GARDEN GOSSIP.

Geranium Cuttings. — Zonal and Ivy-leaved Geraniums for blooming next winter may be obtained in plenty by taking cuttings now. The gardener should buy cuttings of named varieties, so as to add to his collection. They may be set round the edges of pots of sandy compost. The young plants may be potted off when they are growing well, before their roots become entwined, and may be kept in a cold frame. It is generally advisable to pinch out the top shoots when repotting them next, as this causes bushy growth. Of course, any attempt at flowering before winter must be promptly nipped in the bud, then the show of flowers, in a greenhouse of 50deg., should be eminently satisfactory. The Ivy-leaved varieties when well trained, either against a trellis or sticks, or to sticks set round the pots' edges, make charming specimens.

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Sweet Williams.—April is the best month in which to sow Sweet William seed; May will do, but the earlier plants are raised the finer will be next year's blossom. Seed should go ¼ inch deep, in pans or boxes of sandy compost, in a cold frame, cool greenhouse, or under sheets of glass on a sunny window sill. The seedlings should be pricked out three inches apart, and their next shift may well be into a seed bed in semi-shade. June is the month for planting out seedling Sweet Williams. They like a rich soil, require watering in times of drought, and may have liquid manure when buds are forming. This attention should be given to all old plants of Sweet Williams this season, after first pricking the soil up a little with a hand-fork. Selected strains of seeds should be secured, even if the cost is slightly greater.

• • •

Seedling Hollyhocks.—The dreaded Puccinia is still all too frequently seen in our Hollyhocks, and so far we have not got a cure. As seedlings have a comparative immunity from the disease, some should be raised annually, and the earlier the seeds are sown the better. Do not force growth by too much heat, but start germination in a warm frame, and as soon as possible afterwards transfer the pans or pots to a cold one.

• • •

Lawns.—Everyone yearns to have a small piece of grass, and many hours of hard labour are expended upon its maintenance. We must now think about seed sowing, either over the whole area or locally, according to the condition of the turf. Before sowing scratch the surface over with an iron rake, and scatter the seeds moderately thickly; cover with some fine soil and roll down; or the surface can be rolled without attempting to cover the seeds. The birds will find them in either case, and will devour large numbers, unless they are circumvented by the aid of short sticks and numerous strands of black thread.

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Planting Gladioli.—When the weather and the soil are favourable for the operation, the sooner Gladioli are got in the better. They are not plants which grow equally well in all gardens, but they must be tried, as, if success follows, the spikes will be welcome for their stately beauty. The deeper the soil the better, and it must have an abundance of the best natural manure worked into the second spit. Get the soil friable, and set the corms five or six inches down, on a bed of coarse sand, and await events; or prepare the soil efficiently, but instead of planting the dormant corms start them in a greenhouse. This demands considerable care, and if transferred from the warm greenhouse to the cold soil without previous hardening, trouble is certain to accrue.

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Dahlias.—Many growers of these make a practice of planting out the old tubers at this season, and where there is no need for greatly increasing the stock, the method has much to commend it, particularly when planting on warm, light soils. I always heavily manure the site for each clump of tubers, or if setting out a piece of land specially for them, this is deeply dug and heavily manured previous to planting. The old stools may be divided into two or more portions at planting time.

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Primroses and Polyanthuses.—Those who desire to have large stro[illegible] [illegible]nts of these for flowering next spring, should sow at once in pans or boxes. If these are placed in a cool house or cold frame, and kept close, the seeds will germinate, if proper measures are taken to ensure the soil being kept moist.

• • •

Shading Houses.—For stove and greenhouse plants in general slight shading will soon become necessary upon bright da s. To save expense, it is now far more usual than formerly to employ a coating of whitewash, or one of the advertised agents for this purpose. Blinds on rollers, or the lath blinds that can be drawn up and down when necessary, are possibly better for the occupants of the houses.

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Sowing Grass Seeds.—Within the next two or three weeks will be ample time for this work. When sowing the seeds, choose a calm, fine day, or instead of possessing a smooth, even sward when the seeds germinate, portions may be very much too thick, while others will be bare. Protect from the attacks of birds. Above all, purchase the seed from a reputable firm.

