HE WANTED TO BE ON TIME

But it Is Probable Mrs Black Had Something to Say to Him That Night.

He was a very busy man and, like will of be kind be hated to waste time. by onnecesary warring. That was why in the madst of his correspond ence, along at our 11 o'clock the other morning, he paysed, and, turning to his secretary, requested him to ring up his residence on the phone

"feminiscon," he said, "get my house on the wire and ask Mrs. Blanks to come to the phone. Just tell them

that I wish to speak to her ' The secretary made off, and in a few minutes the required connection

• as made "Is that you, Mary?" he said.

"Yes" was the answer "Well, this is John," he said. "T have just rung you up to tell you that Barker was in here this morning withs two tickets for the theater to-night. He and Mrs. Barker have been called suddenly out of town, and he thought

we might like to use the tickets. How

about it?" Fine," replied Mrs. Blank. "I have nothing else to do."

"All right, my dear," continued Blank. "The curtain rises at 8:30."

"Yes, I know," said Mrs. Blank. "I thought I'd let you know in time, so that directly you have had your funch you can begin to put your hat on, he went on Then we can get there before the middle of the first act. By by, dear."

The only answer was an angry click at the other end of the wire, which seemed to indicate that another receiver was in trouble, but Mr. Blank only laughed as he returned to his work.-Lippincott's.

NO FOREST FIRES IN EUROPE

There Every Part of the Tree Is Utilized. Leaving Nothing to Start Conflagration.

The question has been asked why there should be so many fires in our American forests when there are so wery few or none at all in the forests of Europe. The answer is this, says Outing. When the trees are cut in the forests of Germany, France or Switzerland, the entire material in the tree is marketed and removed. leaving no inflammable litter on the ground In our American forests, owing to lack of market for such material, fully one-half of the tree-the limbs, smaller branches, twigs and foliage-are left upon the ground, where they soon become dry and fur-* misb material for a forest fire.

In the European forests every part twigs, is sold. The sale of this minor product constitutes over one-ball of the revenue. Hence, when the forester is through with his tree cutting no inflammable material is left upon the ground. Now, if our Adirondack lumbermen could sell the limbs and tops of the trees instead of allowing them to go to waste for lack of a market, they would not be obliged to leave the ground encumbered with the inflammable debris and litter which is such a prolific source of fire, and which when ignited is so difficult to extinguish.

Scoffs at "Maternal Instinct. We talk about "maternal instinct." There is no such thing. To be sure, there are things that have to do with young, which females possess and males lack. The wasp lays its egg on the body of the caterpillar for the larvae it will never see. The hen sits 21 days on any roundish, whitish object of the proper size. I have seen, at a children's party, every little girl Jeave the supper table on the advent of a baby, and every little boy go stolidly on with his supper. But each kind of mother has its own bundle of instinctive reactions. There is no "maternal instinct" in the abstract .-E. T. Brewster, in McClure's.

> A Determined Violet. An ancient homestead in Woodstock, Conn., shelters under its threshfold an interesting freak of nature. Between the house and its huge old doorstep is a narrow crevice filled with cement. In this hard and ecemingly forbidding environment a fine flourishing English violet plant awakens much wonder and admiration. With apparently no encouragement this brave littie plant yearly puts forth fresh leaves and sometimes as many as ten fragrant flowers bloom at once.-Country Life in America.

The Cow. There is a virtue in the cow; she is full of goodness; a wholesome odor exhales from her; the whole landscape looks out of her soft eyes; the quality and the aroma of miles of meadow and pasture lands are in her presence and products. I had rather have the care of cattle than be the keeper of the great seal of the nation. Where the cow is, there is Arcadia; so far as her influence prevails, there is contentment, humility and sweet, homely life.—John Burroughs.

Queer Legal Oaths. In Siberia in the wild Ostavaks law courts, the natives swear by the newly-severed head of a bear, which is implored to subsequently rend and devour them should they perjure themselves; whilst in Assam the opposing witnesses lay hold of a chicken by its feet and retain each one half as the

elerk of the court chops it in two. By undergoing this ceremony they are considered to be pledged to a like fate in the event of their swearing,

THAT SETTLED THE QUESTION

Youngster's Explanation of Mis Fathei's Standing Left the Others Away Behind.

