

SPAIN'S FORMIDABLE SHIP VIZCAYA

The cruiser Vizcaya, now defending Havana, is a first class modern armored cruiser. She carries two great 11 inch rifles, one forward and one aft, ten 51/4 inch rapid firing guns, 20 smaller guns and 8 torpedo tubes. She has an armor belt a foot thick and 6 feet broad.

A PROPOSAL OF TO-DAY.

"For some time," observed Mr. Markham, "I have beset by the idea of proposing to you."

He was standing with his excellently flat, back to the mantlepiece, and Miss Greatorex was covering a silk bandana handkerchief with an opposition pattern in colored woolls-why Mr. Markham could not make out. There was no one else in the room, and, as was evident, the gentleman was disposed to Do you, for instance, like to talk alt be confidential.

Miss Greatorex smiled. "And why have you not?"

that you might accept," replied the candid young man. "At others," he the possibility-oh! certainly the mess between us." possibility-that you mlight refuse."

"It would be disagreeable to be refused." remarked the lody, imperthe genitleman considered.

"That." "depends. If I was sure I wanted to marry you, at would unquestionably be disagreeable to be refused." "And you are not sure?"

"No; very far, indeed, from being so. At times I think I should much enjoy the role of Mr. Greartorex, so to speak.' "But not always?"

"Oh, dear no!-not nearly always." Miss Greartorex had a canary, which air of the most picontrollable merri-ment, Mr. Markham went to a neighboring drawer and produced thence a cloth, with which he covered the cage.

"You are not sure whether you are in love wiith me or no?" remarked the young lady, as the bird's indignant silence succeeded to his previous irre levant rhapsody.

Mr. Markham came back to the mantel piece, and, having readjusted his back, he said in a low voice, and looking down at the very adjacent brown bent head:

"I admit I am disappointed." She looked up rather quickly.

"Biltterly. I have no idea that you could be stupid-it is evidently pos-

From the motion of Milss Greatorex her head—as they would say in the old books-he implied a note of interro-

"It is stupid not to have grasped the question. I have for quite a long time known that I was in love with you."

"Ever since luncheon?" "Perhaps not quite so long as that But certainly ever since, almost ever since, Lady Greatorex left the room."

The young lady laughed. "Was my mother such an instance of George Eliotit's malign prophet standing behind her daughter and threatenling what she will be!"

"I merely meant that the presence of a chaperon is incompatible with sentiment.

observed the young woman, "do not mind admitting that I am getting confused. You now assert that for more than twenty minutes you have 'adored me," (Mr. Markham's shoulders appeared to deprecate the exaggeration of this rhetoric), "and a moment ago you seemed much to doubt your

"Not at all. That is why I lately called you stupid. I am sure that I am in love; but I am very uncertain as to whether I would like to marry the beloved object."

Miss Greatorex laughed.

"I admit it sounds, perhaps, improper. I merely mean that marriage as the necessary denouement of being what is called in love seems to me quite

a doubtful expedient. "When there is no question of being in love," he continued, relaxing himself by a short walk to the other end of the goom and back, "I think marriage not a bad arrangement. It is then merely now that it has ceased to be insoluble has no special terrors. But you and I have nothing to gain by that. I am exceedingly well off, so are you. I do not need to marry for position, nor do you. We neither of us need to demand blood like Hamlet's Aunt. In fin , as

have nothing to gain by me, and I have no material need of anything you can supply to me. Markhalm is just as fine a place as Greatorex Abbey, and not bit finer. When I speak of being lin love it is purely a personal sensation I should like lit to become chronic. I really enjoy being in love. But if we

got married!" "You cannot anticipalte your love standing that crucial test?" "I honestly admit that I have my doubts. We live in a straightforward age; let me make a clean breastof them.

breakfast?"

"Not always." "I never. If you were licensed by the "I have at itimes been half afraid ceremony of marriage to inundate me with matutinal conversation, I should be rendered at once miserable. A feeladded (moughtfully removing an al- ing of decency would provent my showmost invisible dust speck from his ing it; I should suppress ift. That supsleeve), "I have been much perturbed pression would at once destroy all open-

> "You take, I think," interrupted Miss Greatorex, "a morbid view of the duty of conjugal confidence. You would push lit too far."

