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THE SPLENDID SPUR

THE ADVENTURES OF JACK MARVEL.

By ARTHUR T. QUILLER COUCH."

CHAPTER VI. (Continued.)

There was a whole town burning below. And in the streets men were fighting, as could be told by their shouts and the rattle and blaze of

Now, the town was Marlboro and the attacking force a body of royal troops sent from Oxford to oust the garrison of the Parliament, which they did this same night with great slaughter, driving the rebels out of Bristol. Had we guessed this much ill-luck had been spared us, but we knew nought of it, nor whether friends or foes were getting the better. So (Delia being by this time recovered a little) we determined to pass the night in the woods, and on the morrow to give the place a wide berth.

Retreating, then, to the hollow (that lay on the lee side of the ridge, away from the north wind), I gathered a pile of great stones and spread my cloak thereover for Delia. To sleep was impossible, even with the will for it. For the tumult and fighting went on and only died out about an hour before dawn, and once or twice we were troubled to hear the sound of people running on the ridge above. to we sat and talked in low voices till dawn, and grew more desperately hungered than ever.

With the chill of daybreak we started, meaning to get quit of the neighborhood before any espied us, and fetched a compass to the south withanother look at Marlhoro.

But before an hour had passed by we were captured by a troop of rebels and taken to Bristol, where I was searched and my letter to the King taken from me by Colonel Essex.

You are now to be ask'd to pass over the next four weeks in as many minutes: as would I had done at the time! For I spent them in a bitter cold cell in the main tower of Bristol keep, with a chair and a pallet of straw for all my furniture, and nothing to stay my fast but the bread and water which the jaller-a sour man, if ever there were one-brought me twice

What concerned me most was the cold that gnaw'd me continually these winter nights as I lay thinking of Della (whom I had not seen since our capture), or gazing on the patch of "Twas thus I heard Bristol bells ringing for Christmas in the town below.

Colonel Essex had been thrice to visit me, and always offer'd many excuses for my treatment; but when he came to question me, why, of course, I had nothing to tell, so that each visit but served to vex him more. Clearly I was suspected to know a my dear." great deal beyond what appear'd in the letter; and no doubt poor Anthony Killigrew had receiv'd some verbal Celonel in return would tell me nothing of what had befallen Delia.

weeks, the door of my cell open'd, and there appear'd a young woman, and water. She was the failer's continued lustily. daughter, and wore a heavy bunch of

now her father had visited me, and at the window. this was a welcome change.

Instead of answering cheerfully (as I look'd for), she gave a little nod of projecting, about six feet long, over

swer'd: "Father's abed with the ague."

"Now, you cannot expect me to be "Nay," she said, and I caught her

looking at me with something like compassion in her blue eyes, which mov'd me to cry out suddenly;

like a pair of lovers." of the pair?"

me-I know not if she loves me; but | ings. this I do know-I would give my hand to learn her whereabout and how she

girl very suddenly, setting down the plate and pitcher.

the iron door behind her.

I turn'd from my breakfast with a each. sigh, having for the moment tasted broke it in two.

that jingled on the stone floor.

and a strip of paper, neatly folded, bered up to the window. I was going and bottles. 'Twas as I guess'd, a tap- ness and the pensioning of the defendhidden in the bread. "Dear Jack:

to; ill. But take care of thyself, my pavement,

deare friend; for tho' the Colonei be a gentilman, he is press'd by them about him, and at our last interview I noted a mischief in his eye. Canst use this file?-(but take care: all the gates I saw guarded with troopers to-day.) This by one who hath been my friend: for whose sake tare the paper up. And beleeve your cordial

loving comrade. D. K." After reading this a dozen times. till I had it by heart, I tore the letter into small pieces and hid them in my the place and back on the road to pocket. This done I felt lighterhearted than for many a day, and (rather for employment than with any further view) began lazily to rub away at my window bar. The file work'd well. By noon the bar was half sever'd, and I broke off to whistle a tune. 'Twas:

> "Vivre en tout cas, C'est le grand soulas--" and I broke off to hear the key turnin in my lock.