• • •

Vineries.—These should be cleared of bedding plants as soon as possible. The latest vines will be starting, and as soon as the buds are large enough to handle rub off those not required, leaving the best placed ones. Young vines with buds as large as the tip of one's little finger should be planted without delay. Shake every bit of soil from the roots, lay these carefully out, cover them with six inches of soil, and press it quite firmly. If the soil is moist no water will be required at first, otherwise apply some warm water. Work in other vinereies will be the stopping of laterals and thinning bunches.

• • •

Seed Sowing.—There will be a great deal of this work to be done at this period. Where the soil has been previously well worked, and everything has been properly prepared, the work may be rapidly got over during spells of dry, genial weather. In sowing on heavy land, a heap of finely sifted soil, mixed with wood ashes or ashes from rubbish fires, will be found useful.

• • •

Carrots.—Sow the main crop of these within a few days, when the ground can be got into the right condition. A light dressing of salt has been found of value where the maggot is troublesome.

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Celery.—Seedlings should now be large enough to handle, if sown when advised. Prick off, three or four inches apart, in boxes of light, rich soil, and place in a warm house, near the glass, for a few days.

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Potatoes.—No garden worthy the name is too small for this important crop, but it is advisable to grow only the early and second early sorts. The chief reason for this is that the ground will be clear in time to reap a second harvest the same season, from such subjects as turnips, radishes, lettuces, celery, endive, dwarf beans, and savoys. Only a few rows, however, should be planted with potatoes. A dozen rows twenty feet long would give a good return, and that space, when vacant later, would prove ample for several of the other vegetables mentioned above. If the soil requires manure use that which is well decayed, spread it evenly on the surface, and dig it in at the same time that the potatoes are planted. The latter should be in rows, twenty inches apart, and the sets twelve inches for the earliest, and fifteen inches for the midseason sorts, apart in rows. Cover the sets with about four inches of mould; do not tread upon the ground after planting is done. Harbinger, Myatt's Ashleaf, Sharpe's Victor, and Southern Queen are good early varieties; and Royal Kidney, British Queen, Vermont Gold Coin, Windsor Castle, Purple Perfection, and Sir John Llewelyn suitable second earlies.

TEA TABLE TALK.

A lady astronomer recently completed the task of examining 30,000 stars.

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The Queen is the only woman in the country who is not amenable to the Married Woman's Property Act, and her creditors have no claim whatever upon the King.

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In some parts of Italy it is a wedding custom for the bride, immediately after the ceremony, to throw her bouquet amongst her girl friends. It is believed that she who catches it will be the next bride.

• • •

The wife of a certain American millionaire, who has had her valuable diamond trinkets copied in paste, and uses the imitations when travelling, keeping the originals hidden, has, it is said, twice been robbed of sets of the false jewellery.

• • •

The Marchioness of Granby, an accomplished amateur artist, has special skill at drawing pencil portraits, and it has been said that "her touch with the pencil is perhaps not equalled by anyone else in England."

• • •

The German Empress has organised a committee for establishing a model institution for the care of children of poor working women, and all the money gifts of the Emperor and Empress at their recently-celebrated silver wedding were devoted to this.

• • •

At several factories in Lancashire and Yorkshire, the forewomen, of superior education, conduct weekly social gatherings, musical evenings, and dances for the "hands." One firm recently advertised for a lady factory superintendent who could play and sing to the work-girls.

• • •

Mrs. George Cornwallis-West, when Lady Randolph Churchill, allowed herself during a visit to India to be tattooed upon the arm just above the wrist. The design she selected was the symbol of eternity, a serpent with his tail in his mouth. Ordinarily this mark is concealed from observation by a gold bracelet.

• • •

A West-end jeweller has recently been showing a garter which for its richness and exquisite workmanship is probably unparalleled. It is a broad band made of soft and elastic gold of extreme fineness, formed by myriads of infinitesimal rings, like a slip of mail shirt. It is as flexible and yielding as the ordinary silk elastic. The clasp is a buckle of sapphires, through which is stuck a tiny javelin.

• • •

The Japanese have adopted a compulsory system of national education. Boys and girls must attend schools as soon as they attain the age of six, and remain there until the age of fourteen. The first four years they teach them the Japanese and Chinese languages, and the latter four years they add English; when boys and girls are graduated from the Japanese common schools they can read and speak English.

• • •

The children of the Earl of Aberdeen have all been brought up to be useful. At one time a furnished cottage was placed at the disposal of Lady Marjorie, the Viceroy's daughter, who was expected to keep it tidy, and even lay the fires and scrub the floors. The cottage stood in a small garden, which was cultivated by his Excellency's sons, one of whose hobbies was the growing of fruit and vegetables.