> "My views are allways hligh. Perhaps I do; but that is how it strikes me. Every morning I should join at the breakfast table with the unspoken terror that you were about to converse. I think it possible that you also like to talk in the train and in cabs?" Miss Greattorex asserted that such

was lindeed the case; Mr. Markham sat down on a chair at some little dis-

"Exactly. And to tak in the train only makes me less passionately angry than having to speak to anybody above all to answer their questions, in a cab."

"Of course," remarked the young lady, wishing to allay the anxiety of her friend, "you will recollect that the present discussion is purely academical. I have never definitely asked you to be my husband."

"No," he admitted, very handsomely. "I remember that. I have admired you for not pushing your advantage. Amy day within the last week you might have suggested it, and Heaven alone whether I could have refused. It is very improbable that I should have

been sufficiently firm." "You almost tempt me to try." Mr. Markham raised his hand.

"Waiit," the cried. "Do let us finlish this most interesting conversation. What I would wish to express is this, that marriage when one is really in love seems to me to vulgarize the situlation. It makes, to use the familliar expression, a business of a pleasure. Or, more accurately, to make into a vulgar business matter what should be jealously guarded from any taint of business suggestion." "Your objections are after all proper

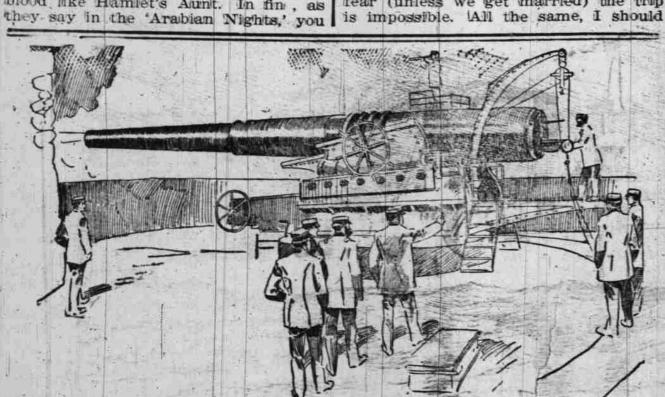
only to the modern marriage?" "I was not," he confessed, "thinking about the Garden of Eden. Business was in its infancy then-so was mar-

"For my part,' he continued, "I dislike anything as soon as it becomes a duty. I used to like hunting; since they made me master I look forward to the autumn as a parson looks forward to Sunday, and yet there was a time when he doubtless loved going to church, when it was only a permissible recreation. Supposting it were one of the Ten Commandments that we the opera every Wednesday!"

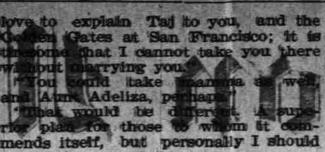
"And you mean that you would dislike the duty of being permanently in PROPOSAL TODAY Gal 2 love with me," said the young lady, who perhaps found his remarks becoming too general, "though as a temporary sentimental excursion you have

not hitherto found it disagreeable?" "What I find fault, with is," he declared, without very directly replying to her question, "that unless one to to India."

"When?" inquired the young lady. with somewhat startling definiteness. "Not." he replied, "till, say, October. India in the middle of the season you would not enjoy a bit. But I really fear (unless we get married) the trip



THE WORLD'S GREATEST GUN The first 126 ton gun for coast defense is now being completed. It is of 16 inch caliber and is the largest gun ever made. It will hurl a mammoth projectile nearly 15 miles with telling effect.



not like it so much." Miss Greatorex laughed. Mr. Markham left his sequestered seat and took one beside her on the little sofa.
"Were you thinking," asked the lady,

'that you would like to take my hand?"
'I have thought that before. I was thinking of taking it. Now, if we are married," he continued after an interval, "this would be my business. It would be expected of me, as it is of a hen to flay eggs, or the Prince of Wales to lay foundation stones."