The jailer's daughter enter'd with my second meal. Her eyes were red with weeping. Said I, "Does your father beat you?"

"He has, before now," she replied: but not to-day."

"Then why do you weep?" "Not for that."

"For what then?" "For you-oh, dear, dear! How shall tell it? They are going to-to-" in her apron.

"What is't they are going to do?" "To-to-h-hang you."

"The devil! When?" "Tut-tut-to-morrow mo-horning!" I went suddenly very cold all over.

There was silence for a moment, and then I heard the noise of some one dropping a plank in the courtyard be-"What's that?" "The gug-gug-"

"You are but a weak girl," said I "Aye; but there's a dozen troopers on the landing below." "Then, my dear, you must lock me

whistling: 'Vivre en tout cas,

"Gallows:"

She nodded

C'est le grand soulas---' A workman's hammer in the court below chim'd in, beating ou the tune, frosty heaven that was all my view, and driving the moral home, I heard a low sob behind me. The jailer's daughter was going,

> "Lend me your bodkin, my dear, for a memento."

> She pull'd it out and gave it to me. "Thank you, and now good-bye! Stop; here's a kiss to take to my dear mistress. They shan't hang me.

The girl went out, sobbing, and lock'd the door after her.

I sat down for a while, feeling dolemessage from His Majesty which he ful. For I found myself extremely lived not long enough to transmit to young to be hanged. But soon the me. As 'twas, I kept silence; and the | whang-whang! of the hammer below rous'd me. "Come." I thought. "I'll see what that rascal is doing, at any One fine, frosty morning, then, when rate," and pulling the file from my I had lain in this distress just four pocket, began to attack the window bar with a will. I had no need for silence, at this great height above the not uncomely, bringing in my bread ground; and, besides, the hammering

Daylight was closing as 1 finished my task, and, pulling the two pieces "Oh, good morning!" said I, for till of the bar aside, thrust my head out

Directly under me, and about twenty feet from the ground, I saw a beam the head, rather sorrowful, and an- a sort of doorway in the wall. Under this beam was a ladder, and a great level of the sill. I picked myself up coil of rope rested by the lidder's and listen'd. Outside the regular

Now up to this moment I had but heard me, and I drew a long breath, one idea of avoiding my fate, and for I knew that without a lantern he that was to kill myself. 'Twas to this would never spy, in the darkness, the end I had borrowed the bodkin of the telltale rope dangling from the tower. maid. Afterward I had a notion of "I think you are woman enough to flinging myself from the window right. But the flooring was uneven as they came for me. But now, as I to the foot, and scatter'd with small "Oh, aye; but where's t'other half looked down on that coil of rope lying pleces of masonry. 'Twas one of the directly below, a prettier scheme struck many chambers in the castle that had "You're right. The young gentle- me, I sat down on the floor of my dropp'd into disrepair. Groping my woman that was brought hither with cell and pulled off my boots and stok- way with both hands, and barking my

'Twas such a pretty plan that I got low vaulted passage that led me into into a fever of impatience. Drawing a second chamber, empty as the first. off a stocking and picking out the end | To my delight, the door to this was "Better eat thy loaf," put in the of the yarn, I began to unravel the ajar, with a glimmer of light slanting knitting for dear life, until the whole through the crack. I made straight lay, a heap of thread, on the floor, toward it, and pull'd the door softly. 'Twas odd, but I seem'd to hear a I then served the other in the same It open'd, and show'd a lantern dimly sob in her voice. However, her back way; and at the end had two lines, burning, and the staircase of the keep was toward me as I glanc'd up. And each pretty near four hundred yards winding past me, up into darkness. next moment she was gone, locking in length, which now I divided into My chance was, of course, to deeight lines of about a hundred yards scend, which I did on tiptoe, hearing

With these I set to work, and by the hope to hear something of Delia. the end of twenty minutes had plaited with another lamp shining above it. But in a while, feeling hungry, I a rope-if rope, indeed, it could be After listening a moment I decided pick'd up the loaf beside me and called-weak to be sure, but long to be bold, and lifted the latch, A enough to reach the ground with plenty | faint cry saluted me. To my amaze, out dropp'd something to spare. Then, having bent my hodkin to the form of a hook, I tied it to daughter. Twas a small file; and, examing the the end of the cord, weighted it with loaf again, I found a clasp-knife also, a crown from my pocket, and clam- and lin'd about the walls with cups ion of buildings for doing public busito angle for the hangman's rope.

