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On account of our early hour of going to press it is especially requested that any notices or advertisements intended for publication on the following day be delivered at our office not later than 4.30 p. m.

## The Montevideo Times

MONTEVIDEO, SEPT. 3, 1898.

## NEWS OF THE DAY

MONTEVIDEO  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1898.  
Saints Sandinas and Ladislao.—248 days past, 119 to the end of the year.

## POLITICAL NOTES.

The chief news of the day is the sudden resignation, presented on Thursday evening, of General Salvador Torres as Chief of the Staff, to which post it is barely six weeks since he was appointed. The reason given is ill health; the General, who is stout and appoplectic, suffers from choking fits, and his doctors have advised him complete rest. In fact, he has been laid up the greater part of the time since he accepted the appointment. Notwithstanding the undoubted genuineness of the excuse, rumors have not been wanting that political reasons and dissidences with Sr. Cuestas are the real cause, and this has set wagging the tongues of mischief-makers. So far the resignation has not been accepted, and we understand that Sr. Cuestas desires General Tajos to retain the post, offering him a vacation to recover his health.

In addition to the inevitable gossip caused by the above, other alarming rumors have not been wanting, taking on this occasion the form of the alleged discovery of another conspiracy against the Government among the military element. This has found some color in the resignation or removal of some two or three military officers of secondary importance. Amongst these is the resignation of Major Bouquet as 2nd Chief of the Arsenal, which, however has received a satisfactory explanation. After the attitude of Major Bouquet on July 4th, when he was one of the most vigorous defenders of the Government, his loyalty should be above suspicion.

Another matter which gave rise to some uneasiness in the financial market was the non appearance—probably accidental—of the usual announcement of conversion of the Treasury Certificates, which was accompanied by a rumor that the next conversion would be in silver instead of gold. We do not believe there is the least ground for alarm on either head.

These rumors and alarms have had the usual disturbing and depressing effect, thanks to the still nervous state of the city and the market, but we do not hesitate to say that they will prove as baseless as their numerous predecessors, and in a few days will be forgotten, until some fresh circumstances produces a new emission. It is certainly lamentable that, every time the market shows signs of recovering tone and confidence, new rumors should immediately crop up to throw it back again. For our part, we have very little doubt that this is done in obedience to a deliberate plan by the enemies of the situation and those interested in keeping business depressed. It is more than time that the market reacted vigorously against this policy, and showed a more healthy tone. It is a pity that a few of these systematic propagators of false and alarmist rumors cannot be caught and made an example of, *pour encourager les autres*.

An important meeting was held on Thursday evening of the united Foment and Finance Committees of the Council of State, the Minister of Foment also attending, to discuss the Port scheme. After considerable discussion, it was resolved to recommend adoption of the Guerrard plans, as advised by

the Port Studies Committee, setting aside, however, the modifications proposed by the Minister of Foment, but leaving an opening for the introduction of future modifications, should their necessity be proved, by consultation between the author of the plans and the Nat. Department of Engineers. With regard to the depth of the Port, it was resolved to recommend authority to the Executive to extend the depth from 7 to 7 1/2 metres, provided the additional cost did not exceed \$500,000. Discussion of the financial part of the scheme commenced but was not concluded, and any resolution on this head was deferred until another meeting next week at which the Minister of Finance will attend. It is anticipated that some modifications, though not of a radical nature, will be recommended in the original financial proposals.

The Legislative Committee of the Council of State has resolved to recommend for adoption as part of the national law, the Code of Penal Procedure drafted some time ago by Dr. Alfredo Vazquez Acevedo (who is defending us in our libel suit with Carvalho).

With reference to the proposed restoration of bull fights, the Committee Report on the matter confines itself to reproducing the long and bombastic petition in favor of the proposal, and then, without any comment whatever, recommending its adoption. It is certainly strange that no counter movement has been initiated, for it certainly cannot be imagined that so retrograde a proposal meets with general approval or even acquiescence. Our native contemporaries, unfortunately, seem too much occupied with politics to give the matter the attention it deserves, for it is a real danger ahead.

The Executive has signed and promulgated the Law prolonging the current Budget for August and September.

There has been arrested and taken to the Cerro Fortress, Captain Roman Cabrera. This officer acted as adjutant to Col. Ricardo Flores in the military mutiny of July 4. He was wounded in the fighting, and managed to keep in concealment until cured, when, venturing forth, he was arrested as described. It is expected that he will be able to give some valuable information as to the events of that day, and this, it is said, is the chief object of his arrest.