"And then it would cease to please?" "It would then become detestable. And often lately I have pictured myself as riding home in the deepening dusk of a winter's afternoon from hunting, either with you by my side or to find you waiting for me at home. When I think of it I nearly take a hansom and come here to lay myself at your feet."

"Why don't you?" "For the reasons detailed above. I picture being refused and the subsequent discomfort and inconvenience. It would entail an entire change of all my plans for the rest of the season."

"But if you were not refused?"

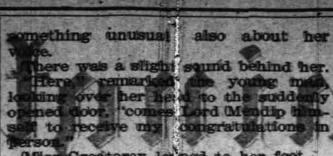
Mr. Markham started. "Oh, that certainly struck me as an alternative, but I did not find it less alarming. If I were accepted we should probably get married; and how dull for us both it would subsequently be! What I should really like would be for you to come and stay just in our present capacity at Markham, say, for a year. You would walk with me, hunt with me; I would read to you my favorite bits of my favorite authoris, and you should retaliate with yours. I can imagine nothing so delightful. I have already had you to stay at Markfram; but then Lady Greatorex and Sir Marmaduke came, too, and my sister came down to do hostess. We were never alone except now and then for

mutual endeavoring." "Thank you," interjected, with some

a quarter of an hour after an hour of

asperity, the lady. "What I should like would be to have you thus for a time all to myself. You would find me much nicer than you' imagine. I have much more 'to' me, as the Yankees say, than you would

"You are not, in fact, such a rool as you look?"



(Miss Greatorex let ped to her feet. "Don't, for heaver's sake don't!" she oried in a smotherer voice. "It was a lie. I did it to see in I could shake you Lord Mendip am iled forward with a keen old look in his faded eyes, and a much "cooked" expression about his half-deaf old ears.

"Congratulations, h? Who am I to congratulate? I think I heard something about congratifiations in person." "Yes, Lord Mendso, I want yours." Mr. Markham sighed heavily. "I have just proposed to Mirs Greatorex, and she has been good enough to accept me."

"Lord! how inting n'," cried the old gentleman. "I rec'iect your father was my fag at Eton-I'm talking you know of the year! thirty-nine. By Jove you're a lucky chap. Markham and I do congratulate you."

Mr. Markham received these felicitations with some emotion, and sighed again less heavily. Black and White.

DID NOT RECOGNIZE HER.

Some trouble had occurred between the teller of a Pittsburg bank and his best girl. Both we're very proud and ligh-spirited, and the young lady insisted upon repeating to the teller that he must never again, speak to her; that he should never recognize her under any circumstances, and that if he did so she would consider it an insul. The teller was greatly offended. ... e longed for revenge, and a few days ago he hald it.

While shopping down town the young lady became short of money. She kept a small amount at an East End bank, but the money was needed at once. So she tripped lightly into the teller's bank, filled out her sheck for a few dollars, and presented it to her erswhile

"Are you acquainted with any one here?" asked the teller.

The young woman nearly fainted. "If not," resume, the teller, "I'm alfraid I can't .cast. your check. No doubt, it is perfectly good, but our bank requires that we know and recognize both the persons and signatures of all those to whom we pay monley."

be bridged.



MINISTER STEWART L. WOODFORD

Uncle Sam's minister to Spain was born on the Bowery, New York city, in 1835. He was coincated at Columbia and Yale, was admitted to the bar in 1857 and became a fur ous Looklyn lawyer and politician. During the war he was promoted to a colonaley for gallantry on the field.

(Mr. Markham took no notice whatever of this frivolous interruption.) "Well," added the lady, "on one condittion I will come. Do not look frightened; I don't mean to insist on a 'prior engagement.' You need not promise to marry me. But I will come for a whole year to Markham if-if I may bring Lord Mendip with me."