'Twas near dark by this, but I "Colonel Essex, finding no good come | could just distinguish it on the paving | when my entrance startled her. She of his interrogatories, hath set me at stones below, and, looking about the stood up, white as if painted, and large; tho' I continue under his eye, court, saw that no one was astir. I gasp'd: to wit, with a dowager of his acquaint- wriggled first my- head, then my ance, a Mistress Finch. We dwell shoulder, through the opening, and in a private house midway down St. let the line run gently through my Thomas street, in Redcliffe; and hand. There were still many yards she hath put a dismal dress upon me left that could be paid out, when I (Jack, 'tis hideous), otherwise uses me heard my coin tinkle softly on the make fools of themselves is that they

Then began my difficulty: A dozen times I pulled my hook across the coil before it hitched; and then a full three-score of times the rope slipped away pefore I had raised it a dozen yards. My elbow was raw, almost with leaning on the sill, and I began to lose heart and head, when, to my delight, the Jodkin caught and held. It had fastened on a kink in the rope not far from the end. I began to pull up hand over hand, trembling all the while like a leaf.

At last I caught it, and, slipping back into the room, pulled it after me yard after yard. My heart went loud and fast. There was nothing to fasten it to but an iron staple in the door; that | method. some six feet.

out of the window again, and, climbing to a sitting posture on the window sill, thrust out my legs over the gulf.

Thankful was I that darkness had fallen before this and hidden the giddy depths below me. I gripped the rope and pushed myself inch by inch ledge. For a moment I dangled, withwreathing my legs around the rope, I loosed my left hand and caught with so down I went.

Minute followed minute and left me but always at the gray wall that seemed sliding up in front of me. the place of it. 'Twas growing intolerable, when suddenly my legs, that sought to close round the rope, found space only. I had come to the end.

I looked down. A yard below my feet the beam of the gallows gleamed palely out of the darkness. Here was She sat down on the chair, and sobb'd my chance. I left my hands slip down the last foot or so of rope, hung for a moment, then dropped for the beam.

should; but I flung both arms out and caught it, bringing myself up with be made. The doctrine of sovereignty road has been built from Tegucigaipa, a jerk. While yet I hung clawing, I of the States prevented further ex- i've capital, to San Lorenzo, on the heard a footstep coming through the gateway between the two wards,

Here was a fix. With all speed and silence I drew myself up to the beam, found a hold with one knee upon it, got astride and lay down at length, flattening my body down against the timber. Yet all the while I felt sure to National expenditures for local pur. Across the large rivers no bridges have I must have been heard,

The footsteps drew nearer and passed almost under the gallows. Twas an officer, for, as he passed, he up." I decided gloomily, and fell to

"Sergeant Downs! Sergeant Downs!" A voice from the guardroom in the barbican answered him through the

darkness "Why is not the watch set?" "In a minute, sir; it wants a minute

to six." "I thought the Colonel ordered it at half past five?"

In the silence that followed the barbican clock began to strike, and half dozen troopers tumbled out from the guardroom, some laughing, some grumbling at the coldness of the night. The officer returned to the inner ward as they dispersed to their posts; and soon there was silence again, save for the tramp-tramp of a sentry crossing and recrossing the pavement be-

All this while I lay flattened along the beam, scarce daring to breathe. But at length, when the man had passed below for the sixth time, I found heart to wiggie myself toward | bors or great cities which entitle them the doorway over which the gallows to public buildings, but there is no ears, caught up at the back and draped protruded. By slow degrees, and pausing whenever the fellow drew near, I | reads that need to be permanently im- cutter of dark green jade set crosswise crept close up to the wall, then, waiting the proper moment, east my legs over, dangled for a second or two swinging myself toward the sill, flung myself off, and, touching the ledge with one toe, pitched forward in the

The effect of this was to give me a sound crack as I struck the flooring, which lay about a foot below the In the room where I stood all was shins on the loose stones, I found a

no sound. The stairs twisted down

I stood face to face with the jailer's

The room was a small one, well lit, been securing one of the pewter mugs

"Quick-quick! Down here behind the counter for your life!" (To be continued.)

