandly. "If you can bluff him as well as you do me you're all right." - New York Press.

ADOUT OLD AGE PENSIONS.

There Are 3,000 Persons in This Country Over 100 Years Cld.

Germany has expended \$13,5000,000 for age pensions, to say nothing of \$555,700,000 for sickness and \$201,750,-000 for accidents. It is strange that this matter has not attracted more attention in an advanced country like the United States, which pays out more than \$142,000,000 a year to army and navy pensioners and has spent \$3,264,130,257 in that way since 1861. According to the Circle, the census figures show that in 1900 there were 3,989,498 persons of 65 or more yearsin the United States. This was four per cent, of the whole population. Of these, 600,926 were of 70 to 74 years; 360,696, 75 to 79 years: 182,304, 80 to 84 years; 66,389, 85 to 80 years; 18,-636, 90 to 94 years; 4,838, 95 to 99 years, and 3,086, a hundred years and over. Among the 3,680,498 persons of 65 years and more; there were 1,044,-051 married men and 521 220 married women, 410.565 widowers, 905,130 widows, 89,152 bachelors and 90,858

EAGLE WHIPS A MAN.

Then Resumes His Flight With a Stolen Lamb.

Frederick Hollenbach, a farmer living on the Schoharie Ridge, near Saegeraville, was feeding the gray squirreis in his woodland when an eagle flew past that had in its talons one of his lambs. The big bird had been annoying the community for a month. Many farmers wanted to shoot it, but the game warden threatened to invoke the law providing for a \$250 fine and imprisonment for killing a bald eagle. The eagle was flying low, and thinking he could save the lamb. Mr. Hollenbach struck the bird sharply with a stick, The eagle dropped the lamb all right, but instead of flying off made for the man, ripping open his face, his hands and chest with its talons and practically tearing off his clothes. After it had Hollenbach lyingsprostrate in the woods the eagle picked up the lamb and flew off. Hol-Joubach is in bed, with a doctor attending him.-Philadelphia Ledger.

Sharp Mister Fox.

About a dozen farmers' boys in New Hampshire turned out one Saturday last winter to hunt down a fox that was known to have his lair in a bili. Reynard was finally routed out, and after leading the crowd a chase of ten nules he doubled back and his trail was lost near a certain farmhouse. Hunters and dogs beat around for two hours and then gave up. When they had departed the fox left the house by a broken window. He had entered the same way and convealed himself in a chimney. There was a fireplace but no fire, and no one would have thought of looking for him up there. He was so covered with soot when be got out that he was taken for a black

Foibles of Letter Writers.

The London Chronicle wants to know how you date your letters. If they are dated at all or which of the nine ways appeals to an individual's taste or laziness. There are some persons who do not take the trouble to date their letters at all, and the Chronicle is brutal enough to add "they are mostly women." Who does not receive letters with signatures that beat the Dutch for illegibility? Or, perhaps with no address, no date, and the signature "that would puzzle an archangel and split a linetype machine" But the worst of it is so many people rejoice in their illegible signature! It lends an air of distinction to the baldest missive.

A One-Armed Life Saver. One of the life savers along the Delaware river front is Paul Greenwood, now a resident of Chester. Greenwood lost an arm and a leg several years ago, but despite this misfortune be continues at his work of saving lives of people, who fall overboard. Not long ago he saw five Philadelphians struggling in the water of Marcus Hook, their yacht having cansized. He jumped into a boat and hurried to the scene of the upset yacht and saved all of the members of the party, most of whom were

Dice Threwing for a Bequest. The singular sight of two servent girls throwing dice for charity money was recently witnessed at Guildford. The charity is known as "maids" money." This was left by John How in 1674, and each year there is a competition for a check for £11 9s. The dice throwers must have been employed for two years in one service in Guildford, but not at an inn. Laura Cadman secured the check with a double six, Emma Trimmer throwing six and three.

Troubles of the Ancients. Perseus had cut off the head of Medusa. "Speaking of snake stories." he said throwing the head, with its wriggling serpents into a bag. "I guess that will hold you for a while." But the appalling realization of what he had done did not burst upon him until he discovered that his hasty deed had

turned Pegasus loose upon the world. Dead Heads.

"Conductor," said the gasping passenger, vainly trying to raise a window. There are at least a billion microbes in this car." "You ought to be able to stand that if the companycan," growled the street car conductor. "We don't get a blamed cent for carrying 'em'

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