The story, long since familiar, of the little boy whose boast that his tather had put a cupola on his house was capped by his playmate, who remarked, proudly, that his father had just put a mortgage on theirs, is brought to mind by an occurrence which was told the other day by a prominent politician

The small son of a man who was in politics for revenue only, on moving into a new district this summer, went out and struck up an acquaintance with two other kids of the same age who lived in the neighborhood They were interested in the newcomer and began to try him out as to what his parents amounted to anyhow

"My father is a window trimmer and an awfully big man," said the first

kid. "Ah, that's nothin'," said the second. "My father's a dump trimmer, and he's twice as big as your's."

It was plainly up to the stranger to make good. And he did it with much gusto.

"My father is a politician," he said, "but I heard a man tell him last night that he was the biggest trimmer in this ward"

And it was apparent to any one that the new kid had made a strong impression upon the neighborhood.

EYE OF THE CAMERA IS KEEN

Has Been Used to Decipher Documents Substantially Obliterated by Age.

Often the eye of the camera will decipher documents of which the writing had been substantially obliterated by age, says a writer in Van Norden's Magazine. I have successfully copied with the camera the utterly faded photograph of a classmate of 40 years

Changes in the pigment of the skin, undiscovered by the eye, appear with distinctness on the sensitive plate, and it is said that ample warning of approaching disease has been thereby given.

The camera takes pictures of subjects which cannot be made to appear on the ground glass and of those which the eye of man has never seen. The human eye can penetrate space no further in an hour than in a single instant. Yet the eye of the camera will gaze into the sky for hours, looking deeper and seeing more with each second that passes.

Through this attribute of the camera a great chart of the heavens is now being made. In this work distinguished astronomers and photographers throughout the world are cooperating. Yet not one in a hundred of the stars already plainly pictured by them was ever seen by the unaided eye of scientists.

Too Tough a Morsel. "Tenderfoots" are not necessarily fools, as the guide of whom a writer in the New York Herald tells discovered. He was recounting some of his early experiences with the brethren of the wild, for the benefit of his open-mouthed audience of easterners. "Yes, sir," he said, " it was my first grizzly, and I don't deny I was prou of having killed him in a hand-to-hand struggle. We began fighting about sunrise, and when he finally rolled over, done for, the sun was going

down." He paused. No one said anything, and so he added slowly, "for the second time."

"Do you mean that it took you two days to kill a grizzly?" asked the Eng-"Two whole days and one night,"

replied the guide. "He died mighty hard." "Choked to death?" asked the tour-

"Yes, sir," the guide said, calmly. "Well, well! What did you try to get him to swallow?"

Canal Long Ago Projected. It is now nearly 400 years since the first proposal was made for the Panama canal. A canal was suggested as early as 1520 by Angel Saavedra, but for a long time all such suggestions met with determined opposition from Spain, who made it a capital offense to seek or make known any improvement on the existing route from Porto Bello to Panama. More recently Louis Napoleon, when a prisoner at Ham, spent much time considering ! the practicability of such a scheme. It was not, however, until the California gold rush of 1849 that any accurate knowledge of the topographical conditions was obtained, and even then 30 more years elapsed before the actual site was chosen by an internatioal commission and the work begun.

Use for Elastic Conscience.

Riggs and Briggs are two Montreal citizens, more or less interested in nunicipal affairs. They differ on several burning questions, but unite in a strong dislike for O'Flaherty (which is not the gentleman's name). The same O'Fiaherty has a positive gift for manipulating votes and is capable of looking after a larger band of the "faithful" than any other Montreal

politician. "it's men like O'Fisherty who give this city a bad name," said Riggs warmly. "He's got no principles at all. In fact, he doesn't think of any-

thing but getting his man in." "That's so," responded Briggs. "If I had a conscience as elastic as O'Flaherty's, I'd make it into a rubber USES WINGS TO CATCH FISH

Siy Old Bird is the Cassowary, According to Obselvations Made by Naturalist.