The worst about the people who seem to enjoy it so thoroughly.



Who Shall Pay?

N view of the numerous methods of paying for highway construction now proposed, it may be well to There is great variety in

do not conform even remotely to any This, however, must be risked, and rule or set of rules. The road ques-I made the end fast, lowered the other tion has been largely a local one, but extension. The simple statement of the expansion of means of communica- the quotation shows this to any student tion, the improvement in road vehicles of the principles of American governand methods of propelling thenr, the ment. rural free delivery and the general advance in rural conditions and demands, ment, in aid of interstate communicaare rapidly making the question one tion, may build or assist in building of more widely extended importance. through roads between centres in difthrough the window, and out over the The present article will be confined to ferent States, though many will deny a consideration of some of the princi- the power of the National Government out courage to move a hand. Then, ples underlying the application of aid to do this, but this expressly is not the from the National Government to the purpose of the bill, which would not building of highways. It is prompted prevent the application of National aid it again some six inches lower. And at this time by the character of some proposed legislation.

In the years following 1811 the still descending, six inches at a time, United States Government constructed proper measure offering National aid to and looking neither above nor below, the National road, which, while sec- road building is not impossible, and tions of it were never completed, may will receive ample support. The obbe considered to have been 700 miles | jection made at present is to the form The first dizziness was over, but a long and to have cost \$7,900,000, the and the violation of established prinhorrible aching of the arms had taken | National Government paying the entire | ciples in the present bill. The principle expense. At that time this road was of a proper measure can best be conessential to the development of the sidered together with the question of country west of the Alleghanies, and State aid.-Municipal Engineering. its construction by the Government was justified on that account. The cost of repairing the road was not so easily obtained from the Government,

The increasing power of the centra! I tween six and two-per cent. In Government, and the insidious infu- ranny places the road is fifty feet wide,

further attention to the question of it is all finished, it is the intention to read construction until the establish- use one side for a trolley line for elecment of the office of Public Road Ju-tric freight and passenger cars. quiry, about ten years ago. This other Abundant water power is available for is in line with many other divisions of supplying motive force. departments in the Government sen ce in securing and dist: Juting mina iation regarding road building and maintenance, educating the people in the A Description of the Ruler of the Far respect, and its appropriations are expinently proper expenditures of gubic. money. But now comes the Brungary figured Chinese silk of a beautiful bill, which goes further than any other Folk-of-egg color. Being low of statmeasure in its application of National urc, her feet (which are of natural funds to local uses. It makes Lo pre- | bize, she being a Manchu) barely text of promoting interstate commerce, touched the ground, and only her head but proposes to appropriate money for and shoulders were visible over the roads on application of States, counties | table placed in front of her. She wore or townships, the only check upon the 2 Chinese coat of a diaphanous palecharacter of the read to be improved blue silk material covered with the being the opinion of the director of the most exquisite Chinese embroidery of department. Its advocates point to the river and harber and the public building appropriations as one reason for the new raid upon the Treasury, saying: "There are many rural districts that have no great rivers or great har-

they will receive the assistance which they desire and deserve." As an additional argument they point and hanging crimson silk tassels. to the appropriations made to Porto

Rico and the Philippines, thus: "It is a remarkable fact that the United are unpainted and unpowdered. Her States Covernment has already appro- piercing dark eyes roved curiously priated \$1,600,000 to Porto Rico for about among her surroundings. Her road building and another \$1,000,000 to age is sixty-eight, but her hair being the Philippine Islands; and the Secre- dyed jet-black and most of it artificial, tary of War has just made an appeal her appearance is that of a much tramp of the sentry prov'd he had not to Congress through the President of younger woman. the United States, who strongly inderses that appeal, to have \$3,000,000 appropriated for the use of the Philip- figured by the curious national cuspine government."

