

BRETA'S DOUBLE

By HELEN V. GREYSON.

CHAPTER III. A SURPRISE.

Sanctuary along the road that led from the park gates, Breta Danton was oblivious to her surroundings, so occupied were her thoughts with another subject—that subject being no less a person than Eric Brentwood. For a month she had enjoyed the luxury of life at Brentwood Park. Mrs. Brentwood treated her kindly for her dead mother's sake, but while Eric did all in his power to make her feel that she was welcome, she knew that he only did it through pity. And she? Her heart beat rapidly as she whispered it to herself: "I love him! Ah, heaven, I love him so well that I would do most anything to win him. What does it matter about the past? No one knows me in America. Why may I not win Eric Brentwood and Brentwood Park? It is worth a good deal to gain a home like this, and gain it I will, no matter what obstacles may stand in my way!"

CHAPTER IV. CONVALESCENT.

"You gave him money?" "Yes, I thought that the easiest way to get rid of him." Eric said no more, but he looked searchingly at the girl, and wondered whether she was adhering strictly to the truth, for he had seen her talking to the man, and the earnest way in which they seemed to be conducting their conversation gave him the impression that they were not strangers. And yet, he knew that she was a perfect stranger to America. How, then, could she know that man? He chided himself for his unreasonable doubts, and turned to his companion with a smile. "Miss Danton, the bell has rung for dinner, and if we do not hasten our steps we will be late."

have friends. Are they here in Nov York?" "Not in the city. My destination is Brentwood Park. You know where it is," she inquired. "Yes, I know where it is situated; but I am not acquainted with the owner, Mr. Brentwood. Of course you will need money to defray your expenses; and now, my dear, when you are able to go to your friends, you must let me pay your fare." "Oh, sir, how generous you are! I'll accept it gladly as a loan, and as soon as I find employment I'll return the amount." "Tut, tut! How independent we are! Well, have your way. By the way, you have not told me your name yet," he said, patting her little white hand.

GOOD ROADS NOTES.

Good Roads for Farmers. Bad roads constitute the greatest drawback to rural life, and for the lack of good roads the farmers suffer more than any other class. It is obviously unnecessary, therefore, to discuss the benefits to be derived by them from improved roads. Suffice it to say, that those localities where good roads have been built are becoming richer, more prosperous and more thickly settled, while those which do not possess these advantages in transportation are either at a standstill or are becoming poorer and more sparsely settled. If these conditions continue, fruitful farms may be abandoned and rich lands go to waste. Life on a farm often becomes, as a result of "bottomless roads," isolated and barren of social enjoyments and pleasures, and country people in some communities are suffering great disadvantage that ambition is checked, energy weakened and industry paralyzed.

SEA OF FLAME.

British Steamer Visited by the Electrical Phenomenon Known as St. Elmo's Fire. From the British steamer Ayr comes a remarkable story of the experience of that vessel with the phenomenon known as St. Elmo's fire, during her passage across the Indian Ocean. The curious spectacle which is often afforded to mariners was in the case mentioned one of unprecedented magnitude. In all previous records of experiences with the wonderful electrical disturbance there is no instance in which it was exhibited on such a scale of terrifying grandeur as when seen by the crew of the Ayr. The Ayr sailed from Ilolo on June 10. Her course was that usually followed by homeward bound vessels, a long run of 14,000 miles by way of the Cape of Good Hope.

THE GEMS OF NEW YORK.

VARIETY OF THE PRECIOUS STONES FOUND IN THE STATE. Gem-bearing Quartz Underlying Manhattan—Garnets in Abundance—Lake George Diamonds—Agate as Stained Glass—Carls in Fresh Water Brooks. Residents of New York customarily look to the West and South and to foreign countries for precious and semi-precious stones in their natural state, but in the Empire State are to be found some of the most beautiful known. Underlying New York City are gem-bearing quartz veins, but these veins are now locked and inaccessible. The seeker after precious stones long ago gave up his place to the real-estate dealer, who has made more money in building up than the other could have by digging down. An idea of the variety and beauty of the precious stones found in New York State may be gathered from a visit to the Tiffany-Morgan collection of gems, belonging to the State Cabinet at Albany, and to the Mineralogical Club's collection in the Museum of Natural History. On Manhattan Island are found the yellow aquamarine, or beryl, the pale-green beryl, and the small, transparent red garnet, the quartz veins bearing them traversing the archaic rocks. The same veins occur elsewhere in the State towards the Adirondack region. In Lewis county, however, precious stones are most abundant. Here are found, in particular, great quantities of purple and red garnets. At Newcomb, in the same county, beautiful crystals of brown tourmaline are found. Professor Beecher, of Yale, made this discovery some time ago. In Richville, in the township of De Kalb, the finest crystals of pyroxene are picked up from time to time. Cut into gems weighing from three to thirty carats each, they possess a peculiar charm. They are of a rich, oily green, differing from the tourmaline, peridot, or green garnet.

