HER CHOICE.

At the piano sat Estelle Trever A fire blinked in the grate, now iiluming the silver set out on the black oak table, now lighting up the blue china on the quaint old dresser. now bringing into sudden prominence the old prints on the walks, but oftenest caressing the red gold of the singer's hair. The artist sat. clasping his knees, staring out at the iwilight.

"Beautiful," he murmured, as Estelle finished.

"Brahms-I love him," she answered. "He makes the heart sing. You are tired, Paul?"

Paul Warden smiled into the twi-

"Luxuriously tired. I have worked hard the last fortnight, and now the picture is finished—think of it, E= telle, finished. It was a grind-finished to-day by superhuman energy. and to-morrow is sending-in day A race against time, eh? But I am satisfied. I shall never do better work It really is good. I have no conceit -you know that, Estelle - but a man must be conscious of the worth of his work, so why not declare it? This was an inspiration."

"And you will not let me see it?"

"You, are cruel."

"You shall see it in the Burlington House or not at all. If it's on the line-I really don't see's why it shouldn't be if I have fair play-if it's on the line and a success it will mean so much to me." He turned and looked at her. He Had never spoken plainly—he had little money and she had none beyond what she earned as a fairly successful singer -but had hinted so markedly that she was fully aware of his admira-

"It is sure to be a success," she

said. "The Royal Academy gang encourage mediocrity-it is their safeguard," he answered. "But I have hopes. I want it to be a success a big, unmistakable success, because He did not finish his sentence. As a matter of fact there was no need for it. Estelle could easily supply the unspoken words.

In the pause that followed the door opened, and a man was ushered in by a servant. Estelle welcomed him warmly; Paul rose stiffly.

Hugh McWhinnie was the youngest Academician. Rather a sound painter than a brilliant one, his indomitable perseverance had been early rewarded. He was now a little over forty years of age, a big, strong faced man, growing a little gray at

A year or so before, Warden, as a student, had painted in his studio, but now both men were conscious of something approaching rivalry. Me-Whinnie had been a friend of Estelle's father, and when Estelle, flushed with the possession of the Certificate of Merit from the Royal Academy of Music, commenced her career as a contralto, his friendship and energetic aid had smoothed many difficulties.

"Ah, Warden," McWhinnie, RA. said. "Resting after your labors? You are sending in, of course?"

"One canvas. I cannot expect to have more than one accepted. I am unknown, and you academicians and the associates monopolize so much he loves you?" space." ·

"Much better occupied by others, eh? We do not all exercise our prerogative, though. I am sending in one only."

"Only one?" Estelle asked, in some surprise.

"I have sent three to Germany, and two sitters-portraits -- objected to exhibition. I gave in: They were unlovely, and such common sense in women was to be encour-Warden drifted away quickly. He

invariably did when McWhinnie was present. He was a little intolerable of the elder man's material prosperhis attitude toward woman. That his wife should earn money for herself and not be entirely dependent upon him, was an intolerable thought. It was that attitude which made him refrain from speaking to_Estelle.

In the meantime the presence of a wealthy man-McWhinnie made an excellent income from portrait painting-was disconcerting. It was almost inconceivable that youth and beauty should choose mediocrity and middle age, but Paul acknowledged the power of money with the trankest cynicism of youth.

McWhinnie smiled rather sadly as Warden left. Of late, Estelle remembered with wonderment, some ghost of sorrow lay hid in his whimsical

smile. "Ambition holds our friend in tion! When he sets it forth in all its bravery I want to say to him, 'You have such palaces in Spain, why envy me my little Burlington House?

Paul Warden has talent, though." "More than that, Guardy," she years ago, when he first buttonholed his dead friend, her father, the play- stired of his answer. ful adoption of him as guardian was pleasant. Now it measured a chasm

of years between them. "Yes. more than that," he acknowledged.

continued eagerly. "He has the immortal fire of genius! He is untrammelled by tradition-

Occurrences concesses the control of now illuminated, now in shadow, a state of sweet tantilization. And all its eagerness was for Paul Warden.

"I am so anxious for Paul to sucteed. It means so much to him, so very much."

"Yes. But to no one else." The tentence was almost interrogatory. "I don't know," she answered. It was truthful enough. She was not sure of herself.

"I am on the hanging committee," McWhinnie said abruptly.

"Then-Oh, Guardy, if Paul could realize his dreams! No, no, I am trying to suborn you. You are adamant. I know. But-you will cry out upon me again for decipleship—but he is so fearful of not getting fair play. He is quite sure of the merit or his picture."

"He would be," McWhinnie said grimly:

You know that he is cleverthat was harsh, Guardy." She rebuked him freely on many occasions. conscious of her power and womanlike eager to exercise it.