It is generally recognized that these nately long. The nails of the two new dependencies of the United States | smaller fingers of the right hand were must, for the present at least, be treat- protected by gold shields which fitted ed in a paternal manner similar in to the finger like a lady's thimble and theory to the treatment of the Indians, and that, while special appropriations may very properly be made for feeding, Lady Susan Townley, in Her "Chinese clothing, housing and schooling Indians and Filipinos, and for local fmprovements which they are unable to make a similar exhibition of paternalis:n with reference to the States of the Union should be strongly resented as a reflection upon their ability and an insult to State pride, as well as a violation of one of the fundamenta; principles upon which the form of the

union of States is based. It is hardly probable that so serious a departure from the unwritten conand down, and ended by a stout door stitution, even if it is not a violation of the letter of the basis of our Government, will pass the representatives of the people in Congress assembled. But the subtle influence of the special appropriation of National funds under the cloak of legitimate measures for the Improvement of navigation, the provisroom for the soldiers, and the girl had ers of our country, as well as special provisions for our dependent wards at a sin to dig them up again, even though home and in our new possessions, it be only to show them to your friends. seems to have blinded the eyes of public officials, of societies intensely interested in road improvement, of citizens

electric roads is not worth the aban- covering ten acres in extent.

donment of so definite and so valuable

a principle. the bill is that the work of the office of Public Road Inquiry "is in the uature of National aid" and that "there is, therefore, nothing new in principle in the bill recently introduced in Congress by Colonel Brownlow, of Tennessee, providing for National aid of a more extensive and substantial character." The assistance of the Government in the way of educational work is very different in principle and practice from the assistance proposed in the ask what principles should bill, and its value and its entire congovern the selection of a formity with the principles of our organization are recognized by all. The meant losing the width of my cell, methods at the present time, and they fact that it is given cannot by any stretch of reason or imagination be twisted into approval of the proposed

> It may be admitted that the Governto the least valuable road of a mountain township if the opinion of the director did not stand in the way. A

Good Enads in Honduras. During the last year road building and a proposition to collect such cost has been the chief feature of public from traffic over the road by means of activity in Honduras. Because the tolis was vetced by the President, on country has had no safe or convenient the constitutional ground that it im- highways, the interior districts have propose?" My feet missed it, as I intended they posed duties on interstate traffic, an been greatly retarded in their developinterpretation which would not now ment. To remedy this a new wagon penditures of this sort for many years. Cast. The grade of this road varies ence of such growths as the River and on a foundation of lava, and covered Harbor bill, much of which is merely with finely beaten rock. Side ditches an annual raid upon the Treasury, have fun along the way, and nearly all the worked together to reduce the objection bridges and culverts are of stone. yet been built. The length of the road The Government did not pay any will be about eighty-one miles. When

THE CHINESE EMPRESS.

She sat upon a divan covered with vine leaves and grapes. Round her neck was a pale-blue satin ribbon studded with large, lustrous pearls, pierced and sewn to the ribbon. Her head was dressed according to the Manchu fashion, the hair being parted in front and brushed smoothly over the district but has many miles of public high and wide over a kind of paper proved. Let the people ask for it and on the head. The ends of this paper cutter were decorated with great bunches of artificial flowers, butterflies

Her complexion is that of a North Italian, and being a widov, her cheeks

Her hands are long and tapering and very prettily shaped, but they are distorn of letting the nails grow inordigradually tapered off to a length of three or four inches .-- As Described by Note Book."

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Character determines condition. Feeding malice is fostering murder. Men differ not so much in their faith as in their phrases.

Excess of wealth is cause of covet-

ousness .-- Christopher Marlows. Good humor is the health of the soul; sadness is poison.-L. Stanislaus. Faithful, dutiful work is the surest

way to an honorable life.-George Everard. Angels' songs last longest to men

who are most anxious to repeat them to others. It's a good deal easier to catch the preacher's errors in pronunciation than

When God has buried your sins it is

Largest Beehive.

his appeals for the collection.

