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Mrs. Brown and Disraeli.

BY

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AUTHOR OF "THE BROWN PAPERS," "MRS. BROWN ON THE ROYAL
RUSSIAN MARRIAGE," ETC.

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BY ARTHUR SKETCHLEY.

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OUT FOR A HOLIDAY WITH CO
EXCURSION

MRS. BROWN AND DISRAELI.

—o—

PREFACE.

I SAYS to Miss Pilkinton, "Don't talk to me about dreams not a-comin' true, for look at this 'ere Disreely a-comin' in a-flyin' right over Gladstin's 'ead, as 'oped for to get the better on 'im thro' 'is sudden disserlution; and me a-dreamin' three nights runnin' of three black cats on our back gardin wall, with their backs harches, and their tails like a bottle brush, a-swearin' frightful at one another, as is always a sign of friends a-fallin' out, with a secret enemy in the background; as is wot I always did consider that Disreely, tho', as I says to Brown, let 'im 'ave 'is innins, cos I'd dreamt of Gladstin a-standin' under the gallus, as is a sign of 'asty noose. Jest the same as a fire as I dreamt on for two nights arter the Pantecnicon were burnt, as scores 'ave lost their property in, and it's a mussy as Queen Wictorier didn't put 'er crown there along

with them other jewels as she don't never wear now, to be took care on."

Miss Pilkinton she were rather in one of 'er jeery 'umours, so she says, "I wonder as you don't set up for a fortin'-teller with the cards, Mrs. Brown."

I says, "Cos I don't 'old with sich ways, as is pryin' into Providence, I considers," and that's 'ow it were as my own aunt come to marry a supercargo, thro' the knave a-turnin' up over the hacc three times runnin', as the cunnin' man said, meant a fair man as 'ad crossed the sea, and would cross it agin, and so he did, pretty quick, when he'd collared 'er little bit of property, as she found out 'ad threw 'er over thro' bein' a married man, in both the East and West Injes, and a wife in Chiney besides.

And pinted 'im out to me years arter, a-settin' with a lot of Malays a-smokin' of 'is pipe at a open winder in 'Igh Street, Poplar, as put my temper up to give 'im a bit of my mind on the spot, over the airey railins, as threw the slop-basin over us, and got a crowd round the 'ouse and broke the winders, and 'ad the perlice, and then, poor thing, found out as she'd been and made a mistake, in indemni-fyin' the wrong man, thro' that party bein' a coloured mishunary, as bore a unblemished character, and 'ad took tea with the Bishop of Limus's own aunt the werry night afore, and 'ad only come

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to Poplar, and were a-smokin' a friendly pipe for to do good, and would 'ave brought a haction for defacin' of 'is character, only Brown's lawyer squared it for a fiver; so I don't 'old with cards, but will stick to dreams, as ain't to be called dreams, but is wisions, as clear as the night, and reglar as clockwork; for I ain't 'ardly no sooner in my bed than off I goes, and dreams enuf in ten minits to last all night.

And 'ave been warned in dreams, as I considers me a-bein' when I dreamt of bein' took afore the magistret for tellin' fortins under false pretences.

Cos there set the magistret all by hisself, a-frownin' fearful at parties as was a-swearin' black were white; and set there Queen Wictorier in 'er weeds by 'is side, a-nudgin' on 'im with 'er elber wot to ask, as said to me, "Why did you say as 'er Grashus Majesty 'ad took and sent Prince Christshun to the Tower for not a-lettin' the Prince of Wales shoot a rabbit in Winsor, as were wanted for 'is royal ma's supper."

I says, "Why, I never said such a thing, and as to me a-sayin' as that there Prince Christshun 'ad a wife aredy over in Germiny afore ever he come 'ere, why, it's jest wot I never did say, but stuck up for 'im and took 'is part, and told Mrs. Padwick as I didn't believe as Queen Wictorier weren't

more wide-awake in them Germin's ways than to allow sich goin's on in 'er family."

Says Queen Wictorier, a-smilin' grashus, "Right you are, Mrs. Brown, as 'ave ever been a true friend to me and mine, as shan't never forget your kindness in sending me that nightcap, when my boy Wales were that ill."

