# ROANOKE BEACON. 

 For prizes forfilted In dany gono by;
It paught arails for fair winds loot to
Or mourn the glow of suns forever Or mourn the glow of suns forever net:
Charge but

Cnarge but
pooes hagh
And life shallic
Tho Now to thina a goodly battlefeld
\$Thercon all pait defeats rodeemed

## 

 bave bean"
It yet thall be,

A GENUINE SURPRISE.

suowflakes of the season eddying in the alow, undecided way that first snow-
flakes have, through the gray air, and flakes have, through the gray air, and
the tall hemlocks swaying this way and
that in the raw wind, it looked especially that in the raw wind, it looked especiaily
dreary.
Emily Elkton shuddered as she stood looking out of one of the panes of glass
clumsily inserted in the long framework by way of window
"No, Miriam,"
go."
"But Tree got to gol" said Miriam
Mudge, sympathetically compressing her Muage, syipatintitaing compresasing tore parael
time.
tim
"And leave me here alone?"
"Nobody won't hurt you, I reokon," mida Mifirmm, a trongsteotured wom,







 Mat by tho stove to overther the worst:

 "Forgat" "echood Emily,

 upon jour tatiag it it ith
Tho remonatranee, howe
 tor haond wis the creationg of tho make. Dodor the gleming lino of the railuny
ovitche "Sbio'g gone", ocirod Emily, oluepiog
 mayy cump onis thrire miles pp the mom. minem at Late Lodr mad thp whiolo And Vanto Abalom not oxpoectad home kejere mideft, wad nothinez but a book


 Whate ition ot brad nad tracalo had boon


## 

 needed snumuse in tears.
Emily
Emily had come out West, partly behome and partly bed nothing to do at had written that one of his nine nieges would come very handy for a house-
keeper at Swampy Corners, in the State of Dakota, it she could be spared. The lattor sentence was intended on
his part for a sarcasm, but the Elikton family had received it all in good faith
and held many a deliberation before they consented to let oue of the nine young birds flutter out $\qquad$ cause sho had incilientally learued that Androw Markham was one of the engineers in charge of the now line of rail
way on the other slope of the mouatain.
which undertaking invalved the nasy. which undertaking involved the navvy
camp and the great derricks and steain camp and the great derricks and steam
drills and the gangs of slit ojed Chinese and dark browed Italians.
"Not that that siguities," Emily had plausibly told herself.
tt's pleagant to hundred miles of athere within hundred miles of an old acquantance.
Andrew Markham had been to see twice, and both times she had made up ber mind that the far West was the only place to live in.
"He expeots thought, with a soft, pink color suffusing her face. "He says he has already
bought a sunny slope of land, where he means to build a house and bring a wife
when he can afford it. Hir thinks that life here means twice what it does in the affete civilization of the East.
But to-night, with the dark But to-night, with the darkness wrapping the little depot like a blanket, and the wind howling down the mountain objected to
civilization.
Alone in the house! During the whole of her sojourn at Swampy Corners such Iore.
Uncle Absalom had occasionally beem absent, it was true, but Miriam Mudge until his retura. Now that a sudden
summons from her father, hurt in an accident in the saw mill on Ragged River, six mites below, had called Miriam away, poor Emily was all in a flutter.
at the station was not due until steven in the morning. The telegram office was
closed, and there was absolutely no care for her to assume except to put another
$\log$ of wood on the air tight stove and so quietly to bed.
But the very sente of solitude appalled
her. She shivered at the very click of
the snow flakes against the wiadow, tho
crack of the boards in the floor, the slow drip of the water into the kitchen sink, troduced the modern improvement of rater tap, connected by pipes with
pring in the spruce glen above. at one of the neighbors' houses and seant sonle one to keep me company"" she re
pined. "Andrew says there are some nice girls at Almondsley, down the
mountain, and he suid he'd like to introduce me to Marietta Mix, who teaches
Sunday-school in the South Cleating and does type writing for the company cossed my head, and put on airs, and said I did not care to mingle in the so-
ciety hereabouts. I must have appeared hateful enough. Gracious, what wa that?"
It was hen Emily romemberod that she had no supper. Nervously glanoing around her, glass of milk and a listle bread-andthe shelf she heard footsteps on the rrozen ground outside. "It's my imagination," she anid, after
listening for a second. "But I won't be frightened so. I will bo brave." She took a hatchet, and sallying fortin,
opened the collar-door. "If anyone comes he'll sail down ther
get to the door," said she. And with two prodigious elinhiv1 of
the hatchet she cut away the board rath
which led coross a series of rugged bouldors to the rnilway platform. "There," she cried, hurrying bsock to whole brigade of purauers weto at he