The biggest beehive in the world is generally, to the true import of such a a natural one in Kentucky, known as the "Mammoth beeblye." It is in real-The rapid improvement of our roads ity a huge cave, the main compartment in these days of extension of steam and of which is 150 feet high, the floor

one argument of the supporters of the bill is that the work of the office

"How do you move your poles about?"
We queried. "Do you float 'em?"
The chief replied with gleeful shout,
"Oh, no! We merely totem."

Sharpe-"One of our great professors says that football players are crazy." Whealton-"Has he just found that out?"-Chicago News.

The Difference.

Tenderfoot-"There is a difference,

then, between East and West?" Westerner-"Yes. In the East they,

pinch, and in the West we lynch.". Chicago Journal. Professional Courtesy. 'I manage to keep my boarders long. er than you do," said the first landlady.

"Oh, I don't know," rejoined the other. "You keep them so thin that they look longer than they really are." -Chicago News. His Behavior.

He (at the reception) - 'Neurich doesn't behave as if he belonged to the best society, does he?" She-"No, indeed. He behaves as

if he imagined the best society belonged to him."-Chicago News. Applies to Many. Denham-"It's a good thing for some people that this country never re-

stricted immigration." Benham-"Why?" Denham-"They'd have been rather

short of ancestors."-Chicago Journal.

Geological. Edyth-"I'm surprised to hear or er cost than fire clay. your engagement to old Bullyon. Was he the only man with sand enough to

one with rocks enough to interest me -Chicago News. His Bequest.

eave you when he died?" Gumbusta-"Nothing." you before he passed away?"

too good for me."-Criterion. A Complication.

Veterinary-"So your new bull pup is sick. What seems to be the matter Owner-"A little of everything, I

guess. While we were away this afternoon he chewed up and swallowed the dictionary."-Detroit Free Pre



Oldpop-"How did you sleep last Newpop - "Between walks." - New

York Press. Too Easily Moved. "Newman," said the editor, "wil

never do as a critic." "No?" queried his assistant. "No. I saw him last night at the premier performance of that new comedy, and he actually smiled three or four times." - Philadelphia Public

Ledger. She Didn't Respond.

"You are the first one to whom have shown this poem," the young poet 'night---" "Poor fellow!" replied the editor,

handing back the manuscript. "It's too bad she rejected you."-Chicago Journal.

Quite So. such a good servant." Mrs. Hunter-"Good?"

Mrs. Nearbye-"Why, yes; your husband says she works like lightning." Mrs. Hunter-"Exactly. She leaves ruin and disorder behind her."-Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Certain of One Thing. "Well, little boy," said the kindhearted dentist, "does the tooth hurt

"I don't know whether it is the tooth or whether it's just me," groaned the boy. "But I'm blamed sure that if you'll separate us the pain'll go away." -Chicago Tribune.

In Boston.

Mr. C. De Puyster (to stableman from the West)-"Extricate this quadruped from the vehicle. Donate him an adequate supply of nutritious elemorning illuminates the eastern horizon I will award you an ample compensation for your amiable hospitality." ing,"--Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune 'apenny!"-London Tit-Bits.

the Chatham Record.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

For Larger Advertisements Liberal Con-

tracts will be made.

One square, one insertion One square, two insertions

One square, one month

A pike with a benign bony tumor on one of its gill covers is among the specimens that have been submitted to the English Cancer Commission. The growth was as large as a good sized chestnut, and the fish was much emaciated, weighing less than a pound, though eighteen and a half inches long.

Whether matter undergoes any change of properties on being charged with electric current, has been a subject of experiment. The results have been practically negative. Mr. Paul R. Heyl states that when carrying a heavy current the change in the tensile strength of iron cannot exceed half of one per cent., and the melting point of tin can hardly be changed two de

The idea that moss grows thickest on the north or east side of trees seems to have been disproved. A French botanist, Leon Bedel, now concludes that mosses prefer the parts of the tree that retain most moisture, being thus more abundant on rough or cracked parts, on the upper part of a branch or inclined trunk, on knots or bosses, at the folk of branches and at the base of the trunk.