"Ah!" I says, "Your Majesty, that's the pattern for settin' up in comfort, and there's nobody but a mother as can feel for a mother."

"Do 'old your row," says a voice, as give me a drive in the back with 'is elber; and that were Brown, as said he couldn't close 'is eyes for me a-talkin' in my sleep; but if that wasn't a true dream, why then, all as I've got to say is, as nothink ain't, for I'm sure I felt as much over that there Prince's illness, as if he'd been my Joe; and what's more, shows as wot goes on in sleep is beknown to others, as is wot Miss Pilkinton and me 'ad the words over; cos tho' she won't set down thirteen to a meal any more than Queen Wictorier, as 'ave been knowed to knock off a crowned 'ead a-comin' to dinner, cos he'd make thirteen, and 'ave made the Prince of Wales 'ave 'is dinner at a side-table afore now, thro' 'im a-bein' one too many for 'er, yet won't believe in dreams, and why ever not, is wot I says, partikler as that impudent minx, Old Sinful's servant, did take and summons me for

servant, this servant

detainin' of 'er property, as she'd said as she'd give me for tellin' 'er fortin, as was a base falsity, for she come in a-cryin' 'er eyes out, a-sayin' as 'er mother's bed would be took from under 'er, with the snow on the ground, if she didn't pay three pounds by twelve o'clock; and as she drored all 'er wages of Old Sinful, and wanted a pound to make up the money, and give me four old teaspoons to keep till she brought it back. I didn't want the teaspoons, but bought 'em on 'er out and out, and as luck would 'ave it, that gal of mine were a-listenin' at the door and 'eard me say so, but turned out to be Old Sinful's silver, as she'd been and boned, but 'ow-ever was I to know that, so the magistret he took and dismissed the summons, but ordered as them teaspoons should be given up on Old Sinful a-payin' me the pound, cos of it's bein' 'is own niece, as it come out, as 'ad borrowed the money of me, and all lies about 'er mother's bed bein' took. But I see all that in the grounds of my tea, as old Mrs. Belcher showed me, as plain as the nose on your face, tho' I larfed at it, when she took and turned the cup round and round, and said as the grounds not a-settlin' showed a somethink lurkin', and then there certingly were four black bits by their-selves, and a long bit as she said were a thief, and then fine dust-like at the bottom, as she said were then fine dust-like at the bottom, as she said were trouble to be got thro' and money out of pocket, as

I certingly were, for Old Sinful never give me the money, and them spoons were that old don't think they weighed much over a shill piece. So there certingly is somethink in them grounds more than meets the eye, but I never think Mrs. Belcher a thief, tho' she were a second-hand line, and is in Col.lbath Fields thro' a silk umbreller and a gravy spoon, a collared from a gentleman's 'ouse, where she a-buyin' the lady's wardrobe, as 'ad 'er up bedroom, and took that mean advantage, and come 'ome to 'er, a wile old cat, and fully acc for my punch ladle with a guinea at the b a-disappearin', so in my opinion it's best ne sell nothink in the 'ouse, nor yet at the neither, cos buyin' them flowers out and out is and not go a-swoppin' and changin', as always the wust of the bargain in the long run, a sayin' is, as certingly is wot I always does. I he ain't one to give in to no superstitions, but he's obliged to allow as my dreams is real, a langwidge he'll break out with thro' 'avin' rest broke is downright dreadful in the de the night; and as I says to 'im, "Ah! when on 'em comes true, parties will stare;" he "Oh! dry up with your rot." "Well," I "Brown, do listen to reason, and not go off to agin, snorin' like a 'og in a 'igh wind, as the

is, for I can take my solim davy as the black cat as knocked the other off the wall, were the image of Old Dizzy, the other as give a claw at 'im in fallin' were the image of Gladstin, as made 'is fur fly all over the place like a snow storm." But Brown, he didn't anser, so I says to 'im that werry next day at breakfast, I says, "Mark my words, if there ain't 'ot work somewheres afore the week is out," and sure enuf Gladstin took and dissolved suddin, afore Friday were over.