"Lord Mendip!" Mr. Markham released what he had been holding and be tapped. The coal measures of this laid it back in the young lady's lap province are found on a plateau bewith something of the air wherwith tween 2,000 and 3,000 feet above the sea should go to a ball every Monday and an article that one has been fingering in a salesroom when one discovers it is marked "Sold." He resumed his position on the hearthrug, but without again accommodating his back to the presently, "very nice of you to inform the coal formation. The natives use me of your engagement in that way. You can do things, when you try, very gracefully. A more awkward woman

things one would like. For instance, wished to finish your delightful con- the raw material. I would like very much to take you versation. I concluded that you Just try to imagine for one 'as conversationalist."

"I am sure," he said, after the briefest possible pause, "you will be extremely happy. That is certainly my wish-that you may be as happy as you deserve. Lord Mendip's happiness of course, goes without saying. It is interesting to think that he was my

father's fag at Eton." "He told me it was your great-grand-

father." "Ah! I think he was mistaken. My great-grandfather died quite two years before Lord Mendlip was born, and he was not at Eton. Where there is any disparity of years"-

"Between Lord Mendip and myself there is some disparity?" "Quite so. But it is on the right side I take it Lord Mendip is not more than

"Scarcely so much," declared the young lady with admirable temper. He is but seventy-four." "And he is a peer. It is better than

anything I could have offered you."

"As to that, when your uncle dies you will be a duke." "My uncle does not contemplate any public event so little as his own decease. And he is a year younger than Lord Mendip; he will doubtless marry

"Yes, I thought of that; I took that thto my consideration." the young lady asserted, staring full up into Mr. Mark- | all he has to do is to shave himself. rather failed to understand. There was age is pretty sure to bankrupt her.

Bettween Human and Shansi lile tihe mines of Lushan and Juchau, Honanfloo, Tailhongshain, and other districts of Hunian, which stretches from the Yang-tisekilang to the Hoang-ho. This last river forms tibe southern boundary of Shansi, whileh has 630,000,000,000 tions of the best antihracite waliting to

THE MINERAL WEALTH OF CHINA

one pults down again upon the counter at its southeastern extremelty, and the main bed covers 14,000 square miles. The laverage wild hi of the seams is nearly twenty feet. The crowning merit of the Shlams doubt fields is that is in Human, iron mantlepiece. "It was," he remarked is found abundant in several strata of only one kind of this ore a kind that

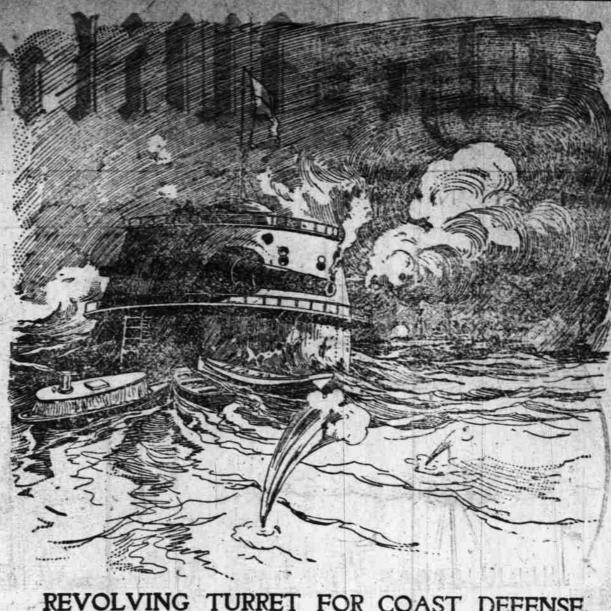
melts readily without the aid of any flux. A fairly large iron manufacturing mightly have told me flatly half an industry is already carried on, and in hour ago."