Habits of the cormorant and of our native fish hawk are generally known. Their methods of taking fish are very much like those of birds of prey But the cassowary fishes according to a method of its own. A well-known nat uralist witnessed its operations on a river in the island of New Britain

He saw a cassowary come down to the water's edge and stand for some minutes apparently watching the wa ter carefully. It then stepped into the river where it was about three feet deep, and partially squatting down, spread its wings out, submerging them, the feathers being spread and ruffied.

The bird remained motionless, and kept its eyes closed as if in sleep. It remained in this position for a quarter of an hour, when suddenly closing its wings and straightening its feathers it stepped out on the bank. Here is shook itself several times, whereupon a quantity of small fishes feil out of its wings and from amid its feathers. These the bird immediately picked up and swallowed.

The fishes had evidently mistaken the feathers for a kind of weed that grows in the water along the banks of the rivers in this island and which resembles the feathers of the cassowary. The smaller fishes hide in these weeds to avoid the larger ones that prey on them.

ONLY AS OLD AS SHE LOOKS

Woman of To-Day Retains Youthfulness Longer Than Her Grandmother Did.

Women in Switzerland grow old more gracefully than any of the other women in Europe, according to a letter to the Emporia (Kan.) Gazette. That does not mean that women who work hard in youth and sap their lives out before they are 30 are pretty. Not even American women of that type are beautiful. Perhaps it means that, owing to social and economic conditions, women do not have to wear themselves out as their mothers did, and hence they are beautiful in their forties and fifties. It may be pertinent to digress here and present this query: Are not women the world ever, as a rule, adding a decade to their years of youth? It does seem that there are more handsome women between 35 and 55 than there were 25 years ago. Or perhaps a boy in his 'teens isn't so charitable to the minor failings of a woman in her forties as a man is in his forties. But discounting the pride of youth, it does seem that to-day, all over the world, the woman whose family income is between \$10 and \$1,000 a week-a wide range, surely-this woman retains her youthful freshness and charm longer than her grandmother retained hers. Laborsaving machinery seems to have done that much for the woman in general everywhere in civilization.

The Man with Mechanical Ability. The man with a natural aptitude for mechanics received so many invitations to take automobile trips with friends who acted as their own chauffeur that he came to be envied by his less fortunate acquaintances. One day the popular guest condescended to enlighten them as to his true status.

"You fellows needn't get greeneved," he said. "I haven't such a snap, after all. What they want me to go along for is to blow up the tires and make repairs in case of an accident. I wouldn't be such a hot favorite if I wasn't so proficient in that line. That knowledge is somewhat galling, but as I enjoy the trips I swallow my pride and accept the invitations."

Virtues of the Hazel Twig. Hazel twigs long have been used as instruments with which to discover water under ground. The twig has at various times been credited with many marvelous powers. Not only could it discover water, but concealed lodes of metal, especially silver, were betrayed by the bazel, which, according to tradition, was guided by the pixies who guarded the treasures of the earth. In France the divining rod of hazel was used in the pursuit of criminals, while in many of the meuods of investigating the future the burning of hazel nuts played a part.

Wonder of Nature.

A noted divine was very fond of riding on horseback, and, being vastly conceited about his fine figure, wore stays to show it off. One day he was thrown from his horse and lay prone on the road. A farm laborer from a neighboring field ran to his assistance. The first-aid man began to feel the parson all over, and suddenly yelled out to another laborer:

"Rin, Jock, for heaven's sake, for a doctor. Here's a man's ribs running north and sooth instead of east and

--- Had No Complaint to Make. Two young women boarded a crowded street car and were obliged to stand, says the Washington Post. One of them, to steady herself, took hold of what she supposed was her friends hand. They had stood thus for some time, when, on looking down she discovered that she was holding a man's hand. Greatly embarrassed, she exclaimed: "Oh, I've got the wrong hand!" Whereupon the man, with a smile, stretched forth his other hand, saying: "Here is the other one, madam."

NICETIES OF LEGAL TENDER

Somewhat Perplexing Question Which Very Few Seem to Properly Understand.