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A widow named Ann Winn, aged 89, who has just been buried at Constantine, near Falmouth, left 151 descendants, including 17 sons and daughters, the eldest of whom is 71. There are 75 grandchildren and 59 great-grandchildren. For many years the deceased woman, whose husband was a blacksmith, assisted in the village smithy, both at the bellows and with the sledge-hammer.

• • •

Queen Amelie of Portugal is the only Royal lady doctor in the world, *i.e.*, the only Queen who is a doctor by merit, for many Royal ladies have received the degree of doctor of one sort or another as a courtesy title. Queen Amelie, however, went through a thorough course of medical training, and on more than one occasion, when walking in Lisbon, she has been able to render medical aid in street accidents.

• • •

Ladies moving in Society are frequently amused, or annoyed, as the case may be, by the mistakes of identity made by reporters and snap-shotters. Previous to his recent marriage, a certain nobleman was the guest of a lady not possessing a title, whom, on the wedding morning, he escorted to the church. Snapshots were taken, and in all the illustrated papers the lady in question appeared as the bridegroom's mother.

• • •

The Frenchwoman has always been a warm partisan of the attractive home gown. Unlike her English sister, who has a tendency to believe that any old and worn-out garment that is no longer fit either for street wear or visiting will do admirably to "finish off" as a house gown, the French woman stoutly affirms that suitability is still more important than beauty, and that a house gown must be devised to wear in the house, just as a street gown is made to wear in the street.

• • •

Lady Laurier, the wife of the Canadian Premier, possesses the unique distinction of having made a speech in Parliament. During a reception some time ago by the Speaker of the Ottawa Parliament, Lady Laurier was perceived to be standing at the foot of the throne, and at once a demand was made or a speech. Lady Laurier was at first a little abashed, but at last, greatly daring, she ascended the steps and made what a Canadian reporter described as "a pretty oration." Never before had a woman's voice been heard in that Chamber.

• • •

"Sometimes a friendship between a man and a girl ends with little harm to either; sometimes in love and happiness for both. But the risk is a great one," said a woman of the world experienced in such matters. More often the result is misery for the one or the other. In the majority of cases it is the woman who suffers. Women are warmly affectionate and easily influenced by men with whom they come in contact. They find it hard to realise that a man who in the first place is content with friendship seldom wants more. "Leave platonics alone," was her parting advice. "At the best it is a risky game at which two play and one must always lose."

• • •

A young lady from Australia won a singing scholarship in London under novel circumstances. From her Colonial home she sent to a well-known professor in London a "record" of her voice, with the request that he would test it on the gramaphone, and inform her whether he thought its qualities sufficiently good to justify her in taking so long a journey for an examination for a scholarship. The professor listened to the "record," was duly impressed by the possibilities of the voice, and wrote to say he thought she might try. Encouraged by this report, she reached England just in time for the examination, and was one of two successful candidates out of 190 competitors.

• • •

With the majority of German women housekeeping is both a science and an art. The woman who is daily and hourly engaged in science and art is not a woman of stagnant mentality. For a laboratory she has her kitchen, while her linen-room is her studio. The average German housewife does as much work as any, but she makes less fuss about it than most. She does no dirty work, since there is no dirty work for her to do. Dirt has been defined as matter out of place. The good German housekeeper never misplaces anything, and never allows anything to misplace itself.

• • •

Lady cooks, who really are such, are in considerable demand for schools and various institutions.

CAPTAIN'S EXPENSES.

A sitting was held in Bankruptcy for the public examination of Captain J. H. E. Holford, D.S.O., of Elm House, Nantwich, whose accounts showed liabilities £34,276, of which £21,228 is expected to rank, and available assets £1,681.

Debtor said he entered the Army in 1894 as a lieutenant in the 7th Hussars, and retired in January, 1905, with the rank of captain. He had an income of about £1200, but for some years lived at the rate of £5000 per annum, with the result that he was compelled to borrow money. About two-thirds of his unsecured indebtedness was in respect of borrowed money. A composition of 10s. in the pound had been accepted by the creditors.

MINISTER TO LEPERS.

