His Wife and His Friend. By Elizabeth Ayres. XAAAAAAAAAAAA

"They was just like iwin brothers, and nothin' but death or women sould 'a parted 'em, and of the two. sometimes think women is the beaterest."

This is a bit of wisdom uttered by rural sage, but he has nothing to do with the story and will not appear again. His wise saw is quoted simply to serve as an introduction.

between man and man that binds them as firmly as the marriage tie binds men and women together. cought Charlie's mania for hurry, There were two men once between whom such a friendship existed. One of them was a confirmed bachelor. as if the next moment was his last, He had assisted many of his acgraintances to the sitar, but he had no inclination himself to play leading man to the star of a wedding. The other did not yearn for the celib.to life, and presently he began to was has gone to new scenes and think it was not good for man to live fresh interests For a few months alone. The one whose influence afte. Charlle's marriage, the novserved to bring him to this decision was a good and lovely girl who looked upon him with favor The name of the one why willed to be a benedict was Charlie. The one who elected to be a bachelor was John. ed her world, and her sun rose and the sober, digained came fitting his stable character to perfection, though Cha-lie, out of his affection, often dwarfed it to the diminutive Johnny. which was not a fit. They advised with each other concerning their the affairs of men. He did not wish plens, and endeavors, and spent long to run the risk of being regarded as hours together in the silent communion that can only come with perfect understanding.

It was at the end of one of these silent hours that, from behind a



and that all there is to it," John said, when his loneliness grew oppremive. As time slipped away, that which he had foreseen came to pass Charile was always in a hurry After

business hours there were household errands to be attended to, or he war in a rush to get home, for "the little woman" did not like him to be late at dinner. There were no more golden moments when the two came together to talk things over and to dine at their leisure when appetite prompted The delight of keeping irregular hours was a thing of the past. The purposeless Sunday afternorr walks they had been in the habi of taking, going somewhere There is sometimes a friendship they did not know why, to do something they did not know what, were at an end. Unconsciously, John and at night, after he had closed his office, hastened to his boarding place. there to gulp down his dinner with a speed that left him facing a long enoty evening

> The one who is left behind suffers mor from the change than the one eity of housekeeping and of having a wife and home excluded every other consideration. His wife neither need ed. nor wanted, anything or any one else. The walls of her house boundset in Charlie John had been invited to spend an occasional evening with them, and he was bidden to always tee! free to join them at their Sundøy dinner. But John was wise in an intruder, and he never went to the home of his friend without a special invitation

The day dawned when Charlie missed the support and stimulus of Joni's calm strength and ready sympathy. He felt the old longing to "tel: Johnny about it," when good or ill-luck attended his fortunes. He needed the spur of unbiased opinion that stamped him either a fool of wise man as it might happen. The wires of friendship that had sagged and slackened were pulling taut again. And as they pulled, he danced like a marionette to their straining He began to revolt against domewrin restraint, and his rebellion gave birth to moments of irritation it grew painful to pose forever on the pedestal of ideality where he had been placed by his wife. The masculine companionship that lent zest to h' life was missing, and, by reason of its absence, he found it a most de-

I was the evening of a day marking the successful close of a business deal of which he had great expecta-**Nons.' He** carried the glad new

strable quantity

#### BRITISH RANGE FINDER.

Demonstrations Have Proved Its Effectiveness in War.

The British Naval Department has adopted a new type of range finder, which is stated to be of great value. says the Scientific American. It is rious gun positions on board the vesone stationed in the fighting control These motors all run at a uniform fired some distance short of the estiinstrument is set running for this distance, and by means of an indicator and pointer the range is transmitted immediately to the various gun posttions, the instruments at which record other shot is fired, the distance being fired, the range being again proportionately increased. These trial shots

only occupy a few minutes, and directly the correct range has been obtained by the recording officer in the fighting top all the various gun posttions have it well, and firing can be continued without any delays. The instrument provides automatically for the deflection of range and the speed of the ship. The transmitter has proved completely satisfactory under test, the corfect range being invariably obtained by the second trial shot It has been perfected during the past year and is now in operation at the Runnery school at Whale Island and on board a war vessel, and its utilization is to be extended throughout the service