"He shall have fair play," Mc-Whinnie said soberly. He spoke with more solemnity than his words seemed to demand. It was possible that he thought of something beyond the judgment of art.

Going home to his studio--it was a large one now, in quite a fashionable quarter of Kensington-he mused somewhat bitterly on the selfishness of youth.

"God knows I want no thanks," ran his thoughts, "but if she only did not take everything for granted-if her smile of thanks were less perfunctory! I work for her-a sincere pleasure—but—. Her glance has no warmth for me as it has for Paul. Youth to youth-it is a natural law, and I am too old to rebel. If—" Paul Warden came to Estelle with

the news that his picture was accepted. He was excited, full of anicipatory triumph, suggesting much. adopting proprietary airs which half thrilled her, but which also awoke some slight feeling of resentment. He had not spoken, she had consented to nothing, he was too sure of He might be right, but her womanliness demanded some conces-

sion of distrust on his part. "It may not be hung," he suggested suddenly. The idea had not it is always comforting to have it." crossed him before. It came now as over his picture.

"It will be hung," she said quietly. "You don't understand, Estelle," he answered. "More pictures are accepted than can be hung. Some must come back, mine may. It is a large canvas. I-- am almost afraid I think you know what it means to roof. He had escaped me?" She held her head lower. "It means freedom to me to choose my own way. It means life and ease, and—I dare not say—not yet. If it should come back! The Hanging Committee--" He stopped and voice. stared at her with frightened eyes. "I forgot-- McWhinnie is on the hanging committee! It will not be hung."

"You were his pupil—he skind" the protested.

"It will not be hung," he repeat-

ed, dire conviction in his voice. "He is kind to you." "You are wronging him, Paul."

"Don't you know?" He looked at her wonderingly. "Estelle, you are not so blind, that you do not see that

"He? Guardy? Paul, you-you have no right to say-"

"Oh, there is no question of right a now. We are beyond conventionalities. 4 have been a fool. I forgot that he was on that committee. He is in love with you. Do you see the position? If I am hung and make a success I shall if I get fair play-it means— Oh, Estelle, what does it not mean to me—to us? He is to fudge my work—and he loves you!" "It is preposterous!" she said. holding up a shamed face. Even as she spoke she knew it was not preposterous. She had been unconscious before, now she was in possession of ity. Paul Warden was Sultanic in the secret which explained his awkwardness, his care of her, his tongue

tied tenderness. "It is not," he said. "I have known It for a long time."

"I have no fear of him. You will have fair play. Hugh is a honest man there is no room in his soul for any meanness."

Paul Warden's picture, "The Choice," was hung on the line? to the astonishment of many. It is not often that a young artist is so often distinguished.

Estelle stood before the picture at the Private View. Paul would not go with her.

"I want you to see it alone. Why? A whim—you will understand; when you see it. I shall go away now.....I must walk. I'm in a fever, And this thrall," he said. "A colossal ambiafternoon I will come to the little with you. This afternoon, Estelle! It is my day—it must be crowned." "Your day?"

"Yes, yes. There are days when everything goes right. To-day is my day. I am invulnerable to Fate tosaid enthusiastically. He winced a day. The secretary tells me of a tenlittle at her affectionate name. Two tative offer from Lord Ferroll. It is my day—and I want you to crown it. acquaintances and insisted upon I may come?" There was no eagertheir helping Estelle for the sake of ness in his question, he spoke as-

"You may come," she said, in a level voice, and left him, to search for "The Choice."

It was a large canvas. A young Eirl with red-gold hair stood looking "He is full of imagination," she out of the frame. Before her knelt itwo men holding up gifts to her upon velvet cushions. One was a young man, the other was middle-aged. On "Yes." The fire-flicker played on the white cushion of the young man her hair, her eyes shone luminously land a sigle rose, blood-red. The elder man offered a casket of jewels and his cushion was imperially pairple.

But that which held her as in a trance was the personal meaning informing it. The girl, although mo portrait, aubily suggested her own self: the two men, for all their medieval costuming, were Paul and Hugh. So deftly was the work done that the likenesses were faint enough to escape general remark. The elder man was the nearest to portraiture -it was not impossible that Mc-Wainnie's friends might even notice it—but the others were hardly possible of recognition.

But to her all three likenesses were real. One hand of the young girl was half-stretched as though unconsciously, toward the rose. Estelle noted that with some stir of her old resentment. He was so sure-and it was his day. He was invulnerable to Fate that day, he had said. She felt caught in an impaipable net.