The Rev. W. S. Adams, curate-in-charge at Harrowbarrow, Cornwall, has volunteered and been accepted for service in the Government leper settlement in Kaffraria, South Africa. Mr. Adams, who is twenty-nine, has been at Harrowbarrow for four years. He will sail from Southampton on May 4.

ANOTHER TUNNEL MYSTERY.

Yet another mysterious tunnel tragedy has come to light. The headless body of a man was found early on Friday morning in a tunnel near Salisbury. From the evidence given at the inquest at night it was considered improbable that the man had fallen from a train.

The man was 5ft. 6ins. in height, with dark brown hair turning grey, dark brown moustache and side-whiskers. He had in his pocket a catalogue of a horse sale issued by a London firm of auctioneers, and on his watch the initials "W. L." were faintly scratched.

The jury returned an open verdict.

The "Official Journal" of Budapest publishes a Royal Decree calling to the colours the supplementary reserves of the 1904 contingent of Honved troops. This extraordinary measure has become necessary owing to the failure of Parliament to pass the Recruiting Bill.

The Easter holidays at many of our public schools have been interfered with, owing to the prevalence of mumps among the boys.

Two additional motor-omnibus companies are being formed in London with the object of opening up new routes.

"NO BETTER FOOD."
Dr. Andrew Wilson, F.R.S.E., &c.

FRY'S PURE CONCENTRATED COCOA

300 GOLD MEDALS, &c.

The two young Maloneys were reading an article on "The Law of Compensation." "Just fancy!" exclaimed Patrick. "Accordin' to this, whin a man loses wan av 'is sinses another gits more developed. For instance, a blind mon gits more sense av hearin' an' touch', an'——" "Shure, an' it's quite thrue," answered Murphy, "Oi've noticed it mesilf. Whin a mon has wan leg shorter than the other, whoy, the other's longer!"

"See here!" exclaimed the stranger, as he stumbled into his twentieth puddle; "I thought you said you knew where all the bad places were on this road?" "Well," replied the boy who had volunteered to guide him through the darkness, "we're a-findin' them, ain't we?"

Wife: "My dear, I saw a beautiful coat in Regent-street for a mere song." Husband: "And I suppose you expect me to buy the song?" Wife: "Well, dear, you always said you were musical."

There's nothing like

"CAMP" COFFEE.

TRY IT.

All respectable Grocers keep it.

PATERSON'S "CAMP" COFFEE WORKS GLASGOW

Applying (unsuccessfully) for a separation order at Brentford, a husband said that his wife was many years older than himself, and had trapped him into marrying her. He was her second venture. His only step-daughter was also his senior. He would like to warn young men against marrying women older than themselves.

Sidney H. Godfrey, of Ottery St. Mary, East Devon, has been nominated by Pitman and Sons as the representative of the United Kingdom in the international shorthand speed contest, to be held at Baltimore, U.S.A. The world's speed record was attained six or seven years ago by a Dublin stenographer, who wrote for a quarter of an hour at a uniform rate of 270 words per minute.

The Very Rev. George Orange Balleine, Dean of Jersey, has died from paralysis.

Velvet waistcoats, either plain or embroidered, will be worn this season, says the "Tailor and Cutter," in place of the fancy woven garments which have become so common of late.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white or falling off use the MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER, for it will positively restore in every case, grey or white hair to its original colour. It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth. Price 3s. 6d. per Bottle.

Kitchen will again act as "goalkeeper" and "taker of penalties" for West Ham United next season.

Mr. Horace Smith conducted the final examination, before trial, of Alfred Thompson and James Lawton, who were accused at Westminster Police-court of obtaining £30 by the "three card trick" in a Kempton-park race train. Lieutenant Axell, of the Swedish Army, is said to have lost his money thus; and the magistrate committed both prisoners for trial.

Ernest Girard, the Swiss teacher of music, who with members of his family has made himself famous by sleeping on Streatham-common in all weathers for years past, was charged at the South Western Police-court with begging. The magistrate committed him to prison for fourteen days.

Everybody knows that

EPPS'S

is an admirable food, the nicest and most nutritious beverage for the breakfast table. It is made in a moment with boiling water or milk, and its sustaining qualities are

COCOA

Invaluable to all.

GOLD IN A CHAIR.

A widow, known to be possessed of considerable property, who had lived in a cottage at Tunbridge Wells for some years, and received her rents weekly, always insisted upon having cash.

After her death over 1000 sovereigns were found in the bedroom. She had carefully hoarded the gold in any convenient place, and had stored a bag of sovereigns in the seat of her chair.