Complaints having again become loud about the open prevalence of gambling dens in various parts of the capital, the Chief of Police has once again applied to the Minister of Government, setting forth the legal disabilities imposed on the police against acting summarily in the matter. The question has been referred to the Government Fiscal. It is certainly very strange and not very creditable, that the police authorities should be the only persons in the city debarred from entering a gambling den!

Corroborating a remark made in our editorial of yesterday, we learn that a petition is being prepared asking for the revocation of the exorbitant special tax imposed on the time of Santos on the slaughter of pigs for food purposes, and which prevents the development of what might be an important industry.

## Be Ready.

Is it better in these stirring times to be a great nation or a small one? In times long past and gone, no doubt, it was better to be great, but in these days there is much to be said on the opposite side. It is an old and trite saying that power has its responsibilities as well as its advantages, and these responsibilities are becoming somewhat overpowering, especially in the necessity for maintaining what are conventionally called "bloated armaments," which armaments advancing science is rendering more and more costly every year. An apparently simple and trivial alteration in the infantry weapon means the discarding of breech-loading rifles in millions and the manufacture of a corresponding number of new ones. Money is lavished on field guns, yet the cry all over the Continent is for further improvement. The old fashioned gun of the early part of the century was replaced by the rifled gun; the rifled gun, at first muzzle-loading, was replaced by the breech-loader, endless modifications of which had to be made; and now the cry is for quick firing guns, for horse artillery at any rate. Ever since the real value of cavalry was demonstrated in 1870, there have been immense additions made to this arm by all the leading military powers. Nor is this all. Stern necessity and the terrible experience gained in recent wars have amply demonstrated that it is not sufficient to have merely a large army, well armed. The army must also be perfectly equipped in every respect. The whole costly and intricate

machinery of supply, the staff, the horses, the waggon, the ammunition train, the commissariat, and all the other departments which keep an army in proper fighting trim must in these days be ready at the moment war is declared, and this can only be done by maintaining them, or a considerable proportion of them, in time of peace.—*United Service Gazette.*

## The Scent of Man.

The scent of man has been the subject of a number of experiments by Dr. A. Bethe, who gives his results in the new number of the "Archiv der gesammten Physiologie." Dr. Bethe, in one particular, extends the Jäger theory even further than its original projector ventured to do, and affirms that every human individual has his or her own peculiar scent. Not only a dog, says he, but a man gifted with an exceptional nasal sensibility, can detect a man by his distinct and individual smell. The doctor made an experiment with a person thus exceptionally gifted. He brought this wonderful "smeller" with bandaged eyes into a room where more than twenty persons of his acquaintance had been collected, and the "smeller" detected and named every one of them correctly, by deliberately putting his nose to each in turn.

The "human scent" according to Dr. Bethe, is not born with us, but is acquired. Professor Jäger's theory, as many will be aware, is that the personal scent of a man has an ethical value, and he takes certain texts of the Old Testament to be actually as well as figuratively true. Dr. Bethe is not inclined to carry his operations beyond the scientific into the moral province. He believes that there is a characteristic "family smell," of which each member of a family more or less partakes, and which they do not quite lose even when they are separated from one another "by continents or oceans." Meanwhile, he warns against coming to hasty conclusions upon a matter which is still only in a tentative stage, especially as a man's individual scent is so very much conditioned by his social circumstances and by his personal habits and manner of life.—*Exchange.*

## MEDICAL SUPERSTITIONS.

### MEDICAL PRESS.

The advance of science within the last century has played havoc with most of the cherished superstitions in matters medical. The old women who figured as the medical Solons in country districts of days gone by have left no successors, and all their wise and foolish sayings have followed them into obscurity. It is, therefore, very seldom in these days that the medical superstitions of a past age are heard of, for while the progress of science heralded their departure, the increase of education among the masses assured it, and if there is anything left of the belief in such superstitions, it can only be said to take the form of that craving after quick nesses and concoctions, of which there is only too much evidence at the present time. Still, even in the declining days of the nineteenth century, medical superstitions are not wholly dead. For example, we learn from a French contemporary that some curious examples of these are current in Flanders, of which the following may be quoted. A medical practitioner was called to see a child dying of meningitis, concerning whom he gave a bad prognosis; the mother accordingly gravely stated that she knew there was no hope because she had applied the pigeons, and the third alone had struggled. On further inquiry it was ascertained that the custom referred to was that of placing three pigeons in succession under the child with its beak in the child's anus. If the pigeons swelled out and struggled, and cried, then the result would be favourable. But if not, then death might be expected. The supposition was that the pigeons would empty the bowel, when constipation, common in meningitis, was present. Another superstition commonly resorted to is that of splitting a pigeon open with a single blow of a knife from head to tail and applying it warm to the chest in a case of pleurisy; it is stated that if the bird's blood darkens very rapidly an excellent prognosis was possible. It is really impossible to comprehend how such fatuity as this could find sway among any community of persons not absolutely insane during the present day. But, perhaps, the following method, also in vogue in Flanders, is the most repulsive to which reference may be made. For tonsillitis, a patient is called upon to find accommodation in his or her mouth for a large frog—if the frog swells out and darkens in colour the idea is that these changes have been brought about by "withdrawing" the disease from the patient, and presumably everyone, when this occurs, is correspondingly made happy, except, no doubt, the unfortunate persons whose mouth has been used to ac-

