if you'll not be an accomplice I'll go alone. If he's to die I'll die with him!"

So on the morning of Christmas Eve, about five o'clock, a carriage might have been seen leaving a cozy little suburban home of a certain village of about three thousand people. One of the occupants you'll recognize as Jack; but as you cannot recognize the Sun's strength in the Moon's mildness, neither will you recog, nize Christine in habiliments of the sterner sex—boy's shoes, pants, coat, cap-gloves and a heavy comfort to envelope and conceal her golden tresses. And a white envelope, bearing the stamp of a large business house of that port, in her hand. Jack remained behind the trees and Christine walked to the shore and waved a man's handkerchief to the lone figure she saw standing on deck. Being Christmas Eve all had been given holiday except "Books" and the cook.

"Go tell that Irshman to take the boat to shore for that man standing there and wash dishes when he comes back," said Captain Curshaw to "Books."

Pat obeyed and after tieing the boat to the ship held it while the young man climbed on deck, then ran to finish the dishes.

"Good mornin'."

"Good morning captain, you got in early this trip, did'nt you?"

"Well somewhat," and after many questions about business followed with as many interrogative looks the captain began to open the letter the boy brought.

"As I had orders to hurry back guess I better start. But say, Captain that's a fine looking specimen of laziness you've got over there," said the boy pointing to "Books" who was sitting in the bow with a paper in his hand, "looks as though a few strokes of the oar would paralize him."

"D——if not! but I'll show you how to put steam into such engines. Come yer, you'd——wind ball, git in that boat and row this gentleman ashore and be back yer in less en ten minutes!"

Then he began to read the letter which ran as follows:

"Dec. 24, 18—.

Capt. Curshaw,
Ship——,

Can you not hold your cargo for, at least, three days? The market is poor. Nearly all our goods are going at a discount——."

Thus the letter ran for some time until the following words dawned on him:

"And now Captain Curshaw, you vile and villianous scoundrel, when you have read this far look out into the life-saving boat you've dismissed and see a poor little adventure in the arms of a loving angel, then think, O you wicked man, how easy it is for even little Cupid to conquer the devil and——."

He could read no more and unconsciously obeying the word of the letter to "look out into the life-saving boat" he was guilty of that act and saw, through his burning, flaming eyes, the scarf pulled from the boy's head displaying an abundance of curls.

Christine, after waiting until he had rowed a safe distance and knowing there was no other boat in which the Captain could follow them, spoke in a quick excited breath——

"Look Huston! don't you know me?"

"Oh my darling precious Christine!" And the next moment they were locked in each other's arms, showering kisses in abundance regardless of the dirty face of "Books" (or rather Huston now) and totally unconscious of everything but love until they heard a tremendous splash, at which Christine gave a piercing shriek!

Captain Curshaw had become a perfect maniac, and being a good swimmer divested himself of his coat and boots, with the intention of swimming to the boat and murdering its occupants. But in his frantic efforts his foot hooked into a coil of rope causing him to fall, knocking his head against a spike in the fender. The blood oozed and gurgled for the sea seemed a cloth of scarlet. But they never saw his head above the water again.

Over the scene of the meeting of Jack and Huston on the shore and Huston and his dear old mother at home we'll draw the curtain. Such scenes are too sacred for repetition.

"O Christine," said Huston the next day, which of course was Christmas, and when he saw her in a beautiful light blue silk, having discarded the black, with a bunch of crimson roses on her breast, "how lovely you have grown, simply angelic!"

"Such looks I hope," answered Christine, "as will blend with that good, honest face and form of yours. But do tel me Huston," she continued, softly, "why did you leave me?"

"Christine, I've suffered enough, do not make an addition with your reproach. How did I know that dear self-sacrificing Jack would be prosperous enough to admit me as a partner, as he says he will do? How did I know you would love me if I could not complete my college course? Anything darling was prefera ble to your indifference. But all that' past we will never refer to it again. And you, you cunning, peerless, little Portia, saved my life! and I have come on this beautiful Christmas day to bring you Jack's and my gifts. With this token he sends his best wishes and brotherly love and with this ring I offer my humble self for better or worse."

"And," said Christine, "the hand the ring adorns with my whole little self I give to you until death do us part, and dearest Papa has consented, with congratulations to tie the knot of love."

So they moved towards the piano, which was banked with evergreens and mistletoe, and with tenderest and sincerity, sang, so sweetly, "On all the earth peace, good will to men!"

Horticultural Society Meeting.

Interesting Program to be Given at Denton This Month—Good Speakers Provided.

The ninth annual meet of the Peninsula Horticultural Society will be held at Denton, Md., on January 15, 16, 17. This program has been arranged:

Wednesday, 2 P. M.—Address of welcome, Prof. M. B. Stephens; response, Col. E. L. Martin; president's annual address, the Hon. H. E. Van Deman; miscellaneous business.

7 P. M.—Reports of committees on fruits in general, Charles Wright; propogation of trees and plants, R. G. Nicholson; address on "Management of Orchards," by Professor W. F. Massey, of North Carolina Experiment Station.

Thursday, 9 A .—Reports of Committees on apples, C. G. Brown; pears, Capt. R. S. Emory; peaches, J. L. Banning; address on the "Greatest Need of the Hour for Fruit Growers," by the Hon. George T. Powell, Ghent, N. Y.

2 P. M.—Reports of committees on grapes. Joseph E. Carter; small fruits, A. J. McMath; fruit packages, George T. Powell; address on the Nurseryman's Obligations to the Farmer," H. Augustine, Normal, Illinois. "Experience in Spraying," by Prof. F. D. Chester, Delaware Experiment Station.