SOLICITOR'S DEATH.

An unknown man who died at Cleveland-street Sick Asylum, London, having in his possession money order, promissory note, share certificates, and bank-book, representing over £1000, has been identified as Mr. Charles Constance Mobb, of Morecambe.

He was at one time a solicitor in Lincoln's-inn-fields, and six months ago came to London from Morecambe. Taken ill in a lodging-house off the Strand, he was admitted to the sick asylum, giving a wrong name.

FOUND IN A "FAGGOT."

At Southwark County-court, Mrs. Mary Bryan, of Bermondsey, claimed £5 damages from a pork butcher named Reile, living in the same district. The lady bought from Reile what was called a "faggot," which was a conglomeration of meat chopped up and baked, and Mrs. Bryan was eating it when she felt something stick in her throat. She found that it was a piece of brass in the shape of an anchor and a true lover's knot, or an emblem representing "Faith, Hope, and Charity." She took the metal to the butcher, and asked him if he had lost anything. She then produced the "emblem," and the defendant said it was a part of his machine, and that there was another piece missing.

Plaintiff gave evidence, and said that Reile had offered her another "faggot" as compensation, but she told him that she did not want any more of his machinery. Defendant said that the metal got into the "faggot" quite by accident. Judgment was given in favour of defendant.

ARMED WITH A PITCHFORK.

An exciting scene was witnessed in the streets of Windsor, when two privates of the 2nd Coldstream Guards, who are stationed in the Royal borough, ran amok with a couple of pitchforks, commandeered from a neighbouring stable. In a state of frenzy from excessive drinking, the men defied the police and military picket, and when Major the Hon. W. Lambton, who was proceeding to barracks, interfered, they assaulted him.

Fearing serious results, the officer proceeded to barracks, and, arousing a number of the battalion, sent them, armed with rifles, in search of the offenders. After a severe struggle, the men were dispossessed of their weapons, bound, and taken to barracks. Both had to be removed to the hospital and treated.

The gold medal annually presented by Sir Squire Bancroft to the best pupil at the Academy of Dramatic Art has been awarded to Miss Mary Barton for her performance in "L'Enfant Prodigue," while a special prize has been given to Mr. Robert Atkins for his performance of Shylock.

It is understood that a fleet of American war ships will visit Portsmouth this summer.

M. Heinrich Block, head of a Russian banking firm committed suicide in St. Petersburg.

The extension to the Brentford Fruit and Vegetable Market, near Kew-bridge, which has cost £55,000, was opened by Mr. J. T. Taylor, the chairman of the Market Committee.

In consequence of the accident to Charing-cross Railway Station the City Corporation decided to employ an expert to examine the iron and steel work of the London Central Markets.

A Belgian named Michel Louis Van-der-Anwera, said to be well connected, was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court to 12 months' hard labour for having obtained money by false pretences.

CHORISTERS' SPOILT SUPPER.

An amusing story of a disturbed choir supper was told at Newcastle, where Thomas Smith and his wife, Mary, were charged with stealing or receiving chickens. A sister of the vicar of Ashington told how two of the fowls were cooked and on the table for a choir supper when the police swooped down and the choir were supperless.

Defendants were found guilty of receiving, and Smith, who was convicted six months ago of a similar offence, was sent to prison for six months and his wife for fourteen days.

EXPENSIVE ELECTION BLOW.

Damages of £25 were awarded at Southend to a fishing-smack owner named Alfred Kirby, of Leigh-on-Sea, for an assault by Samuel Leeson, master plumber. Just after the poll closed at Leigh-on-Sea Parliamentary Election, Leeson was jostled by some of the opposite party, and thinking that Kirby had knocked off his hat, he dealt him a blow which blacked his eye.

With her Majesty's congratulations, conveyed in a personal message to Miss Ellen Terry, the Queen has sent a beautiful diamond and ruby pendant, as a souvenir of the forthcoming jubilee of the talented actress.

Why not Bake at Home?

You know then that all the ingredients are sound and good—no artificial colouring in place of eggs—no doubtful handling. Home-baking with

Brown & Polson's

raising powder

"Paisley Flour"

is easy and sure.

TRY IT, others are delighted.

PAINFUL FAMILY DISPUTE.