commodate the loathsome betrachian. Really, one must concede that the young Queen of Holland has a rare opportunity before her of doing something to dispel the hideous medieval superstitions now prevalent in her dominions. Her Majesty should at once see to it that her subjects are taught better things, and are given the opportunity at all events, of profiting by the advance of science and knowledge.

## SUNDRIES.

The interesting event of today, at least for our male readers, will be the Smoking Concert of the Rowing Club, at the Criterion. A superior programme has been arranged, and no doubt there will be a good attendance. Mr. Colladon takes the chair at 8.30 p. m.

The P. S. N. Co's "Orellana," bringing London dates to about August 13, is expected at midday on Monday, and will sail the same day for the West Coast.

In view of the expected visit of a team from the Flores Golf Club on Sunday the 11th instant a golf match will be played at 1.30 p. m. to-morrow (Sunday) between the President's and the Captain's teams, 6 or more a side. It is hoped the following members will attend:—Messrs Fraser, Henderson Reid, Frederick, Ellery, Thomas, Jaffries, Cameron, Adams, Bowles, Crocker and Dunbar.

At a Committee meeting of the Entertainment Society held on Thursday evening, it was resolved, in consequence of the very favorable reception accorded Mr. Still's operetta "Jeannette" to repeat its performance on Wednesday the 14th instant, provided the San Felipe Theatre can be obtained for that date, which it is thought will be the case. The prices will be considerably reduced for the occasion, and, provided it can be rehearsed in time, a different farce will be given. In due time we will announce full particulars.

We have just seen proofs of the group photographs taken by Mr. Fitzpatrick of the performers in "Jeannette," in their respective costumes. The picture is a remarkably successful one, especially as regards the ladies, and we have no doubt that, when ready, copies will be eagerly sought after as souvenirs of the event, both by performers and by spectators.

We are able to announce two engagements of interest in English circles. The first is that of Mr. J. D. Hogge, of the London & Brazilian Bank to the charming Miss Schlossmacher, who made such a pretty figure in the Maypole Dance in "Jeannette," and the other is that of Mr. W. Meikle jr., son of the well known broker, to Miss Amalia Preti. In both cases we offer our heartiest congratulations and best wishes.

Several photographic pictures are published in the current number of the "Gazzetta Musicale," Milan, a newspaper issued by Messrs. Ricordi (Verdi's publishers), of views of the exterior of the "Casa di riposo per musicisti," or, as it is popularly known, the "Casa Verdi," a magnificent building which the architect Boito, brother of the composer, is erecting at Verdi's expense as an almshouse for decayed musicians. The front view is not altogether unlike the façade of the Bayreuth Theatre, but this portion of the building is only in two storeys, the front indeed being an immense dining hall. At the rear, however, where the dormitories are situated, the building is four storeys high, and there is also an enormous garden with pleasure grounds, where the aged residents can amuse themselves. The entire building, with the endowment, will cost Verdi something like 40,000L, and it will accommodate 60 men and 40 women, all of whom must have been members of the musical profession. The "Gazzetta Musicale" likewise contains three excellent photographs of Verdi at the present time. The aged composer bears his years well, and appears to be in excellent health.

The revived excitement over the Dreyfus case keeps up. "L'Echo de Paris," a paper which is regarded as the organ of the army staff and which at first was most strongly opposed to the revision of the case, now openly advocates it as necessary, saying that after the confession of Col. Henry the public will believe that all the documents employed to incriminate Dreyfus were equally spurious. "Le Temps," the most influential paper in Paris, has also declared itself in favor of the revision, which it previously opposed. General Gonse, 2nd Chief of the Staff, has followed the example of his superior General Boisdeffre, and resigned his post, and it is thought the other members of the Staff will do the same. There has been a Cabinet meeting over the question, but without result, it being said the Ministers are still divided in opinion. It is now rumored that Col. Henry committed suicide in obedience to official insinuations, facilities

being afforded him for the purpose. A similar opportunity was offered to Captain Dreyfus before he was exiled, but he refused to take it. Several Deputies have announced their intention to interpellate the Minister of War on the whole affair.