mineral resembling jade in the moonstone peristerite of Jefferson County. This is a white substance with a blue play of color. Wollastonite is found at Bonaparte Lake. Through the entire terminal moraine pebbles of black Jasper nearly a foot across can be found. They are an intense black, and are known as basanite or Lydian tourmaline. They are used by jewelers to determine the carat of the stone. In his report to the United States Geological Survey on "Gem Production in the United States," just issued, George F. Kunz says concerning another semi-precious stone, and its use in the making of stained-glass windows: "Pium Island, one of the broken line of moraine ledges reaching from the northeastern point of Long Island across the Sound to Watch Hill, N. Y., abounds in pebbles of variously colored quartz, derived from the disintegrated rocks of the Connecticut shore and carried southward to the upper or second moraine by the ice-sheet. Many of these pebbles are very richly colored—red, yellow, purple, etc.—and have been locally called agates, and collected, both here and on the neighboring Goose Island, by parties from Connecticut. The pebbles are used for the same purposes as stained glass—that is, leaded together—the iron staining showing beautifully by transmitted light. This form of window effect was introduced by Mr. Louis C. Tiffany. The pebbles are very abundant, and are continually rolled, washed and polished by the surf, and sometimes piled on the beach in windrows. One or two persons make a business of visiting the islands in a sloop and gathering the best colored and most attractive stones."—New York Post.

Brain Made Himself at Home. Bears, which were unusually numerous in Pike and adjacent counties in Pennsylvania during last winter and spring, are again making themselves obnoxious to farmers, and are venturing into the clearances, and in one instance took possession of a farmhouse, as is evidenced by the terrifying experience of Mrs. Pirot, an aged resident of Dark Swamp. While engaged in her morning duties about the house she was startled by soft footsteps advancing up the walk. Turning, she was confronted by the bear, and before she could close the door, Brain barred the way. Although terribly frightened, she retained her presence of mind, and began to shy various cooking utensils at the beast, which, instead of retreating, dodged the missiles and walked into the kitchen. Mrs. Pirot hastily ran to the upper portion of the dwelling and locked the door. Brain, evidently thinking the kitchen a nursery, began to toss the furniture about the room and eat a portion of the victuals remaining in the pantry. Tiring of the sport, the bear took a short nap on the floor, and then scampered off into the woods.

Going For a Lost Treasure. "Treasure Island" is a romance which is not likely in these days of reality; but an intimation brought to our notice that an expedition is in course of preparation to endeavor to recover the gold which was lost in the ship General Grant, under extraordinary circumstances in May, 1885, seems to promise exciting times for the adventurers who may participate in it. The story is that the General Grant was on her way from Melbourne to London with a number of miners returning from the Ballarat diggings when she was becalmed off the Azores Islands, and a heavy swell drove her on to the shore, where she entered a rift in the rocks and was gradually driven into a cave. Here she sank, and of more than eighty souls aboard not a dozen were saved. Several unsuccessful attempts have been made to recover the gold. The new expedition of which we shall probably hear more later, has made up its mind to succeed.—London Chronicle.

A Queer Wagon. An up-to-date florist from New Jersey, who has quite a business in both potted plants and cut flowers, has a unique wagon with which he visits his customers on the upper west side of town. It is a miniature greenhouse on wheels. The frame, with its peaked roof, is of iron painted white, and the sides and roof are made of small panes of glass. In the rear of the wagon is the door through which plants are removed for delivery. Just inside this door is a toy stove, not much larger than a kitchen stove in a doll's house, and leading from it and poking its nose out through the solid rear panel of the house is a bit of stovepipe, from which a small cloud of smoke trails away in the rear as the wagon moves along the street.—New York Times.