Gull Island in Lake Superior "Gull Island, one of the Aperto group of Lake Superior, is one of the most interesting bits of land in this country," said a writer in Milwaukee Sertinel, "for the entire island, early in the summer, is literally a mass of guils' eggs. The birds do not bother about nest making A little clump of mud kicked up into a mound, with a hollow top filled with grass or feathers, is all that a gull requires to lay its eggs. These are usually laid three in a nest in the daytime they are left to the tender keeping of the sun's rays, while the old birds hunt food When night Tails the trousers moving back and forth on mother gull sits upon the eggs until the sky, so that they are never chilled "The nests are hullt within a few held him in chains. Even if a man feet of one another and there are thouthe friend of a lifetime. When he is seldom visited by a vandal class. stopped to think, he - remembered and most tourists are conten; to take the or two eggs as souvenirs leavlinguish that friend It was the ing the rest undisturbed While walk**knowledge** that, while his wife was ing about among the nests one is sured their hospitality, she did not en but in spite of their size they are courage frequent visits. This up not savage before the eggs are hatchyoung, however, the parent birds will

# MEN COMPELLED TO VOTE.

Extra Taxes For Negligent Virginlans Over a Century Ago.

In the clerk's office in Me klenburg I find an old copy of the Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia, says a writer in Richmond Timesthe invention of Ligutnant Arthur Despatch. In it an act is found pass-Vyvyan, the details of the mechanism ed by the Assembly on Dec. 20, 1785, having been carried out by Mr. Newitt, which requires all persons entitled to R N, an electrical engineer. The vote to do so. This is the bill "Any utility of this instrument is for trans- elector qualified according to this Act, mitting the range observations from failing to attend any annual election the fighting control top to all the va- of Delegate or of a Senator, and it a poll be taken to give or offer to give sel simultaneously and automatically. his vote, shall pay one-fourth of his There are a series of electre motors, portion of all such levies and taxes as shall be assessed and levied in 1.18 top, and one at each gun position, county the ensuing year. And for aiscovering such defaulters, the sheriff speed, and when there is any move- or other officer taking the poll, shall ment in the one at the fighting top, | within ten days after the said electhe others are similarly affected au- tion, deliver to the clerk of the countomatically For instance, when the ty or corporation court, as the case may officer in the fighting top describes a be, a copy of the poll by him taken, vessel or object to be brought under to be kept in his office, who shall fire, he estimates the range and in- suffer and candidate or elector to take structs the officer in charge of the a copy thereof, and the said clerk is motor appliance A trial shot is then | hereby directed to cause a copy of the same to be delivered to the next mated distance, say 400 yards the Grand Jury, to be sworn for the county corporation who shall be charged by the presiding magistra'e, to make presentment of all such persons qualified to vote residing in the said county or corporation, who shall simultaneously upon their indicators, have failed to have given their votes Should the range prove too short an- jst the said election, agreeable to law And for the better information of the increased say one-half the underes- said jury the sheriff of the county timate viz 200 yards. The result of it hergby commanded under penalty this second shot will bring the maina- 1 of £50 to be recovered and appropriment's pointer to about the correct siled as the penalties for other neglec's range If not, then another shot is of his duty to lay before them a list of all the landholders resident there-

There are filed in the clerks office many certified excuses to the court to failure to vote, begging to be excused, by voters who had been indicted for failure to vote. Some of these excuses are notel as well as amusing One fellow writes that election vas held on his fishing day. Another one tays re was working in a meeting touse then another says he was ignorant of the day of the election Still another said he would have had to walk eighteen mies as his mare was very lame and his plough horse very poor One says (I copy him verbatim) That he was ready fixed to start to the court house of said county to vote when he was informed that a certain cow of his, which had a young call, was missing, when 1 set out to look for her and did not find her that day, and several days after I found her drowned in the river. This excuse satisfied the court as the paper is

marked 'excused " Sir Peyton Skipwith, Bart., of Preastwould, settled in this county from Eng-

## WEATHER TOLD BY ANIMALS.

Household Pets Act as Thermometers and Barometers.