7 P. M.—Report of committees on plums, J. W. Kerr; edible nuts, William P. Corsa; address on "Insecticides," by C. L. Marlett, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Friday, 9 A. M.—Reports of committees on insects, Professor M. H. Beckwith, of Delaware Experiment Station; fungous diseases, Prof. James S. Robinson, Maryland Experiment Station; marketing fruits, J. J. Black, M. D.; address by M. B. Waite, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

2 P. M.—Reports of committees on crimson clover, S. H. Derby; potatoes, W. L. Elzey; melons, P. P. Wyncoop; tomatoes, George Biddle; address on "Necessities of Better Methods in Marketing of Fruits," Prof. James S. Robinson, Maryland Experiment Station.

7 P. M.—Reports of committees on landscape gardening, Dr. Lewis Buffett; asparagus, George H. Murray; nomenclature, James B. Gilchrist; florticulture, George D. Smeallie. Prof. S. B. Heiges, United States Pomologist, has promised to be present if possible.

SCRAPS.

They that govern most make the least noise.

What makes life so dreary is want of motive.

Troubles, like babies, grow larger by nursing.

A spasm of virtue gives a man about the right fit.

Most people like to be called bad in a laughing way.

Even the milk of human kindness is sometimes watered.

Too many people would rather have glory than goodness.

Adversity borrows its sharpest sting from our impatience.

Never be security for more than you are quite willing to lose.

In persons grafted in a serious trust negligence is a crime.

That which makes children happy often makes old people tired.

The good taste of today will be the bad taste of to-morrow.

Make life a minister of love and it will always be worth living.

The first ingredient in conversation is truth; the next, good sense; the third good humor; and the fourth, wit.

We are accustomed to discount the promises of God in a way that would utterly dishonor any fellow-being.

Since I cannot govern my tongue, though within my own teeth, how can I hope to govern the tongues of others.

When a man uncovers his sin, God covers it. When a man cloaks, God strips bare. When a man confesses, God pardons.

Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland.

Mrs. Cleveland always refers to her husband as "the President," both in his presence and in his absence, says the Chicago Record. A member of the cabinet says that he once heard her call him "Grover" when theywere sky-larking a little on a fishing trip, but he thinks she was only making fun. He does not know that she has ever called him "Grover" since although he has been with them a great deal. Sometimes she addresses him as "Mr. Cleveland," but when she speaks of him in the third person she never uses his name It is always "the President says," or "the president went to town," or "the President likes to live at Woodley better than in the White House." When the children are present she invariably addresses him as "papa." He calls her "Frank" almost invariably, except on occasions of formality or in the presence of strangers. When he speaks of her in her absence to the members of the cabinet and other friends he usually says "My wife."

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HOOD'S PILLS cure all liver ills, biliousness, jaundice, indigestion, sick headache. 25 cents.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Never "break" an animal: educate it.

Oats and peas make good pasture for pigs.

Who oppose the general purpose hog?

Don't let the noon hour eat up the other ten.

Rats in the crib gives the teams pains in the rib.

A little salt on the farm helps to put salt in the dish.

A big farm sets too many chairs to the dinner table.

A few choice sheep on the farm are always profitable.

A broken window pane may bring the doctor in.

Little weeds make tall weeds, but tall weeds make short corn.

The farmer that burns much gun powder will soon find a hole in his pocket-book.

If all that is wasted in the kitchen could get back to the farm the farmer would become rich.

If you have a jumping cow fix a pickle barrel for her to jump into, and she wont jump long.

If your pullets are not laying yet, it should be a warning to you to hustle them out a month earlier next year.

Pour the corn into any pens that you want to fatten. But be sure and separate them from the others, for fat hen s can't lay well.

Make as little noise as possible when milking. Yelling at a cow during milking never increases the flow of milk, but tends to decrease.

Don't let the stable be dark. Animals are unhappy in dark stables, and when coming out the sudden change from darkness to light is injurious to the eyes.

A good flow of water on the farm is a blessing that cannot be rated too high. This we know by actual experience, for we have learned what it is to "miss the water when the well runs dry."

If you are to have any eggs this winter you must have everything favorable for the hens. If your house needs attention in the way of stopping leaks, and knotholes and crevices, attend to it now, for when the snow covers all, you surely won't do it, and you as surely, won't get any eggs.

The Grocer Kicked Himself.

A man who looked like a farmer entered a grocery store a day or two ago and said to the proprietor:

"Do you remember that I came here about four weeks ago?"

"I can't say that I do."

"Don't you remember of changing a $10 bill for a man who asked you if you didn't want a barrel of pickles?"

"No."

"Why, you must. There was a woman in here at the time who said you cheated her on some butter. She said the weight was short. That was what led me to count my change over after leaving the store, and I found"—

"I never saw you before, sir!" interrupted the grocer.

"Yes, you did!"

"Don't attempt any tricks on me, for they won't work! If I gave you change it was all right!"

"No, it wasn't! I found $2"——

"Go on. You are a swindler!"

"Very well; good day. You gave me $2 too much, but if you can stand it I can. I'll pay for getting the mare shod all round, and I won't have anything on my conscience!"

Nervous

People should realize that the **only** true and permanent cure for their condition is to be found in having

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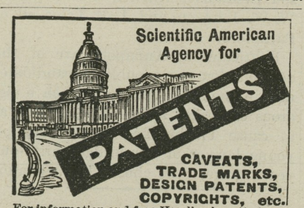
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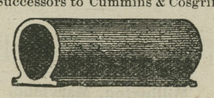
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