The excitement caused by the Czar's disarmament proposition seems to be already dying out. Judging from the telegrams, the only countries where it is likely to meet with direct official support are Great Britain and Italy, France will probably oppose it, and the rest will remain indifferent. This means that it will be a failure.

The great Colston Hall at Bristol was destroyed by fire on Thursday, during the meetings of the Trades Unions Congress. No one was injured. The damages are estimated at £120,000.

At the Solis, on Thursday "Puritan" was quite successful. The exceptional vocalisation of Sra. Tetrizzini was heard to great advantage as Elvira, and the tenor Sr. Maini and the bass Sr. Resplandino both distinguished themselves. This evening "Dionora" will be performed for the benefit of Sra. Tetrizzini. The season concludes to-morrow.

The repetition of "Jeannette" will not interfere with the rehearsals of "Charley's Aunt," which it is hoped to have ready for performance early next month.

Asuncion is suffering from an invasion of locusts.

Mrs. DeShoddy Rich, to new house-boy: "Now, Robert, when you take up the Lord Bishop's hot water, in the morning, be sure you knock, and say distinctly, 'Boy with the hot water, My Lord,' 'Yes'm.' Exit Robert, repeating as a text, 'Boy with the hot water,' etc. Next morning, rat, lat, tail at visitor's door, Bishop: 'Who's there?' Robert, distinctly: 'The Lord with the hot water, my boy!' Robert left his place that morning without his breakfast.

It seems possible that Lieutenant Hobson's daring exploit in Santiago Bay may furnish a new and convenient word to our language. A contemporary reports the following: "A river passenger steamer, one of the grimmest and most tumbledown of the many dilapidated craft of the kind that plough the silent highway, nearly collided with a barge at London Bridge the other afternoon. The skipper used strong language to the barge, but to his taunts the latter bellowed, 'Better take that old tub out to sea and 'Hobsonise' her!' The retort was greeted with a burst of appreciative and sympathetic laughter by the passengers on board the vessel thus characterized."

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Colonial Minister, left England yesterday for his projected trip to the United States.

The Kaiser has made the young Queen of Holland a Colonel of Hussars, in celebration of her coronation. It is not stated what uniform the young woman will wear.

Ex premier Crispi, the Julio Herrera of Italy, has just been soundly hissed by the people during his visit to Sicily.

A Milan telegram announces the destruction by fire of the important ice factory belonging to Sr. Arturo Demarechi, member of the firm of Demarechi and Parodi of this market. The fire is attributed to an act of criminal vengeance.

The "Tribuna" keeps up its extravagant campaign against the Waterworks Company, but references in its article of yesterday plainly show that it is inspired by persons interested in a rival scheme, possibly the old Carrera scheme. It even goes to the length of quoting as authentic and conclusive some of the remarks issued by the Borda government in relation to the Carrera scheme, the corrupt motive of which was notorious. This is showing the cloven hoof.

We understand that some of the existing Tramway Companies will enter a protest before the Municipality against the application of Sr. J. Castro for a concession for an electric tramway, on the ground that his proposed routes infringe the prior concessions which they hold.

On Thursday evening a foolish girl named Josefa Blanco, barely 15 years of age, living at Hocquart 60, tried to commit suicide by swallowing the usual solution of match-heads in kerosene. When the nasty mixture began to work, the child began to scream, and this brought timely assistance which saved her life. Young as she was,

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Cámaras 102



OJO! SEE THE GAS COMPANY'S ADVERTISEMENT ON THE 3rd PAGE.

an unhappy love affair—we expect a schoolgirl flirtation would be the better description—is given as the cause.

Amongst the deaths registered on Thursday, we note that of Edward Edwards, English, aged 54, at Patagones 77.

One of the special attractions of the forthcoming festival of the Jockey Club will be a race for Gentlemen Riders, for which several entries have already been made by prominent horsemen.

«The other day,» says an American paper, «a Denver girl kissed a soldier good-by at the depot, with the remark: 'God bless you, stand up for Colorado.' Between his sobs he replied: 'I am from Nebraska, but I'll try to stand up for both States now.' Thereupon she kissed him again for Nebraska.» Why didn't he tell her that he would try to stand up for all the States?