One of the prominent officials of the treasury department recently ventured the opinion that not one banker in a hundred and probably not half a dozen members of the senate or house could tell accurately what parts of the United States currency are legal tender. He went on to say:

"A great many people know that the definition of legal tender is money of a character which by law a debtor may require his creditor to receive in payment in the absence of a special agreement. But when it comes to stating just what money is legal tender you will find the banker all at sea.

"Gold certificates are not a legal tender, but are receivable for customs, taxes and all public debts. Silver certificates are not legal tender. Neither are national bank notes. They are receivable, however, in payment of taxes, excises, public lands and all other dues to the United States, except duties on imports. Trade dollars and fractional currency are not legal tender. Fractional currency is rereceivable for postage and revenue stamps and also in payment of any dues to the United States less than five dollars, except duties on imports Foreign gold and silver coins are not legal tender.

"The following are legal tender in

all that the term means: "Gold coins of the United States. standard silver dollars, subsidiary silver coins, minor coin of copper. bronze or copper-nickel, up to 25 cents; United States notes or greenbacks, demand treasury notes, treas ury notes of 1890. Columbian half dollar and Columbian quarters Subsidiary silver coin, including Colum bian half dollars and quarters, are legal tender up to \$10"

CASE CALLED FOR SYMPATHY

Life of Single-Blessedness Made No Appeal to Battered-Up Married Woman.

Apropos the discussion of the advantages of married life recalls the experience of a certain bachelor maid of some forty summers and some winters. She has had proposals enough, so she says, but she prefers singleblessedness to pouring coffee, mending socks and spanking babies. She recently began devoting much of her time to working in the slums, particularly among the women and children.

A pitiful case was recently brought to her attention to care for A woman had been cruelly treated by her husband, who, as a final act, locked her out in the street. The poor, suffering creature, ragged and disheveled, reported at the charity headquarters and begged for shelter

Miss J dressed her wounds, gave her something to eat and then started a sympathetic conversation with the sufferer. The latter, after recounting at much length the injuries she had borne at the hands of her liege, lord and master, asked a few questions to satisfy her womanly curiosity about her new-found friend. "Live here?" she inquired of Miss

"No," was the reply; "I spend only a part of my time here during the day. My home is way up in Harlem." "You're married, ain't you?" was

the next question. "No, I'm not married; and I may never be."

The poor, wretched woman opened her bruised and swollen eyes as best she could to get a look at her friend, gazing at her in amazement.

"My, my!" she said, sympathetically. "I'm awfully sorry. Say, but ain't it fierce to be an old maid?"-New York Times.

French Forest-Making.

A striking example of scientific forestry is furnished by the coast of France, chiefly in Gascony, where in 1793 tree-planting was begun in an attempt to fix the sand dunes, which the winds were steadily pushing inland over the vineyards. Pine forests have now covered 275,000 of the 350,000 acres of dunes. About \$2,000,000 has been spent on the work, with \$700,000 more for forest administration, but the state has received \$120,000 more than the cost, while the 125,000 acres still retained have a value of \$10,000,-000. Farther inland, about 2,000,000 acres of worthless shifting sands and marshes, in the triangular area of the Landes, have been converted into profitable pine forests since the middle of last century. This work, mostly done by the communes, has created a property worth \$100,000,000, as valued from the present yield of pine timber and resin.

Invited to Stay All Night. The Hostess-It's storming so hard that I guess you'd better stay all night, Mr. Scoresby.

The Dinner Guest-I'm afraid I would put you to too much trouble,

Mrs. Brown. The Hostess-Oh, not at all! Let me see. I can sleep on the library lounge. and Jane and Martha and Ella and Aunt Mary can room together, and there's a mattress we can bring down from the attic for Willie, and Mr. Brown will do nicely with a blanket on the parlor rug. It's no trouble at

all, Mr. Scoresby. The Guest-You're very kind, but I'm quite sure the rain is stopping, and I've an excellent umbrella. Just as much obliged. Good-night.-Cleveland Plain Dealer.

THE LOOK SHILL & SLOSE, and .

Land of Gold Witnesses Many Strange Vicissitudes in the Matter of Wealth.