"It is a fine work, Estelle," said a quiet voice. "Paul has made strides. An allegorical subject - perhaps a little trite."

"Yes," she assented, wondering

that McWhinnle did not see. "I am glad he has had fair play," McWhinnie continued with a smile. 'And I am glad that you are glad." "One has natural sympathy with enthusiasm."

"And youth." He spoke gravely "Now, take me to see your picture," she said, hurriedly, anxious to take him away before he recognized the picture's meaning.

"I am not exhibiting."

"You said you were sending one?" "It was a landscape. At the last moment I determined not to exhibit. -I shall send it to one of the galleries. By the way, I'm going abroad."

"Soon?" "To-morrow. I have one or two commissions—portraits, you known Vienna."

"To-morrow. It is sudden." "It is rather sudden." With her new knowledge she detected a note of weariness in his voice.

"You will come to say good-bye to

"If you wish."

"Of course, Guardy. I shall require a huge dose of good advice. I don't know that I shall follow it, but "I shall come this afternoon," he a cold douche. She saw with a pang said. "After tea-I am promised to that his fears were quick enough the Ferrolls' for tea. About 7." He was claimed by an art critic before she could name another time. She thought it did not matter-Paul would come before tea. . She wondered what she would say to Mc-Whinnie.

It was soon after 6 that McWhinto hope. It means—shall I say that nie entered the little room under the

"Paul has been here, Estelle?" he said, quickly.

"Yes," she answered. He looked at her—there was a new note in her "Well?"

"He is pleased with his successhe will be a big painter." She leaned back in her chair and half closedher eyes. "I want to tell you something of a story, Guardy. It was told me to-day just after you left. Bright told me. He was on the hanging committee with you. You know what he told me? Paul's picture was too big for any available space. Yours was about the same size. You withdrew yours."

"Bright had no right to speak!" McWhinnie growled. "I am glad he did. You-you understood the picture?"

"Yes." "And I thought you were blind! was magnanimous of you.

Guardy," "No. I wanted him to have fair play. Success meant so much to him. After all hanking doesn't mean to me what it does to him. I have es-

tablished myself." "I am not thinking of the picture. It was something more." "Estelle!" McWhinnie spoke horasely. "Paul has been here?"

"Yes-and gone." "What do you mean?" he demanded almost flercely.

"I mean that that a rose will fade, but jewels, the jewels of honor, of chivalry, of true-heartedness, are lasting. And—and, my friend and my dear, the girl has chosen the imperishable. She was a wise girlwhich is natural because she was I. And you will postpone Vienna until -until-well, later."

Ring Contains Hair of Six.

Displaying a large, old-fashioned seal ring, General James Grant Wilson stirred the West End Woman's Republican Association of New York, to patriotic enthusiasm, at the meeting of the season by telling them that it contained the hair of Washington, Hamilton, Lincoln, Grant, Napoleon and Wellington. He had been interrupted by frequent applause in his reminiscence of Lincoln and Grant and the old war days, when he brought out the curious, to many, sacred relic.

"Washington's hair," he went on to tell the interested women, "was given to me by his stepson. Lincoln's hair was given me by the marty red President himself. A number of us were with Lincoln one day, when I asked him for a lock of his hair. 'Help yourselves, gentlemen?" was his reply.-New York Tribune.

Perfumed Gasoline. An inventive Swiss is said to manufacture a perfume tablet which, when dissolved in the gasoline, destroys the odors of the burnt gases and emits a pleasant and agreeable scent. They cost 25 cents for a Box of six, and one tablet will perfume

560 miles of road.

PRUNES FOR THE MILLION.

Great Consumption of the Stewed Standard of Boarding Houses, When one thinks of all the boardimphouse breakfasts in the country it is not surprising that more than 1.00,000,000 pounds of grunes are omion yearly in the United States.

Prior to 1886 the supply came almost wholly from France and the Danubian provinces and sold under the designation of French or Turkish Drumes.

In that year prupes of American growth appeared on the market and with each succeeding year the suppay has increased, until the importation of foreign fruit has been reduced to extremely small propor-

According to What to Eat most of Our prume supply is from the southern part of California. In Santa Clara county alone there are 2,700.-000 trees growing on \$7,000 acres. 100 to the acre. The quantity of prunes raised there exceeds 110,-0⊕0,000 pounds—more than enough for the requirements of the whole country, but the excess is needed to stapply the export demand.

In September the fruit ripens and is sathered by spreading sheets under the trees and shaking the bratches. The green fruit is taken to the warehouse, where it is graded in size and passed through a boiling host liquid, in which process it is cleaned and the outer skin softened. It is then spread out in trays eight feet by three feet in size and exposed to the heat of the sun for three to eight days, depending upon weather conditions.