I reminded Brown on it, not as he's one to own as he believes, for he only says, "I wish as you'd go and dream along with Dizzy, and not break my night's rest with your row."

I says, "If you considers that a proper thing to say to your lawful wife, Mr. Brown, I don't; and shall keep my dreams to myself."

He says, "All right, and don't be a botherin' me with 'em."

I says, "I certainly will not, for," I says, "there's 'undreds as would 'ear about 'em with pleasure," let alone Mrs. Padwick, as when I've took arf 'er bed, would listen to me for ever, if she could 'ave kep' awake, as in the daytime she will; for she always says, "Well, Martha, what did Queen Wictorier say to you last night, and 'ow's Old Dizzy a-gettin' on?" and all like that.

So I always tries to remember my dreams for 'er

my dreams

sake, and she wants me to 'rite 'em all down and send 'em to Queen Wictorier, as she says she's sure would like to know wot's a-runnin' in my 'ead all night.

And one thing I'm sure on, if she 'ad she wouldn't never 'ave gone to war with that there lot of niggers, nor yet 'ave tampered with our beer, as I consider is a touchin' every one in their werry wital pints, and 'ave upset Gladstin, as I knowed it would; and so I said to Brown, I says, "Mark my words, if he don't get up to 'is neck in that liquor and out of 'is depth too, as the sayin' is."

And then I should 'ave told 'er, as to edication there's been a deal too much fuss about nothink, for as to thinkin' as they're a-goin' to make every one a scolard, they might as well try to make every one the same colour 'air and eyes, or all the same 'ight.

Depend on it, as some is made for to do one thing and some for to do another; and so long as they brings up children to honour their parents, and work 'ard, and keep out of the perliceman's clutches that's all as the most of us requires. And I'm sure as to religion, there's such a lot of 'em goin' about jest like Merryker, that parents is puzzled which to choose for theirselves, let alone a-thinkin' which they shall bring their children up in; and so it is as a-many ain't no religion at all.

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And then I should 'ave said, as to free-trade I always were agin it, as is more free than welcome, as the sayin' is; and jest look at our mannyfacters as is downright ruined at it, and forriners a-cuttin' of us out and a-larfin' in their sleeves, as well they may, for they've got the pull all ways, sells all their goods to us free, and makes all our things pay.

Leastways, that's Brown's ways of lookin' at it, and he's a man with a long 'ead, as can see thro' a stone wall as far as anybody, as the sayin' is, and as to cheap bread and all that 'umbug, why, whatever is the use of the loaf only bein' fourpence if I ain't got the money to buy it.

No use a-'umbuggin' the poor man about cheap things when 'is wages keeps 'im at starvin'. Why, it's jest for all the world like children without a 'apenny a-lookin' in at a pastrycook's winder and a-longin' for the tarts as they can't get.

No, I should say, give 'em plenty of work and good wages, and then there wouldn't be no relief wanted, as is the ruin of workin' people now-a-days; cos the moment they eats the bread of idleness thro' beggin' they wont work no more, and their sperrit is broke, and they ain't no proper pride left, and takes to drinkin' and all manner, and if I 'ad my way I wouldn't give a fardin' to any able-bodied man, but make 'im work or go to prison; as is where I'd precious soon send the lot as

'ave been in a conspiracy for to get that Waggoner off, and now as he's got not 'ave he did ought to 'ave, they begins a-wimperin' a-sayin' let 'im alone; and as 'ow he were the spoken party and quite the gentleman, and is now, but with three aughts, as the say neither wit, money, nor manners; cos if he wits he wouldn't never 'ave 'ad the impudence on sich a game, as must 'ave been blowed sometime; and as to the money, them as 'im may whistle for it; and as to 'is manner 'is own lawyer 'ave been and told us what that and no wonder as that old black Bogey 'ave t'is bed with the weight as he must 'ave on 'is shence, and let's 'ope as he've got that there injin, Miss Brains, for to nuss 'im, as will not get up a partition between 'em for to 'ave the injured innercent let out of prisin, and parties to pity 'im; but in my opinion the pities such a feller is nearly as bad as 'im, as they'd flog 'im soundly hevery month of the teen years, and then send 'im over to Horstmann 'ave 'im tried agin for 'is goin's on in the busness let 'is friends go over there now at once and for 'im to come; and it's a pity as some of 'is is so fond on 'im ain't a-keepin' of 'im close now, with their 'airs cut short and a-relishin' skilly as he takes to so kindly.