To day a humble gold seeker may be living in a hutch of the simple architecture of a box car, says Good Housekeeping To-morrow he is build ing a 'villa" with real clapboards and shingles, hiring a Chinaman of all work and sending to 'Frisco for a brass bed and a Persian rug Some very pretty little houses begin to dot the barren landscape. A railroad stretches its metal arm down into the gold-bearing wilderness and links it with the outer world. Come tailors, modistes and milliners, soda water and ice cream, clergymen and drummers, pickpockets and actors and all. that splendid procession from the cory

corners of civilization Social conditions were decidedly perplexing Your washerwoman accepted a mining claim for an uncollectable debt. Suddenly the claim yields her a fortune, whereat, to show you that her wealth has not made her anobbish, she purchases an elaborate portable house and settles down as your next-door neighbor.

However, if you take it into your head to move away from the vicinity of the fortunate lavandiere you would find the moving problem quite simple. A small force of husky men can pull your house up by the roots and carry it up a hill or down a slope without any great exertion-that is, unless your dwelling is dobe, or you happen to be one of the bonanza crowd and have gone in for heavy architecture

HOW DID THE PARROT KNOW?

Hard to Explain, But Polly Certainly Had Premonition of the Coming Earthquake.

"Beyond his habit of living to be 100 to 150 years old, the parrot is a truly remarkable bird in other ways." said Mr. E. N. Daniels of the City of Mexico

"What makes me give utterance to this opinion is a trick that a bird which belongs to my young son executed the night of the late earthquake that shook us up so severely in Mexico. Fully five minutes before the first shock, which came a little after four o'clock in the morning. Poll set un a terrific uproar that culminated in a prolonged scream. I didn't relish the discordant racket which broke into the slumbers of the family and felt like murdering the miserable creature, especially as there was no cessa tion of its vocal exercise.

"While it was still coming in for my denunciations the tremor of the earth occurred, and in a second it flashed across my mind that Polly had given us warning in the only way it knew how to reach us. It may not seem reasonable that the bird should be able to sense a convulsion of nature in advance of its coming, but the facts are as I have stated, and after the affair was over I petted the parrot as much as I had scolded it a little while before. It has a meal ticket for life in the Daniels household, and money wouldn't buy it."

Easily Imagined. Imagine, if you please, time when every family can have its own flying machine-a means of getting out for a day with as much safety as now attends the automobile or the old family horse. Wouldn't such a thing add a value to the world? Would it not enhance the pleasure of living to be able to take the wife and babies out for a spin in the sky, where the air is pure, where all of the earth is spread out before one, even as it is spread before the eye of the eagle? Would it not add to the sum total of human happiness to take to the clouds as do the birds. and to have to consider neither the beaten highways nor the rocky barriers of the mountain ranges? Certainly it would. And just as certainly such a time is rapidly dawning or the human race.—Springfield (O.) News.

A Millionaire Before He Was 21. The arch prospector of all times was Cecil Rhodes. For him it was not merely going out and putting down holes in likely places. At 17 he had been touched with tuberculosis and ordered south. Arriving at his brother Herbert's cotton plantation in Africa in the midst of the second diamond excitement, he, with Herbert, was drawn into the "new rush." They took a claim at Colesburg -at 30 shillings a month rental. In a few weeks each leased a full claim, all the law allowed. Cecil Rhodes set himself to get the law to allow one man to own two claims, then ten, and then as many as he could lay hold of. So well did Rhodes keep pace with changing regulations that he returned to England at 19 a millionaire!-Franklin Clarkin, in Everybody's.

The Better Half. "I've often wondered," said Jones, "why woman is called the better

"l'il tell you," said Smith; "but it's a hard matter to clearly define. You naturally, being a workingman, think money better than anything else?"