She had just seated hiorself with a slyh of relief when something liko a big fre-
fiy blazed on her viaion fly blazed on her vision-lor
ond ouly; then it was gone.
ond only; then it was gone. "I am sure now that I hear the sound or feet on the plattorm. There are two or three people there- perhaps more. They have learned that I am alone with all
that money It She clasped her hand over her eyes, and shivered as sho heard pressed buzz of vorces, "Somis ono has fallen down the eeliart Oh, how fo tunate it was I thought of that!"
And now a low And now a low whisper came
through the carelesaly-joined boards ot the floor. She could distinguish the front door is fastened, for I tried it. You can all of you
come up that way,"
Emily's heart gave a
The cellar door, a an exultant jump. which she had the fulleast confidence, w securely bolted. She peored out inte
the stormy darknesse By the oocasion aily diaplayed gleam of the lantern she
could see a huddled mass of figuren could see a huddled mass
creeping down the celliar steps. Last of all disappeared the lante
self, one leisurely step at a times it then, consummating a plan which she Emily mades dash out into the night, clesed the two divistons of the oellar
door with a bang, barred them, and fled door with a bang, barred them, and fied
panting into tho house.
By this time there was a brisk knoekBy this time there was a brisk knoek "Open the doort Let us in "
But to these calls Emily Elkton para wos zestenaly laid on her shoulder from behind that she uttered a plercing "Why, Emmy I" exclaimed a familia voioe. "Why, child, what's the matter" "Oh, Uncle Absalom, how you fright ened meal Oh, dear, the collar is tull of
burglara sua robberat Reach down your gun! Got the hotwater kettle!
"Burglars, eh"" said Uncle Absalom.
they come from? Sure ye ain't mistook,
issyl Anyhow, THl be ready for 'em.
He advanced toward the cellar doo
with his loaded revolver in his hand.
"Whoover ye be," he shouted, "tel
Don't hold my arm, sissy! There can't
no more'n one at a time come up these match for that , much, it I be old an
To Emily's infinite alarm he sabotted
There, corowding on the narrow wood-
en stops, stood Andrew Markham, the
Miss Almonnsieys. Loonidns Mix and
Sister Mariette, and Dr. Clifte's two chub by daughters.
"We came,
thamefacedly, "to give Miss Eiktou birthday surprise. We're sorry thatsalom, his face one full moon of broad
othin'. You're all weloomet How on tieth birthday"
"Marietta has baked a cake," said Leonidas, "and the Cliffe girts brought a jug of lemonade, and it was broken
when I tumbled down cellar, and-" "Oh, that don't matter none!" beamed oosee you -ain't we, Emity ${ }^{\text {l" }}$ In. this auspicious manner began Em-
If Fikton's first acquaintance with the y H2kton's first aequaintance with the
young people who were deatieed to be yor Iifelong neighbors.
"But really," said she, halt crying, haif liug
"It's all my fault," acknowlodged
honost Marietta Mix, "I was deter-
Andrew wasn't half willing, but I insisted. You aee, I didn't think there
would ever be any other way of gettiag would ever be any other way of getting
acquainted with you, Miss Elkton. And ve knew that Androw was so interected in you."
"Nonsense!" cried Emily, blughing. Marietta. "Well, time will show." And time dil show. Six months at of turning over the lesves of the book of ives how tho matter ended "But," Bmily acknowiedged in Ler arn, "I iever was zo trightoied in sul

It Origin of Our Alphatin
It may now be takon as an accepted fact that omblematic signs preopeded its formation.
hypothe
signs w
reindeer
reindeer and other animals, and trees
and plants, and which were traced by
early historians - it they my be so
designated, on the horn of the mammoth,
designs of a similar character on teeth
which belonged in their pristine con-
dition to some cave bear of the pa:co.
logical period.
In its development writing began with
the drawing of
the drawing of material objects, and de
veloped later in the represent
veloped later in the reprosentation of
ideas by means of the ideographic signs,
Ifterwards resulting in a sozt of alpha
bet. The Chinose characcers and the
various sorts of cunitorm characters
which border upon the purely alphabetic
writing of the Peroians furuish an ex-
ample of this.
In the Eighth Century the Asgyrian
mode of writing was adopted by the
tribes tributary to that power, and the
adoption becoming general, various
any importance was that of reducing a
character by the expression ot a single
sound-it ceased to be polyphouic and
remained syllabic as a result. The
Persians, when they borrowed the sylla
Persians, when they borrowed the sylla-
bic signs, attributed the slphabetic
The history of the hieroglyphics of Egypt proves that the alphabets of the
East are derived from the Egyptienne hieratio and cursive writing. Tue
genealogy of our alphabet goes up again to the Latins and from the Greeks to the hocoicians, who are of the same race a the Hykos or king-shepherds who con-
quered and governed $E_{\text {sypt }}$ from the fifteenth to the seventeenth dynasty
These strangers took in hand the study and the perfection, at least to confioed
practical use, of the hieroglyphics the Egyptians had neglected to make much

that we are indebted for our alphabot.
Their commeroial instincts told them of the immense value of such a system to
the Egyptians, but, instead of mastering (verything they could in this matter, they only kept those which belonged
exelusively to their own aftairs. Setting aside the ideographic signs, syllabic and
determinatives, their practical sense made them adopt the twenty-one cbar
ters from which our alphabet has been
taken.- British Printer.

A Misunderstanding. There is a funay story told in the
United States Senate of the mistuse by a member of that body at the time
of General Anson McOook's marria;
o Dolph undertook to get up a subscrip.
tion for a suitable wedding present, and, offering the paper to ono of his colleagues who was somewhat deaf, explained the
might put his namo down in the li what nonplussed and considerably nettled to meet with a point-blank refusal. The affair was the more inexplicable as
Senator of whom the contribution desired was known to be a warm pe
onal friend of General McCook. in the day the situation was unconaciously oxplained by the offending Sean-
tor, who remarked to a group or hit tor, who remarked a a group or
friends: "What the deuce do you suppose Dolph means? He camo to me to day, and after telling me taat his cook
was going to be married, actually asked -Kate Field's Washingtou.

Corristing History.
It is asserted on soemingly oredible authority that Netson never gave the lamous order, "England expects every
man to do his duty." He gave ove very much like it, but without the ring of the was secretary to Captain Hardy and was aboard the Victory when Nolson fell, kyys he has the best authority Lor asying
that Neloon's order was, "The com-mander-in-ohiof expects that every man
this day will do bis dcty." The flag
oficer "ase veible to transmitt this com-