Before man acquired the pernicious habit of sleeping indoors and when he still practiced the economy of growing his own coat he, doubtless, like his four-footed brethren of the animal world, was by dint of constant and intimate intercourse with nature better informed as to her plans for the immediate future-ouldker at receiving and registering her telegratuic messages concerning such changes as might be traveling toward this plane. Nowadays neuralgic "shoots," gouty "twinges," to say nothing of the gnawing tooth of rheumatism and waves of mental depression play their fiendish part in warning mere man as to what he may prepare to extent climatically and atmospherically Nevertheless, if he but give heed to the manner in which such furry members of his household that have not been unduly pampered deport themselves he will learn much that shall prome him

The present scirbe, for instance, says a writer in the Pall Mall Gaze'te. knew a cat that in her small person united all the essentials of an expensive Negretti and Zamhra She was thermometer and barometer roued into one, accurate to a nicety and never liable to "get not of working order

Should the spot upon which she elected to take her constant nap after but a hairs bread h in the matter of temperature she would instantly wake and make a new selection, invariably in some place where the thermometer registered precisely the degree her criginal resting place had been the particular temperature experience had taught her as being essential to her comfor; and well being an i this though the human occupants of the room had as yet been allye to no perceptible change in the atmosphere of the anartment

Nevertheless puss such was her 'n-8t0 courtiness of breeding, never failed to call attention to those whom it might concern to the fact by a plantive mew" and we feel certain to a meterorologist her presence and Leverfailing admonitory hints would have proved invalatable

Dogs which are allowed to lead a natural and healthy existence are remarkably reliable in the matter of weather prophecy drowsiness and a disposition to leave their food antasted is the way in which a coming wet weather spell takes must dogs

In direct opposition to the canine inertia displayed at such times is the aervous and noisy activity of the woodland squirrel which is wont to give quite 20 to 24 hours' warning of an

#### QUEER CEREMONIES

When the Gate: of Chinese Capital City Are Closed.

To this day the great gates in the walls of Pekin are closed every evening with the queer ceremonies that lave been observed for centuries past. Says the Pekin and Tientsin Times; The daily performance is marked with a due ceremony which is quaint and full of interest to the intelligent un'ouker, as the closing by no means signifies the mere bringing together of the heavy wooden doors and the barring the emperor's highway against all comers At the appointed hour p preliminary signal is given by a large gong or iron shield being struck with a big iron bar fifty times in such quick succession as almost to defy calculation, and this is followed by 100 double strokes, commencing slowly and dreamily for the first half and pradually increasing to half hurricane lapidly, and this set of 100 blows is repeated in precisely the same fashion three times. When the third and last cycle of gong strokes is entered on, a number of old and, at this sason, very much bewadded and muffed up eld Charlies start a series of discordant yells to all and sundry to hasten or they will be shut out, and this com bination of signals is followed by a justling stream of people from both directions

Fresently the rush slackens until only a solitary pedestrian, or possibly a man on a donkey, full tilt, a belated ricksna, or a heavily laden cart straggies through Then a movement is made with the gates, yelling bursts out afresh and another rush ensues, the gates being meanwhile half closed and occasionally opened a little way again, until the outgoers having meanwhile ceased, there is a final scrimmage to get into the city, and the process of closing, which has taken some half hour in all is concluded

Then the huge trun-plated doors having clanged to, a monster iron pole is dragged up and placed across them on iron supports, being retained In position by a padlock of enormous proportions and of the well-known Chinese type There are in all in the sity of Pekin nineteen gates and the same ceremony is observed at each, but at such the roughfares as the Hatamen there is naturally more traffic and the process is probably proportionately achiger

Homely 3 rs on the Stage.