Jones assented. "You likewise know that money

talks?" "So I've heard," Jones replied; "although, to tell the truth, I usually

hear only the echo of it." "Well, we grant that money is better than all else; we grant, also, that money talks. Well, woman is half of

a man's life. And—" "Yes, indeed," finished Jones, interrupting him, "and she certainly does

SOCIAL CLIMBERS IN NEVADA | HAD THE AUDIENCE WITH HIM

Christian Missionary Had Little Show in Argument with Native

Mollah. As a medical misionary, stationed for 16 years in northwestern ludia, near the Afghanistan frontier, Dr. T. L. Pennell had his share of perfl and adventure, which he has recounted in a volume entitled, "Among the Wild

Tribes of the Afghan Border As a medical man, Dr. Pennell had his ups and downs with the native doctors, who sweat their patients and burn sores with lighted oil, but have no faith in western treatment. They also bleed and purge; but gradually the new-fangled treatment was accepted, and grateful converts were made at the Bannu dispensary

As a missionary, Dr. Pennell had to contend with the mollahs, who are argumentative and great browbeaters; and very often, he confesses, he got the worst of it by verdict of the ragged crowd that hemmed in the theologians

With a certain mollah, who regarded the Christian medicine-man as a rival, Dr. Pennell had an amusing encoupter

"Do you know," asked the mollah, "what becomes of the sun when it

sets every day "" The doctor gave the nutive circle the scientific explanation.

"Rubbish!" exclaimed the mollah. "We all know that the fires of hell are under the earth, and that the sun passes down every night, and therefore comes up blazing hot in the

morning." All Dr. Pennell's accounts of natural phenomena were ridiculed by the mollah. Then, turning to his people, he said, with contempt in his face and voice.

"It is evident that I shall have to teach him everything from the beginning "-Youth's Companion.

ORIGIN OF BRITISH SQUARE

Battle Formation First Used by Scotch Troops at the Battle of Bannockburn. The greatest of all Scotch anniversaries is that of Bannochurn, fought on midsummer day in the year 1314

Apart from its bearing on the independence of Scotland, the buttle will always have an exceptional interest from the military point of view, as Bannockburn may be said to have been the birthplace of the British square "Proud Edward's" army mainly consisted of cavalry, while that of the Scots, on the other hand, was almost exclusively composed of foot folk, armed with the spear, and these Bruce threw into "schiltroms," or oblong squares—a formation borround by Wallace from the Plemings. who had employed it with success at Courtray---to resust the charge of the English cavalry

Hitherto the mounted mail-clad knight had carried everything before him, but Courtray and Bannockburn proved that he was powerless to break resolute, spear-armed infantry drawn up in "schiltrom" or hedge-hog formation, and these two battles revolutionized the tactics of the continent and of our own island. Profiting by the lesson which had been taught them at Bannockburn the English applied the tactics of the Scots with prilliant success at Ciecy, and sells more at Agincourt. As it was the Scots who may be said to have origfnated the British square at Bannockburn, so it was they again who at Balaclava were the first to discard it with "their thin red line," and new. owing to our changed conditions of warfare, it is discarded altogether.

Duel with a Tiger. Three Jakuns (aborigines) and a Malay chanced to be together in the jungle in Johore when they came across a tiger. They were only armed with parangs, and the Malay, wisely deciding in favor of discretion, took to his beels. Not so the Jukuns, however; for they at once determined to give battle, not utilizing their numerical superiority, but in the most sportsman manner arranging for the combat

in a series of duels, if necessary. As might have been expected, the series was necessary, and the end wannot long in coming. The first manwho entered the fray missed his blowand was at once struck down, and the same fate befell his two comrades, ail: three being killed.—Singapore Free Ргева.

For Parents Only.

Parents nowadays have good cause to grumble. When they were young, father and mother were paramount. Now that they are old, pa and madon't count a straw.

"After all," exclaimed the young lady visitor to the paterfamilias, who had supplied her plate with all the choicest titbits from the roast fowl, "there is nothing in the world like the breast of a chicken, is there?"

"I can't say," replied paterfamilias enviously. "I have never tasted the white meat in my life. When I was young my parents ate it; now my childreu do."

Soldier's Odd Wespon.

A soldier named Paviet was condemned to death by court-martial at Oran, France, the other day. He was charged with assaulting a corporal whilst on duty. During the hearing he threw at the president of the council a curious weapon made by himself, the blade of a pair of scissors fastened into a wooden handle. He was at at once tried for this crime. and the death seatence promounced.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

y structus in Louislant at line tous lost Blats du But. Es publishié after donc les aventeuent mongitiennein. Leis de l'administratif des l'administratif de l'admini