Radiant, the invention of two English engineers, is claimed to increase the efficiency of gas fires as remarkably as the incandescent mantle adds to the light. It is a product of the wazte of chemical works, replaces asbestos or fire clay balls and causes the gas to burn brightly and completely, trebling the heat. The material can be had in any quantity at no great-

The action of water as an anaesthetic is illustrated in some recent cases Mayme-"Oh, no; but he was the only | brought to notice by Joseph Clements. In one case five hemorrhoids were in jected with distilled water when they were removed in fifteen minutes without pain, and the patient at ouce re-De Style-"What did your rich uncle turned home. In another case two fistules were opened and scraped, one after the injection of water and the De Style-"Didn't he say anything to other without it. The last operation was exceedingly painful. The action Gunbusta-"Yes; he said nothing was of the water is declared to be the same as that of solutions of cocaine or other drug-a filling of the interspaces of the tissues, thus temporarily suspending intercellular respiration and paralyzing the local nerve centres.

OVERPRODUCTION OF FOODS.

Canned and Dried Preserved Fruits and Vegetables in Abundance. There has been an extensive overproduction in some lines of food, notably in certain sorts of preserved fruits and vegetables, both canned and dried. Last year there was an excessive pack of certain vegetables, and again this year, so that prices for some staple articles have been forced below the cost of production. The preserving industry has spread into nearly every State in the Union, and so extensive has become the demand for preserved foods prepared in the factory that there is good ground to fear the supremacy of the home kitchen. It never will be entirely removed, but its work has been greatly diminished and is destined to be still further lessened by the factory, where the highest skill, scientific methods, the prevention of waste, greater command of raw materials enable it to supplant the work of the home kitchen generally in charge of incompetent cooks in great

other places. The line of prepared foods is wonderfully complete. It is in evidence in the partially cooked cereals used at breakfast, in package tea and coffee, in the sauces, condiments, pickles, jams, jellies, mince meat, plum pudding, soups, preserved poultry, game, meats, fish and other articles, even to corned beef hash "such as mother used to make," sliced smoked beef and prepared codfish, the use of the latter saving the trouble of cooking salt cod, filling the house with an unsavory odor, the bother of shredding and enabling the housekeeper to prepare aginty fishballs in a very short time. Prepared soups have resulted in their almost quiversal use, the consumption having increased enormously. One firm turns went on. "I was wooing the muse last out 16,000,000 to 18,000,000 tins every

cities or inexperienced housekeepers in

Some idea of the magnitude of the production of preserved foods may be obtained from a few facts which show that this year there were nearly 11, 000,000 cases of twenty-four tins each of sweet corn put up in different States: Mrs. Nearbye-"I'm glad you've got over 6,000,000 cases in three States, Illinois, Iowa and Maryland, canning corn being a comparatively new industry in two of them. The production of tomatoes is fully as large as of corn. averaging 9,800,000 cases of two dozen tins each annually. Of peas, over 72, 000,000 tins are preserved.

Of salmon there is an average annua output of 4,300,00 cases, or 206,400,000 tins, and besides that king of the tisb family we have mackerel, trout, oysters, clams, and many other sorts, not to mention clam chowder.

Justified Indignation.

A lady recently stopped at an East End open-air butcher's stall and purchased a joint at 3d. a pound. She returned shortly after and complained that it was saturated with naphtha from one of the butcher's lamps.

"S'we!p me!" remarked the butcher; "you gels don't want much-not 'arf! ments. And when the aurora of the You've got a wing rib off a bullock what was bred by King Edward hisself for threepence a pound, and now you ain't satisfied! You're askin' too Stableman (to hostler)-"The guy says | much, mum. If you want your Sunto give the nag a mit full of oats, day's joint flavored with heau-de-Col-He'll chuck you two bits in the morn- ogne you'll have to spring another