Any'ow it must be a comfort for 'im to 'ave that lyn' waggerbone, Luie, along with 'im in Noogate, 'cos birds of a feather flocks together, as the sayin' is, and they can set and tell lies together whenever they meets, leastways, whenever they're allowed to open their mouths; and pre'aps they'll invent another shipwreck; but it's my opinion as the next time as Luie 'ave the chance of savin' Ortin from death, it won't be from drownin', but pre'aps a bad fall thro' a rope a-breakin' with 'im, as weren't strong enuf to 'old 'im tho' tied tight round the neck.

I should say as Ortin must be precious wild at them as brought up this 'ere Luie for a witness, s must 'ave been downright fools to go and pick out a ticket-of-leave convict, and then take 'im afore a judge.

But, as I were a-sayin', 'ang Ortin and Luie, tho' I will say nothink don't prove wot dreams plainer than me a-sayin' from the werry fust that there 'og in harbour were Ortin; and as to 'em papers as says as he looks the gentleman all over, I should say they wasn't much judges of a gentleman; and as to 'is 'ands and feet bein' small, why, in course a shoulder-of-mutton fist would look small by the side of sich a porpus as that.

But, law, let the willin' rot in jail, as is 'is proper place, and let 'em as likes take and shed

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tears over 'im ; and I'm sure as every respectable person is only too glad to get the waggerbone's name out of their mouth ; and who cares 'ow he likes 'is skilly or 'ow he looks in 'is clothes ; the only 'ard part as I considers is as we should 'ave to keep the wretch, as bread and water is too good for ; but I certingly did know as he were Ortin, not only by dreams but on the cards, thro' the knave always a-turnin' up at the fifth letter, beginnin' with a O and endin' with a N.

Well then, didn't I say as that there Dook o' Edinburrer would make a match in the Black Sea, as I see 'im a-swimmin' in three nights runnin', and always said as the Prince of Wales would get over it from that night as I dreamed on 'im berried in plumes.

So I means to keep up my dreams cos there's no tellin' when they may come true, and then when things 'appens parties can't turn round and say whyever didn't you tell us, Mrs. Brown, as must 'ave dreamed on it the same as Maria Martin bein' murdered in the Red Barn, as I've knowed parties as lived near the spot, and the willin', if he didn't get and marry a schoolmissis as ought to 'ave knowed better, and not a good esample to 'er scholars to marry an adwvertisement like that, as was took up over 'is own breakfast when bilin' a egg over the

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family, not as anyone would 'ave looked down on 'em if there 'ad been, cos in course they couldn't 'elp it; tho' there is some brutes as would 'ave throwed it in their teeth, as the sayin' is.

I'm sure that Gladstin must be glad to 'ave a bit of a 'olliday and take 'is good lady somewheres better than to Blackheath on a waggin, as is ways I don't 'old with, and wouldn't ride in a waggin among a lot of ruffs not to see Brown made Lord Mare.

But I don't suppose as Dizzy won't get to work much this side Easter as, in course, he keeps werry strick, tho' he ain't a Catherlic no more than this 'ere Duchess of Edinburrer, as no doubt must 'ave been a bit of a buster for Queen Wictorier for to 'ave on a wisit with nothink to talk but Rooshin, as, in course, Queen Wictorier knows; but I do 'ope as she won't go a tryin' to eat a candle jest out of perliteness, cos it 'ill make 'er 'eave 'er royal 'art up; as no doubt the Dook of Edinburrer made awful wry faces over it at fust, cos that's their ways in Roosher, as they all sets at table and eats their taller candles jest as Christshuns does sparregrass, and I've 'eard say as the Hemperor keeps 'is heye on 'em as wants to shirk, and 'ollers out, a-givin' a good gripe at 'is own dip, "Every true Rooshin eats 'is candle." So, in course, they must, tho' I 'opes as they've got a little somethink nice to take

after it; and any'ow I shouldn't care to dine 'em thro' not a.'oldin' with taller in no shape am sorry for Queen Wictorier, cos, in course, that there Hemperor of Roosher comes to see it will be candles all day from mornin' till and train ile to wash 'em down, as will be to for the British Constitution.