Ten thousand trays of fruit spread out in one unbroken tract may be seen in Santa Chara in the drying season. When sufficiently cured the praines are stored in separate bins and allowed to sweat, this process taking from ten to twenty days. when they are ready for marketing.

Answered the Call. A committee once called on Wu Tinglang to request him to address a society connected with one of the fashionable churches of Washington. Casual mention was made of the fact that the youthful pastor of the church had recently resigned, to enter upon a new field of labor on the pacific coast. Why did he resign!" asked Mr. Wu. "Because he had received a call to another chearch," was the reply. "What salary did you pay him?" "Four thousand dollars." What is his present salmry?" "Eight thousand dollars." 'Ah!" said the disciple of Confucium: "avery loud call!"

The peach belt of the United

States is spreading in both width and breadth fully as rapidly as the apple belt, says the Chicago Tribune. Michigan, Delaware, Georgia-these are the traditional peach States. To these must now be added every southern State, with the exception of per haps, Florida. The last decade has seen a remarkable development, in the peach orchards of the southern part of Illinois.

Gypsies and the Hedgehog. Gypsies, says a writer, ask for nothing better than hedgehogs as food, while some rural cottagers are very fond of them, though of course they are generally despised as food. Nomacks cook them by baking them in glowing wood ashes, into which they are dropped without skinning-a process which retains all the juices. No sypsy would give twopence for a chicken if he could get a hedgehog.

Our Harly Watches, It is said that watches were made in Nuremberg as early as 1177. They were of little practical use, and resembled our watches of to-day in a slight degree. Some of them were in time shape of a pear, and often they were used as heads to walking.

Threy were of small service in keeping time until the invention of the spiral spring by Hooke in 1395.

Tin Mines of Bolivia.

The tin mines of Bolivia are destined to become one of the world's chief sources of supply. The conditions under which this metal is found show wide differences, but it is found throughout a wide area and there seems to be no limit to its abundance; but railways and machinery are necessary for its extraction and shipment. New York Sun.

Stereotyping. The first attempt at stereotyping America was mide in 1775 by Benjamin Mecom, a printer at Philadelphia. Previous to this time the Dutch had stereotyped a prayer-

book in 1771. The first printing-press in America was established in 1639 at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

When Speciacles Were Invented. Speciacles were invented in about 1185. A learned monk named Rivalto mentions in a sermon preached in Florence in 1305 that eyeglatics hid been in use for shout twenty TRATE. They were crude, however, and fi

What Fingers Tells

is doubtful if they were of much

Service.

Pointed fingers indicate rapid conception and execution. They are the fixigers of the poet, the novelist, the religious teacher.

Politeness in Tibet. mign of politeness in Tibet on imeetizes a person is to hold up the clarped hand and stick out the

WELLS ON AMERICAN WEATHE

Where the Last of Acquisition Not Curbed, but Glorified The group of people that attracts the largest amount of attention in press and talk, that most obscure

the American imagination, and that is indeed the most significant at the present time, is the little group-a few score men, perhaps, altogether; before starting out on angel who are emerging as distinctly winners in that great struggle to get into which this commercial industrialism has naturally resolved itself, says a writer in Harper's Weekly.

These men, who are creating the greatest system of correlated private properties in the world, who are wealthy beyond all precedent. seem, for the most part, to be men with no ulterior dream or aim. They are not voluptuaries, they are neither artists nor any sort of creaters, and they betray no high political ambitions: Had they anything of the sort they would not be what they are; they would be more than that and less. They want, and they get: they are inspired by the brute will in their wealth to have more wealth and more to a systematic ardor. They are men of a competing, patient, enterprising, acquisitive enthusiasm. They have found in America the perfectly favorable environment for their temperaments, In no other country and in no other age could they have risen to such eminence. America is still by virtue of its great Puritan tradition and in the older sense of the word, an intensely moral land. Most lusts here are strongly curbed by public opinlon, by training and tradition, But the just of acquisition has not been curbed, but glorified.

Word Blindness, Some curious instances of the physical defect of "word blindness" are given in the Lancet. The disease is, fortunately, uncommon. In one case the sufferer, an Englishman, thirty. four years of age, who knew Greek. Latin and French well, auddenly lost all knowledge of English, though he could read and understand Greek perfectly and Latin and French in a rather smaller degree, Another and almost more curious case was that of a man who lost the power of reading at sight. This patient was able. to write accurately from dictation. but was completely unable to read what he had written. Word blindness is apparently skin to color blindness, but is certaily attended by much more inconvenient consequemoes.