Statistics of Business (U. S.). Architects..... 4,638 Banks and bankers..... 11,676 Book stores..... 22,606 Carriage makers..... 15,850 Clothing stores..... 14,109 Drug stores..... 15,847 Dry goods stores..... 14,550 General stores..... 104,426 Grocery stores..... 109,183 Hardware stores..... 23,887 Harness stores..... 14,715 Jewelry stores..... 14,809 Millinery stores..... 5,691 Physicians..... 129,486 Auctioneers..... 3,301 Barbers..... 43,352 Meat markets..... 41,933 Carpenters..... 33,887 Cigar stores..... 22,458 Dentists..... 14,680 Farmers..... 1,415,680 —Mallet's Half-Dime Cyclopedia.

A Boy With a Bright Future. One of the tasks set to a boys' class was that of writing a short letter to the master. One youngster added a P. S., which ran: "Please excuse bad riting and spelling, as I avert been taut any betor."—Tit-Bits.

GOOD ROADS NOTES.

Michigan is Awakening. Michigan intends pushing the good roads movement in that State as if her never before been pushed. A good roads bureau of information has been organized, and is now prepared to send able speakers to discuss the question before farmers' institutes, grange societies, wheelmen's meetings and others interested in this question. The list comprises well known good roads advocates from all parts of the State, college professors and practical engineers, and a campaign of education will be carried on by this means and through the distribution of circulars and printed matter preparatory to a systematic political campaign, which will be carried on previous to the next election.

The Automobile Will Help. The organization of automobile clubs means the adoption of this vehicle for the purposes of pastime and sport. This in turn should furnish material aid to the long-standing movement for good roads—in which substantial progress has been made with the active support of the wheelmen, and which, also, remains to be done. For roads have been shown to constitute a serious handicap to the automobile, and the commercial value of the various inventions will depend largely upon good roads. We are likely, therefore, to hear from the makers and users in the next Legislature.

Anti-Rat Action in Brief. Agriculture in the United States has developed to a point where time is valuable in this pursuit, and it should be made possible for farmer to get to town after a rain, when the land is still too wet for farm work. Twelve district good roads conventions are to be held in Illinois and subsequently a general convention is to be held in Springfield, the State capital. They are to be under the direction of the State and Inter-State Good Roads and Public Improvement Association. Mention should be made of "corduroy roads," built of poles or logs, laid across the roadway. Like other roads they should never be made where it is possible to secure any other good material, but it is frequently the case in swampy, timbered regions, that other material is unavailable; and as the road would otherwise be impassable at certain seasons of the year, it may be well to construct even a corduroy road.

SEA OF FLAME.

Children's Playgrounds at Cologne. Cologne provides well for the children in the matter of playgrounds. In all the large parks—and Cologne is a city of parks—spaces are reserved for children. These spaces are generally in secluded corners and are large enough to accommodate from 200 to 400 children. Long benches are provided for the mothers and maids, who always bring along a lunch basket and a bag of mending or hand work. A well of water stands near by, and there is a small booth where warm and cold milk and mild drinks can be purchased cheaply. Large circular tables not more than ten inches high, with bushels of sand on and under them, furnish no end of amusement for the children, who dig to their hearts' content. For the larger children there are swings, see-saws, merry-go-rounds and games; and they are not strictly confined to the playgrounds, but can race and run unmolested all over the park. The city provides a keeper, who is not changed with the administration. He has become a piece of park furniture. His word is law, and the children hold him in wholesome awe, for the boys and girls he finds unruly are banished to their homes for as many days as the offense merits. Besides the large parks there are many smaller ones, and they are always crowded with children, to whom the streets are forbidden playgrounds.—German Correspondent in Chicago Record.

Oh Death, Where is Thy Sting? The boycotting of the lackluster Mexican Ambassador by representatives of the other powers at Washington recalls an anecdote of a recently deceased clubman. He was present one evening at a little musical gathering when an aspirant for honors as a pianist seated himself at the piano and began playing one of the national airs of Mexico, "La Paloma." His execution was deadly, and he banged and thumped the instrument until it was a fit object for the interference of the humane society. Finally he whirled around on the stool and said, "Did you notice the air I was playing? Well, when they led Maximilian out to be shot they asked him what tune he would like to be shot by and he selected 'La Paloma.' Do you know why?" "Yes," replied the clubman as he glared at the executioner of the tune. "I suppose it robbed death of half its terrors."—Louisville Times.

German June Bugs. June bugs are thick in parts of Germany this year. At Brody school children lately gathered twenty-five and a half hundred weights from a six-acre field. Some one has figured out that this means 1,270,000 June bugs.

Scotland has forty-six parishes without paupers, p.v rates or public houses.