One of the lessons of the Spanish American war is the value of smokeless powder. In the fighting outside Santiago all the Spanish sharpshooters were provided with this powder. They climbed the trees, and were completely hidden among the leafy branches.

Several competitions were decided at the Volunteer Artillery camp at Shoeburyness yesterday, the most important being the Queen's Prize for Garrison Artillery, of a total value of 1101., which was won by the 1st Essex, this being the fifth time that corps has succeeded in gaining the award in question.

Chief interest in the racing carnival of the Royal Yacht Squadron at Cowes yesterday centred in the contest for the Town Cup, which was competed for in fine sailing weather. Seven yachts had entered, but two were absent, and in the result the Bona won on time allowance.

The Amateur Championships of the Thames Punting Club were held at Shepperton yesterday, the Singles being carried off by W. Colin Romaine, and the Double by C. R. Mullins and W. Colin Romaine.

Six first-class county cricket matches were commenced yesterday. At Kennington Oval Surrey remained in all day against Yorkshire, scoring 438 for six wickets. Abel making 114, Essex at Leyton disposed of Lancashire for 119, and then scored 179 for four wickets Gloucestershire at Bristol were batting all day in their return match with Middlesex and obtained 317 for eight wickets, C. L. Townsend, scoring 120 not-out.

Kent at Canterbury were fielding all day, while Nottingham put together 332 for six wickets, J. A. Dixon contributing 160 not-out, and at Taunton the day's play consisted of a first-innings by Sussex of 363, O. B. Fry and Marlow scoring 110 and 112 respectively. At Leicester, Hampshire were put out for 180, and Leicestershire replied with 232 for three wickets H. H. Marriott making 103.

A number of tradesmen and other residents of South London held a meeting at Blackfriars last night, and decided to form themselves into a league with the object of putting down the ruffianism existing in the district. It was also determined to ask the Vestry of St. George the Martyr to convene a conference of delegates from the various local bodies with a view to approaching the Home Secretary and the Chief Commissioner of Police upon the subject.

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ARRIVALS AND SAILINGS. Montevideo, Sept. 2, 1898. —Str. Paris from Salto, 64 pass. —Str. Eolo from B. Aires, 56 pass. —Str. Tridante from Salto, 18 pass. —Str. Orione from B. Aires, for Genoa, 54 pass. —Str. Sirio from Genoa, 30 pass., for B. Aires. —Str. Belluosa from N. York. —Str. Mount Lebanon for Rio Janeiro. —Str. Linda for B. Aires. —Str. Tolosa for New York. —Str. Eolo for B. Aires. —Str. Labrador for Salto.

MAIL STEAMERS LEAVING TO-DAY —The str. VENUS will leave TO-DAY for Buenos Aires only. Correspondence at G. P. O. till 4.15 p.m. —The str. PARIS will leave TO-DAY for B. Aires and Salto. Hours as above. —The R. M. S. THAMES will leave TO-DAY for Santos, Rio Janeiro, Bahia, Pernambuco, Lisbon, Vigo, Cebu and Southampton. Correspondence at G. P. O. till 1 p.m. —The str. DESTERO will leave TO-DAY for Rio Grande and intermediates to Rio Janeiro. Correspondence at G. P. O. till 3 p.m.

COMMERCIAL STOCK EXCHANGE. Montevideo, Sept. 2, 1898. The market is still in a state of alarm and depression. Except for a small movement in Consolidated Debt, business to-day was practically nil. Prices at first were fairly firm and even attempted to rise, but they weakened and fell after second ring. In the few quotations for Certificates there was a regular panic. Sales as follows. Mortgage Bank, 240 shares at 13.90 and 14 cash and end of month. Treasury Certificates, \$11,170 July at 75, 73 for end of month, and finally 72 and 71.50 cash; \$1000 Feb. at 86. Extraordinary 1897 Loan, \$5000 at 60 to end of month. Consolidated Debt, \$142, 410 at 42 and 42.10, eventually closing

41.90 cash, 42 end of month. The London quotation has advanced to 42 3/4.

THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY DIVISION OF PROFITS, 1900.

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Orellana Captain: J. Richards, 7th October, 1898, for Rio Janeiro, Bahia, Pernambuco, Lisbon, Coruña, La Pallice (La Rochelle) and Liverpool. Oropesa (TWIN SCREW) Captain: H. W. Hayes, 18th September, 1898, for Sandy Point, Coronel, Talcahuano and Valparaiso. Liguria Captain: A. J. Cooper, 1st October, 1898, for Sandy Point, Coronel, Talcahuano and Valparaiso.