Use for Typewriter Ribbon Typewriter ribbons appear to follow the law of most other inanimate things-namely, that it is possible though the land days to rest them so that when apparently about worn out they can be revived. This is on the testimony of a man who uses a machine for all his work, ments upon the amphor which amount to very considerable. He says that when his ribbon gets very pale he reels it off on a spool. wraps it in olled paper and puts it away in a damp, cool place, By the time his next ribbon begins to show the same signs of wear he takes the ribbon that he had put away and uses it again. ,

Where the Czars are Crowned. All the Czars of Russia have been crowned in the famous Kremilin in-Moscow, and in the treasury there are the thrones of all the emperors of the past, as well as the historic jewels and the choicest plate now owned by the Russian Grown, There is twelve million pounds worth of gold and silver and precious stones towers surrousn's in that treasury, and there are besine of gold there which are as big At A shabple both tab, and two card tables of solid silver which are squadron worth a king's ransom.

Yield from Banaman, According to the Government returns 38,000,000 bunches of bananas were imported into the United States for the fiscal year ending the only way in which marry 1905. The declared value of those bananas as given on their entry into girl from a well-to-do family.

America, taken from the involces at from twenty to forty possible. port of shipment, averaged 25 cents a bunch. The seiling price of the same bananas is about \$1,50, thus aboving that the "benaus trust" has young farmer shows father about \$50,000,000 annually for afford to pay for a wife father and profits. transportation and profits.

Colored to Suit. A process has been invented by which eyes may be colored to suit the taste of their owner. This is accomplished by the injection of some liquid into the eye behind the pupil sewspaper that a sociebrated The experiment has been tried in ins-marter was so apple a se The experiment has been tried in the master was a part of the one-thousand to deep violet orbs in a section of the one-thousand the one, with no apparent injury to the who was the first of the land of the land of the land or the land of the land or the land

Employed as Dinner Taster. A most curious occupation conceived by a woman is that of a din the town of raompace in the notices we each day visiting houses and tasting dishes intended for dinners Bus sun; goals improvements and shows the cook new ways of preparing dishes.

The First Planes. The first plano-forte was invented by a German-named Backers, about

There is still in existence the name-board of a plano inscribed Americus Backers, Inventor, Jermyn Street, London, 1776.

Deposits of Monarise. Monarite, valuable as the source of the thoris used in the manufact. been found in the ground of Spars ern Migerian Fires b other Brillet Condition

at which the Last o hundreds of college wheer

practical philanthropy. The affair to conducts undergraduale organisation as the Student Volunteer & tion. Resymbles in the way of ing is included, underwest, even an pocasional dress cost. lura with all the without a that clings to undergraduated Disin and fancy waistcoats and literally too numerous to men

During the week of the collection says Modern Women, the old Man vard Yard to tull of moving brief all tanding loward Palling Bre House, where the various religi societies of the college have their headquarters. Here the bundles are opened, the various articles sorted. arranged and finally distributed to

local and distant charitable centers. Boots and shous, for example, are what might be called the Tueston specialty at Harward, Several be of thom so annually to hoo Washington's Institute where abor shops are immediately useful mending them up and starting the vallon Army in Boston gata pract cally all the derby hate.

Quite a Patriarch. Age is a matter which weath pendent on one's point of view New Yorker imprisoned in a social studio fell victim to the rulousness of the artist's and was informed that the later cently married, was about to "I suppose you!! take you along," suggested the victim Jose ly.

"No, air. I'm mot going for ure this time. I want to a lather before he dist Isn't he well ?"

Ob, he's wall should never can tell what may He's getting along to years. "How old in he ! "Forty-aine."

Much has been mil the peasants of Mill well knows place and one live Brelone, and in ing saying. "The not have thought th will serve to keep up with soap, The late homes of the month his always dirty and the and pass are liver to free clean. The eaps, the of the are always anowy white the days and week-days allke.

A Fortified Mount At Solovetsk, in Russia. markable fortified modestary enclosed on every side by granite boulders meanly a mile oundershoe. The management very strongly fortised ported by round and spine about thirty feet in held walls twenty test in this said monastery consults in the Churches Which are a with statute of the right cloud stones. Under the time of the Crimes of

Wives are still obtained chase in some party of Russ the district of Kangyahis, or " an, for example, this is Dr brought about The price of send not talk of matting the

A singular liveteation of the sistence with which the Japane nere to their family vocations B as announcement it a Ja take up the profession.

By a somewhat printing OF ENC. LIES SIDE (ED. SERVER OF COOK SERVER CONTRACT (ACS OF THE STORKS SOCKESSE GROTER TOOMS IN SERVER COOK

Toroles inelly as true let from the West Test more palent and the same