"I was going to tell you just now. ration, the product is of high quality marry you one could not do several But you begged me to wait, as you by reason mainly of the superiority of

thought ye were shining. After all you | the completeness of the revolution that do not affect to ignore your reputation | would be effected by the introduction of Western works equipped with money you spend with them than the western machinery and appliances, into time.-Chicago News. the heart of the great mineral producing district of Sharsi. Exercise your imagination a little more, and try to realize the change that would come over China, in its internal and external conditions and relations, if the government were suddenly to resolve upon an organized and determined endeavor to develop all the resources of the country, and were to carry out its resolve by the removal of all disabilities now existing, in the shape of vexations internal taxes and jestous dislike of innovations, by the grant of direct mining licenses on reasonable royalties, and by the provision of rapid and cheap means of communication. Such a social revolution as this is a dream of the distant future, but it seems destined to be re-alized. Meanwhile a start has been made, and if the progress should prove to be slow, let it te remembered that, apart from its troubles from without at present, the government, under the peculiar fiscal system that prevails, is very poor.—Chambers' Journal.

TRONICAL IF'S.

If a man's single ha's just as good as married or just as had. If a mian has one failed he knows how to enjoy subsequently success. If a flat man is anxious to lose flesh ham's face, with an expression he If a woman's face is her fortune old-



REVOLVING TURRET FOR COAST DEFENSE,

Several of these revolving turrets, armed with mammoth guns, are to be placed upon Romer shoal, New York harbor, for the defense of the metropolis.

COULD NOT HAPPEN SOUTH.

Unique and unequalled among American newspapiers stands the New York Evening Post-unique as the sole paper among the 15,000 or 20,000 published in this country that has sunk all honor, all patriotism, and unequalled in the depths of degradation in which it has wallowed since the first announcement of the disaster to the Maine. Not conten't with the persistent effort that lit has made to prove that the destruction of the Maine was purely accidental, and to decry any possible effort which this country might make to relieve the suffering in Culba or to defend its own honor, if need be, the Post has now sought to belittle the effort that is being made to build a monument to those who lost their lives when the Maine went down in the harbor of Havana. The gulf between them now can never | Probably no higher motive inspired the Post than hatred of the New York Journal, which first suggested this monument, and while the Manufacturers' Record has not by any means always admired the Journal, it would a thousand times prefer to stand before to the newspapers and read all the news the world responsible for the Journal's Cuban work than to be loaded with the shlame of the Post's mallicious, degrading course—a disgrace to American journalism and to America itself. Commenting on this movement to build a monument, the Posit says:

"We bught allways to consider what posterity will think of the monuments we erect and what posterity will do to them. We can imagine a fulture generation coming upon this monument. wherever it may be erected and asking: "Why cumbereth it the ground?" The answer will be that certain sailors of the United States navy met with an 'accident, to wit, c . explosion, on their ship, and that since it occurred at a time when there was a good deal of talk about war, and a pretty lively sale of exitras, and since the accident ... ws an explosion and not a collision or a hurrikane, it was deemed advisable as erect a monument to their memory. "Very innocent intention," posterity would say in such a case, "but indicative rather of emotion than of sound judgment," and thereupon, if it happened to be in a place wanted for some other use, it would be thrown down without compunction.'

"Cloudd human ingenuity with malice born of the lower world perpetrate a more diabolic attempt to discredit our dead? In the contemplation of such a disgrace to human nature, the Manuflacturers' Record has at dash one saltisflaction, and that is that nowhere in all the south could such a journal as the New York Evening Post live. May the wise dispensations of Providence forever save our southern land from such a concentration of hypocrisy and degradation as is found in the New York Evening Post.—Baltimore Manufacturers' Record.

POINTED PARIAGRAPHS.

The confortionist leads a double life. The notes of a bad singer always go to protest. He laughs best who wallts until he gelts out of the woods.

The man who is entirely satisfied with himself is easily contented. Aen may come and men may go, buit the gas meter goes on forever. A raffle is bound to be a success people will only take the chances. About the only good thing some men

have is a reputation for being bad. When a man becomes thoroughly contented he has outlived his useful-

Very few people have weak eyes from boking on the bright side of things. The woman with a balby and the woman without one are always sorry or each other:

The gray matter behind the other fellow's brow causes many a man to feel brery-beaten. Take care of your pennies and some

one will come along with a scheme to take care of your dollars for you. Tilme may be money but comehow your friends always appreciate the

AN ULTUMATUM

"There is one thing I want distinctly uniderstood," said the only daugher of the household, as she cornered her plaren'ts and looked as though sine were issuing a proclamation of war. 'I want no more interference in my affairs so fair as the young men who come here are concerned. I'm old enough to exercise my own judgment and form my own opinions. You two ac't very much to me as though you thought some young man was trying to marry the whole family, and that it devolves upon you to make a satisfactory selection. You have succeeded in running off two or three for whom I had a special liking, and now I call a halt. That's my ultimatum!"