Albert Anthony Smith, a farmer, of Spalding and Boston, appealed against a sentence upon him by the North Holland magistrates for having assaulted his son Henry Smith. He was sent to prison for a month without the option of a fine, and served part of the sentence, but subsequently was released upon proceedings being instituted against the sentence.

It was stated that an arrangement had been come to between the parties, and that respondent did not propose to offer any evidence as to the assault. The matter arose over a painful dispute between father and son. The Court decided to allow the appeal, and the chairman expressed the hope that it would be a happy ending to a painful family dispute.

Damages amounting to £3 have been recovered in the Westminster County-court by a passenger, who was dragged along by a motor-omnibus in Regent-street.

The Worksop Public Library Committee has ordered the librarian to destroy its copies of Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" and "Jude the Obscure."

In Anglesey, according to a report just issued, there are thirty-eight parishes, together containing a population of 10,000 people, which have not a single public-house among them.

Mr. Henry T. Biron took the oaths of allegiance and service before the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Bray on his appointment as a police-court magistrate for the metropolis.

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A BIRD[illegible]

By JOH[illegible]

Author of "The L[illegible] Tragedy," "The M[illegible]

CHAPTER IX.

DOLLY'S FUTURE IS SETTLED.

NEXT day was market-day at Silverdale, and Fenwick did not go to Newbridge. He stayed at Silverdale on market-days, so th[illegible] might see the farmers who came into the t[illegible] but to-day he had a special object in view. [illegible] knew that Sir Edgar Aubrey very often ca[illegible] Silverdale on a market-day, especially if a me[illegible] of magistrates happened to fall on the same [illegible] Mr. Fenwick was on the commission of the p[illegible] and he haunted the magistrates' room all [illegible] morning without meeting the baronet.

At length, about one in the afternoon, he [illegible] Sir Edgar Aubrey in the High-street. [illegible] baronet was a big, somewhat coarse man, [illegible] hair that was now white, and a purple-red [illegible] He was not rich, but he was immensely prou[illegible]

"By the way," said the Squire, as they [illegible] about to separate, "you haven't lunched [illegible] Come and share my bit of steak at the Qu[illegible] Head, at half-past one."

"Thank you, I will. I've been detained al[illegible] morning by that rascal Bevis, and have only [illegible] got in; so I've ordered nothing."

The Queen's Head was famous for its st[illegible] and the two gentlemen enjoyed theirs, with [illegible] glass of port afte[illegible] wards.

"This is the last you will see of me for [illegible] little time, I fancy," said the Squire, as the[illegible] for separating drew near.

"Why? What's the matter?"

"My doctor has ordered me abroad."

"Your doctor!" cried the baronet, in an ac[illegible] of supreme contempt. "Pooh, man! If [illegible] once give into those fellows, they'll make a pe[illegible] slave of you. Look at me, now! Never h[illegible] day's illness in my life. Sixty-seven next b[illegible] day, and I can still enjoy my dinner, my fr[illegible] and my rubber. I can ride to hounds, and [illegible] a gun straight, too. What you want is ope[illegible] exercise and plenty of it. Walk ten miles a [illegible] or ride twenty. You do that, and in a fort[illegible] you won't be any more of an invalid than I a[illegible]

Like most men of robust health the bar[illegible] fancied that his regimen would suit all con[illegible] tions, and that any man had only to live as he [illegible] to enjoy the same health. The Squire knew [illegible] and allowed him to run on till he had run hi[illegible] out of breath.

"All very well, Sir Edgar," he replied; [illegible] voyage to the other side of the world is su[illegible] pleasant prescription that I have decided to [illegible] it."

"Does Miss Fenwick accompany you?" a[illegible] the baronet, after a pause.

"Well, that depends. I haven't spoken to [illegible] about it yet."

Another pause; a longer one this time. [illegible] Squire was determined not to break it. He [illegible] led the baronet up to the brink, so to speak[illegible] if Sir Edgar did not like to take the lea[illegible] need not. He was not going to offer his daug[illegible] to any man in England.

"My son Reginald was at your garden-pa[illegible] few weeks ago," said Sir Edgar, in rather a sh[illegible] faced way. "He seemed greatly struck with [illegible] Fenwick. Said she was remarkably pretty, a[illegible] and—and in short, seemed quite charmed [illegible] her."

Mr. Fenwick merely bowed. If anything se[illegible] were meant, the baronet must be more exp[illegible] But this was apparently a hard task for Sir E[illegible] He hemmed, and turned redder than be[illegible] fidgetted in his chair, and trifled with his [illegible] glass.