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In the musical comedy, light opera, and engravaganza chorus beauty in some degree is certainly a necessary qualification, but in the "legitimate" the managers and the public demand ialent, says Leslie's Weekly The combination of beauty and talent is most desirable, but where there is only one, let beauty go On the stage today, luying in the "legitimate," only one or two successful women who can lay any claim whatever to blaut y The biggest drawing cards and the cleverest actresses, by a great majority, are undeniably homely Grace! yes to be sure they are grace, charm, magnetism, voice-anything and everything, but looks An example substantiating this is Sarah Bernhardt, whose success (annot be challenged. leslie Carter is one of the homeliest women on the stage, but her name is famous on two continents. Olga Nethersole Henrietta Crossman, Mrs. Fiske, Margaret Anglin and so on with half a dozen more, are only moderately good looking Other successes are of the winsome type, like Maud Adams, but Maxine Elliott is one of the few women stars who are really beautiful



He missed John's friendship ions cloud of amoke, suffed from a tions. He wanted to tell Johnny measschaum pipe, the twin to John's Charlie had spaken of the new interest which had asisen.

"It won't make a bit of difference, Johnny, old boy," he said, with a his chair. At length, he got light to the sun has again come well up 'nto burst of deep feeling. "You shall be one of the family. There's a place for you at our fireside and a seat for you at our table-always. Illona was married he need not relinquish sands of them. Fortunately the Island forget."

John had seen the way of the wind, But he was not one to force a confidence and had quietly awaited developments. Meantime, he had beer schooling himself to vesign all graciously police when John accept. rounded by a crowd of shrieking gulls, claims on his friend and to Eve without the undivided companionship that had grown to be a part of his 31 shoen disapproval had enslaved ed. After the nests are filled with existence. John was something of an onlooker in life, and he had Natened before to a newly accepted lever bestowing upon his compade left bebind in the sade premises of undying friendship and future intimacy. He knew there was another factor to be reckoned with, a factor whose claim was greater, and where intinence was stronger. To all appearances he had accepted the information of Charlie's approaching marriage and his assurances of uninterrupted friendship as a matter of Course. He said a few words only, but the manner of their saying was satisfying.

Attor every great decision there frequently comes an unheavel of doubt. A shadow of doubt was glooming the horizon of Charlie's happiness:

"It won't make a bit of difference, Johnny, eld boy," he declared again, Booking at his ficienci with a closed it. She ran after him and wistful question in his eyes.

"Difference! Why, of course not." John answered heartily. "Every man should be married. Go on, my boy. God bisss you I'll be fellowing your example some day myself."

He spoke with an air of much that was convincing. He who had always beer the soul of honor, glouing in his fall, and told an unblushing falsehoo with the Brazen face of a vateran of Mes

John was "Best man" at the eventual pleasant "round up" in friendship song. church. All the amenities of a vedding that came to his hand be secomplished with the skill of one long practiced. He was the last to smark words of good followship and to a political address in a town not far paymester and his eight ansistants peed the newly wedded hair on their lourney. Then he minned sway yondering what he would do next. Re suffered from the weariness of search that comes to one left alone and meoccupied after a period filled with the reckless joy of Ifving: He was singularly isolated. He had no relaives or home ties, and for years he nec acted as a gentle father to the Scot on the box. The old man much money nor have they been as one he called friend. Charlie was tarned about. "Aye," said he, "he's prosperous as now. The increased younger and of a lighter nature than John and his boyish, warm hearted and the second se

home to his wife and received her appreciation and congratulations Built he feared she did not quite understand the keenness of his opera-Ob. to tell Johnny' that eager desire would not be quieted in his resticseness he wore a shiny place on his

sec the way. He was not a prisoner It was only fear of disapproval that that he had never been asked to re-

him. He sprang to his feet with a sud- fiy into the faces of any marauders deaness that startled his companion and make a savage fight for their lit-She had been swaying her chair to the ones" and fro, singing under her breath a melody of happiness.

"Where are you going. Charlie?" she cried, alarmed by that fierce light

of determination glittering in his eyes. "I'm going to tell Johnny about it." he answered, finishing his thoughts aloud, in tones that forhade discussion.

I' was the first evening he had laft his wife since they had been married. For a moment she felt as if he had dealt her a blow. Then she was blessed with understanding. Like a flash it was revealed to her that the prolonged solitude of two is not best for continued harmony. While she was thinking. Charlie had gene out of the front door and had reached the veranda just as he was turning into the street.