'See here, my young lady," began the faither. But that was as far as he proceeded. He was curtly informed that young men did not call to get his views on the financial question, the chances of a war with Spain or the alvantages offered by Michigan for the best sugar industry. They had access that it cost millions of dollars to collect. He did not amount to any more than a tim whilstle at a band tourna-

"Ellizabeth, I'll not permit any such talk to your father. I guess we know whalt is best for you, and we certainly have your welfare at heart. If give you

to distinctly understand"-"I do distinctly understand. You broke my last engagement by sitting at the table and telling Charley that I balked the hot biscuit that I never saw till they were served. One dose of them ruined his digestion, and I don't blame him for not risking his life with suich supposed danger as a constant miemalcie."

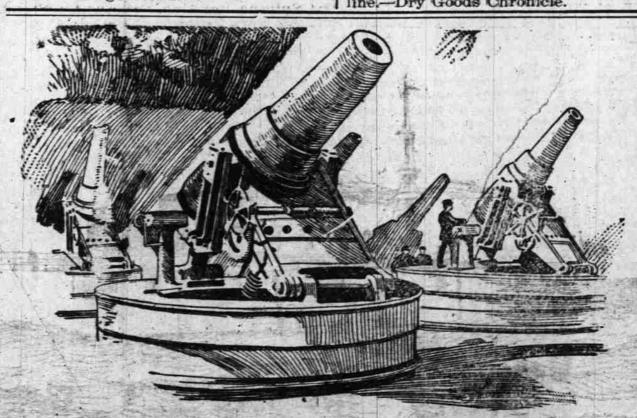
Then she fled in tears, and the pair went to upraiding each other in a manner that tended to revive the old conundrum as to whether marriage is a falillure.—From the Detroit Free Press.

EXPERIMENTS WITH NICOTINE.

Professor J. U. Lloyd has made a very thorough study of the effect of nicotine on insects (the Professor does not smoke), and has devised methods for extracting and using it as a parasiticide in sheep dips, plant sprays, etc. He has sold his right to an Eastern company on a royalty basis, and this company, which has now been operating for some two years in Chicago, has now arranged for the erection of large factory in St. Louis.-From the American Druggist.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

Certainly, no careful observer, either in New England or the country at large, can be blind to the fact that a crucial period is at hand for the New England cotton spinning industries. In the keen and incessant fight for manufacturing supremacy the factory which draw from its immediate environs the supplies of raw material needful for its daily consumption is the one which is best equipped to survive the struggle. This is precisely the situation in the southern states today, as compared with New England: The latter hauls her coal for hundreds of miles, likewise the raw cotton out of which her fabrics are woven. The south on the other hand hand, finds its factories surronded with the cotton fields, and it is but a stone's throw from the coal mines to the furnaces of those factories. Granting these two facts alone, the odds are heavily against New England, But when, in addition, cheaper labor confronts her manufacturers than is possible in the rigorous and changing climate of what are, after all, comparatively stertile states, as contrasted with the productive fields of the south. what shall be said of the outlook? It would seem inevitable that for the lower and medium grades of cotton goods, if not, indeed for the more expensive as well the bulk of production must sooner or later swing from New England south of Mason and Dixon's. line.-Dry Goods Chronicle.



TWELVE INCH COAST DEFENSE MORTARS.

Sixteen of these powerful 12 inch mortars are now mounted at Sandy Hook, near New York city, and similar batteries are in position at various seapor's. They are mounted in deep pits, are invisible to an enemy and are designed to drop tons of projectiles on the deck of an attacking ship.