"The fact is, Fenwick," he said at last, "I [illegible] sometimes thought that our young folks migh[illegible] worse than make a match of it. I've no d[illegible] your little girl is as good as gold; and a[illegible] Reggie, I will say this for him—he may no[illegible] clever, I don't say he is, but a better son [illegible] stepped. From the time he was ten years old [illegible] boy has never given me a moment's trou[illegible] always dutiful to me and affectionate to his m[illegible] —and I can tell you this, sir, there are very [illegible] fathers of my standing in England who could [illegible] as much of their sons."

The Squire murmured something sympathe[illegible]

"Then about settlements," went on the bar[illegible] turning a little redder, if possible, than be[illegible] "Of course, when I die everything will [illegible] Reggie, except his mother's dower. Not tha[illegible] means very much. I daresay you know, Fen[illegible] that the estates are heavily mortgaged. Bu[illegible] a good enough investment, if you want an in[illegible] ment for your daughter's money—I mean [illegible] money that will be hers some day."

Mr. Fenwick smiled.

"I hope to give Dolly twenty thousand po[illegible] on her wedding-day," he said; "but it w[illegible] course, be settled upon her. I don't think I sh[illegible] care for more than half of that going to pa[illegible] mortgages on your estate. There ought to be [illegible] independent provision made for her."

The baronet hesitated. The plum was not n[illegible] so fat and well-flavoured as it had been when [illegible] at a little distance. The Squire saw his lo[illegible] disappointment, and went on——

"I mentioned twenty thousand as a mini[illegible] If I thoroughly approved of the match, [illegible] certain investments I have made turn out s[illegible] I should be disposed to make it thirty thou[illegible] And, of course, at my death, all I have—or a[illegible] all—will go to Dolly and her children."

"But you may marry."

The Squire shook his head with a hal[illegible] smile.

"I hardly think that is likely," said he.

"Reggie couldn't do better, even if Fenwick [illegible] marry and have another family," the baronet [illegible] saying to himself. "Twenty thousand [illegible] perhaps thirty, and——"

"Of course the estates would be settled o[illegible] two young people," he said aloud. "Bu[illegible] details we can leave to our lawyers. May I u[illegible] stand then, that my son would be at liberty [illegible] his addresses to your daughter, with some [illegible] prospects as we have been speaking of?"

The Squire hesitated, as people often do [illegible] the thing they have been scheming for is offe[illegible] them. After all, he knew so little of this [illegible] man to whom it was proposed he should hand [illegible] his dearest treasure on earth! He barely [illegible] Reginald Aubrey by sight. But then, he b[illegible] good reputation. Everybody spoke well of [illegible] His own father bore witness that he had [illegible] a good son. And it was not merely a grand [illegible] riage that the Squire of Nethercliff desired f[illegible] daughter. He wanted to provide her with a [illegible] refuge before he left the country. [illegible] would have liked to see the betrothal conc[illegible] before he went abroad. But there was no [illegible] for that. Could he better provide for her se[illegible] than by arranging for her being admitted [illegible] member of one of the oldest families in tha[illegible] of England? Her dowry would reliev[illegible] Aubreys of pecuniary embarrassments, [illegible] establish a claim for her on their rega[illegible] not on their affection. And the old hall at Cr[illegible] thorpe would shelter his Dolly for her life [illegible] could not wish for any shelter more bea[illegible] more stately, more secure. Her honour wo[illegible] theirs; for she would be the mother of [illegible] generations of Aubreys. No; he felt con[illegible] he could not do better. So, after a few se[illegible] deliberation, he said in answer to the bar[illegible] question—

"Yes; I think I may say yes to that."

Sir Edgar held out his hand, and the two [illegible] shook hands. Then the baronet lifted his [illegible] to his lips, and bowed with old-fashioned co[illegible] The Squire followed his example.

Not until a minute or two had elapsed [illegible] seem to occur to the baronet that possib[illegible] young lady might have something to say [illegible] business in hand.

"Have you ever heard your daughter sp[illegible] Reginald?" he asked. "Do you think she [illegible] posed to like him?"

"I know she is," said Mr. Fenwick: "but [illegible] give you a hint—Don't let Reginald press hi[illegible] to hard at first. Slow and sure, that is th[illegible] way."