"Charlie," she called, "oh, Charlie, bring John here. I'm going to bed sariy to-night. You can have the house to yourselves. Bring John here, will you, Charlie?"

Charlie would and did. Late in the night, the little woman who had wisdom, awakened and smiled, when she heard ascending from the lower floor, the rumble of contented masculine voices raised in their old-time

#### The Windy Orator.

A longwinded member of the Massachusetts Legislature was delivering from Boston, and the village fold over a route about seventy-five miles his lonely childhood is said to have gathered in the town hall to hear it. He had been speaking quite a while, when finally an old Scotchman arose time upward of \$2,000,000, nearly all and walked out of the hall.

At the door one of his countrymer. was waiting with his hack to with the mill hands, says of present drive the orator to the station conditions as compared with former "Is he done yet, Sandy?" asked years: "The boys never made so done lang ago, but he will na stop." tonnage and new machinery have made Exchange.

The British government owns is happy and all is well." m than 25,000 camels.

Cordite Dtamonda By exploding cordite in closed steel cylinders Sir William Crookes has succeeded in producing certain eight-sided microscopic crystals which, so far as examined, resemble diamonds in further experiments confirm this, a new method of diamond formation will have been discovered. Prot. Crookes estimates that the temperature and pressure attained inside the cylinders at the time of explosion were respectively 5,400 degrees absolute and about 120,000 pounds per square inch.

Chinchilla Becoming Scarce. The chinchilla, the little rat-like animal which produces the popular fur, is in danger of extinction.

Chinchilla used to be found in great numbers in the higher ranges of the Andes, in Bolivia and Chile, bur owing to the demand for their skins they have been ruthlessly hunted, in season and out of season, and the Chilean Government finds it almost impossible to enforce a law which has been passed for their protection.

The exports from Coquimbo, the principal port for this trade, amounted last year to twelve thousand dozen skins, and the prices paid were double those of the previous year.

Carneole Car of Gold.

The famous pay car of the Great Carnegie steel and iron interests makes its trips every fortnight, carrying its of railway from Donora. Pa. to Youngstown, O., paying out in that in cold coin. A well-known authority at Homestead, who is in close touch it possible for them to make more money than ever before. Everybody

land in the eighteenth contury, makes his excuse in his own handwriting. dated June 10, 1793 "P Skipwith s reasons for not attending the two last lections in Mecklenburg

"I was summoned to attend the High Court of Chance, y early in March and did not consider myself legally dismissed until after the 17th day of the court, which happened on Wadnesday, the 20th of the month so that it was not in my power of attend the election of a member of Congress, and on my way up from Richmond . unfortunately broke one of my carriage wheels, so that I could not with an) degree of convenience, get repaired in time to attend the election of member of the General Assempty. and in consequence of an injury i received some years ago in my back and loins, I cannot ride more than three or four miles at a time, and the very short rides on horseback that I sometimes take about my plantation, for I never attempt to ride anywhere else, is succeeded by violent pains and sometimes a fever, which was the last time I attempted to side to our court, and I trust and believe that the worshipful court has more humanity than to desire a man at near 60 years of age, to do what so certainly injuries his health and feelings."

A Queer Find.

The skin of a rattlesnake over three feet long was found at Menominee. Mich., wound tight around one of the pedals of a piano which was being tuned and placed in shape for use. The piano was shipped from Groveton, Tex., last summer, and was nearly two months on the road. Something appeared to be the matter with it when it was set up, the tone being imperfect. Not much was thought or it, however, for some time. Finally it was decided to have a tuner look the instrument over. When the piano tuner opened the instrument he found the skin of the snake, dried and almost pure white, tightly wrapped around the pedal.

The Heir of Holland.

The Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar who has never quite got over the sad death of his young wife, which took place just a year ago, is about to start on a sporting tour in India. Though possessed of most things which are supposed to make life worth living, the young prince has never known much happiness. Early left an orphan, the pathetic story of inspired the play of "Old Heidelberg, of which he is supposed to be the hero. He is the richest unmarried prince in Germany. Should the present Queen of Holland have no children he will inherit her kingdom through his grandmother, Princess Sophia of Holland, who married the Grand Duke Charles Alexander of Saxe-Weimar in 1842, so the question of the young grand duke's second marriage is naturally the subject of much speculation. 

approaching storm, dashing about the trees in a ceaseless state of frenzied agitation, until the expected downpour descends, when he vanishes into his water-tight nest with all imaginable

celerity, even going so far as to stop up the entrance to his fastness and court asphysia rather than "rheum."

Peddlers of the Sea.

Unlike the ocean "tramp," that steams in baliast from one port .o. another in quest of a charter, the ocean peddler starts out from Hamburg or San Francisco the chief home ports of the trade with a definite object in view Sailing from the former city the course is generally laid either to the coasts of Africa or South America, having in the hold varied assortment of goods likely to be marketable in the regions visited-cotton fabrics, trinkets, arms, ammunitions, liquors-and spare room filled up with coal.

As the largest profits are often deived from the sale of contraband munitions of war to insurgent bodies, and their detection by regular authoritles would lead to instant confiscation, several thousand rounds of cartridges are probably done up in innocent-looking cases stamped "Corned Beef" and a few stands of discarded German rifles in packages labelled 'Glass-With Care." The capitain of such a vessel must possess not only ability as a navigator, but an expert knowledge of the requirements of his t**ra**de.

Trudging along over the ocean at a seven or eight knot pace, saving his coal as much as possible, the peddler opens his trade by casting anchor in, say, a South or Central American port, when, having "squared" the commandant, he invites local merchants and others on board to inspect his stock. Duty, of course, has to be paid by the purchaser, but in certain cases that difficulty is often overcome by the visitor to the ship going ashore swolien out, perhaps, to three times his normal size by as many new suits of clothing.

The greatest good fortune that can fall in the way of an ocean peddler is for a British or an American mancf-war to put in some out-of-the-way port in which he is lying, short of coal. Then from his spare stock he sells a few hundred tons at as hard a bargain as possible.

The ocean-peddling trade on the Patific has been shorn of much of its profits since the interisland passenger traffic in natives-who too often were carried as passengers much against their will to dive for pearls on the great Australian bank-has been erfectually suppressed. Still a considerable trade is carried on in peddling small articles of hardware, cheap chromos, old clothes, personal trinkets and an occasional case of "dry goods," which if seized would turn out to be remarkably wet.

Man's sugar-coated sweetness usually wears off by the time he reaches home, 🤏

#### The Masai of Africa.

Curious tales are told of the Masai, one of the most warlike of the native African tribes. They have been attacking the natives in the German protectorate with great daring, driving off great herds of cattle with singular ease. Half the attacking force will sween down on a peaceful village, engaging in a bloody fight with the inhabitants, while the other half will drive away the herds. The Masai have a wonderful knack in the management of cattle. A German writer says that a single Masai is often able to coax behind him a whole herd of cattle by lightly whistling and tapping with his spear against his huge shield. The food of the Masai consists of milk and fish from newly slain animals. In certain districts the Maski have driven away the peaceful inhabitants, whose settlements are new completely overrun by vegetation and almost obliterated.

### Fox's Place of Refuge.

A mystery which has long puzzled the South Cheshire Hant has been solved, says the London Graphic. Fores hunted in the neighborhood of Combermere Abbey had a way of disappearing, and no trace whatever could be found of them. This occurred at the last meet.

An attempt to dig out a fox from # bole into which he had vanished revealed the secret. He had fallen into a main drain, which was evidently a traditional place of sanctuary.

#### The Value of Mashage.

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Massaging the scalp is useful for promoting the hair growth and getting rid of headache due to rheumatism. Two hands should be used. One hand is to be placed on either side of the head and then shifted from point to point, the scalp being moved to and fro beneath the fingers. Painless pinching of the scalp between the fingers is also of service. The massage has a great influence over scalp nutrition and if carefully selected hair foods are used at the same time hair growth is a certainty provided the roots are alive.