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GUILLERMO SCHWENDEL

In the Valley of Diamonds.

(A SHORT STORY)

(Continued)

I am not so sure of that, Mr. Seymour! I am not sure whether I do not prefer the entr'acte to the drama! It is more amusing, anyhow," she said, with a queer little smile.

"Is the drama so dull, then?" Denis gave a quick curious look at her face. "Never mind! You cannot possibly have got beyond the first act so far. The remainder may be more exciting, and more to your taste," he added consolingly.

"Oh, no, it won't," said Ursula, who had been watching her lips curved into a smile that was half-comical half-sad. "There is no mystery or excitement about the rest of it. It is all perfectly clear and, oh, so hopelessly dull and decorous and commonplace. I used not to think so; I used to be very much interested in it, and quite content and happy. I dare say I shall be so again. I dare say when the entr'acte is over and the drama commences again, I shall find it as interesting as I used to do ages ago."

"Ages ago!" Denis elevated his brows and gave her an interrogative glance.

"Yes, it seems ages ago," Ursula said reflectively. "In reality it is only three months since I left home, but events have followed each other so quickly that I seem to have lived—really lived—more in those three months than in all the nineteen years that preceded them." She passed a moment, then added, still in the same reflective tone: "I don't think any girl ever had a more uneventful life than I had until Uncle Jim returned from California four months ago."

"Where was it spent? Describe the scene and its surroundings," Denis said lazily. "I should like to know a little about that past life of which you speak so disparagingly. Our friendship has progressed so rapidly during the past few days that it is difficult to believe that only three weeks ago we were perfect strangers to each other."

"Yes, indeed! I seem to have known you ever so much longer than that," Ursula answered frankly. "I shall never forget the first time I saw you. You were standing at the door of the canteen, without your coat, with your shirt-sleeves rolled up over your elbows, a glass of frog in one hand, your pipe in your mouth, flirting with the barmaid."

"It is not kind to remind me of the errors of the past," Denis said, in a tone of pathetic reproach. "I have turned over a new leaf since you came. I haven't touched a card—except when I play with your uncle—for over a fortnight. The canteen knows me no more. The fair Belinda sighs and longs for me in vain. In fact, as the hymn says, 'These earthly pleasures I resign.'"

"I am glad to hear it. I am sure you used to drink and smoke far more than was good for you," Ursula remarked reprovingly. "That goes without saying. Still, I am no worse than my neighbours," Denis answered ostentatiously. "But I can assure you I am a reformed character now, Miss Ursula. However, we will bury my past in the obscurity it merits, and talk of yours. Where was it spent, and with whom?"

"It was spent at Burton, which is a little village in Yorkshire; the very dullest of all dull villages, I think. It is on the road to nowhere; five miles from a railway station, a town, or a telegraph office, and three from any other village. Very often in the winter, when the snow drifted down from the moors, the roads became almost impassable, and once I remember, during a long storm, for more than a week we were cut off from all communication with the outer world. It is pleasant enough in the summer, for the moors which surround it on every side are very beautiful, but it is very dull in the winter. Oh, how, long the nights used to be! Grannie and I used to sit on each side of the fire, working or reading, or playing draughts and chess hour after hour and night after night, till I used to get almost desperate sometimes."

"No wonder, you poor little girl! But had you no friends to come in and disturb the monotony? I thought country people were always supposed to be sociable," Denis asked.

"That was the worst of it! There was scarcely any one in the village with whom it was possible to be on visiting terms. The old lady who lives at the Park is quite an invalid, and has no children, so the Hall is just about as dull as our cottage. I used to go up and sit with her sometimes, and read or sing to her, but I did it more from a sense of duty, and out of compassion for her loneliness, than from any pleasure I derived from it. For she is—she really is—a most disagreeable old woman." Ursula went on candidly, "though Horace Boulby used to lecture me for saying so."

"And who may Horace Boulby be?" Denis asked curiously.

"He is the Vicar of Burton. I am engaged to him. We are to be married as soon as I am twenty-one," Ursula answered rather hurriedly.

And then, from some unexplained reason or other—perhaps because of

something she read in the blue eyes which, at her last words, were suddenly raised to her face—the colour vividly, twisted the little pearl ring nervously round her finger, and felt embarrassed and shy and awkward, and yet strangely happy all at once!

(To be continued.)

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