I dessay as she's a werry nice young ooma 'ere Rooshin Doochess, but I don't care ab name, as I consider Allysindrowner a mout call anyone by; but, pre'aps that's wot i Rooshin, as may be short for somethink in as I do 'ope is the name as she'll go by.

I see some werry affectin' lines ab a-comin' in the paper, but considerin' as comin' by sea, it don't sound well as ever should end in "Drown 'er," they was r party in the name of Tenderson, or, as t 'im, the Lorryot, as is a nickname as they as rites worses, no doubt he's a werry pr but give me Catnach for a ballid as 'ill b to your eyes; but even he couldn't mak out of constant "Drown 'er."

So when you comes to think on it, Dis got no sich time on it, a-'avin' to learn R eat candles, as in my opinio Gladstin and sneaked out on, cos tho' I've 'eard talk Greek jest as easy as Dutch; but t

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says as the Greek and the Rooshin wont never agree in the long run, cos 'em Rooshins wants to get 'old of the Greeks, so as they may collar that Turkey some day; but, as I says, let 'em Rooshins look out for they mustn't come no larks, cos if they do we shall be down their throats for all "the Drowners" as ever was inwented.

But, law! the older I gets the more I seems to get confused over all the 'ard names and goin's on as is all Greek to me; but Brown, he's that ropped up in 'is paper all the hevenin', as he reads bits on to me, and then busts out a-larfin' at me a-gettin' the 'rong pig by the tail, as the sayin' is; but 'owever can anyone take it all into their 'ead, I can't think; and as to who's in and who's out, it don't matter to me, only I should like to tell Disreely my mind over one or two things as was rocks as Gladstin took and split upon, as the sayin' is, as never would take my advice any more than Old Sinful, as would go up them rotten steps of is'n and clean the back parlour winder with 'is own 'ands, as broke up like tinder under 'is wait and pitched 'im 'ead fust into the cucumber frame, and might 'ave been layin' there now if I 'adn't put my 'ead out of our one-pair back, and see 'im 'eels uppermost a-strugglin', and give the alarm, tho' we wasn't on speakin' terms, and then for 'im to go and tell Mr. Bloxin, the doctor, as it were the shock of seein'

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my ugly face popped sudden out of the w made 'im nearly jump out of 'is skin as bit of clothes line as tied 'em steps together 'is consence, a old willin', cos the time af put my 'ead out of that winder, it were shame on 'im for draggin' of 'is granddorte steps by the 'air of 'er 'ead, cos he cort 'er of 'is currints, as is only thirteen, as he'v spite agin cos of 'avin' to keep the child father bein' lost at sea, and 'er mother neve 'old up 'er 'ead agin; and that old beast, old winegar-cruit of a dorter leads that gal life, tho' she is 'er aunt, as certingly is a do sloven and as cheeky as our potboy; but t ain't never been larned no better, and as t ners I'm sure she ain't a patch on 'er grand is a reg'lar old 'og.

But to go back to dreams. I'm sure as reg'lar Nixin', the profit, over agin, as foret there king a-goin' out a 'untin' as he'd be k the spot, thro' a harrer a-comin' agin a tre suppose 'is 'orse took and shied at, or else t over it, as it's a shame for to leave sich th layin' about, the same as Liza's 'usband a was werry nigh killed a-comin' 'ome in 'is sh thro' a cow as he drove over a-layin' in the of the road one pitch-dark night, as could been in 'er right mind, I should say, for to

make 'er bed in a public thurrerfare, tho' pre'aps, poor beast, she thought it were the fields thro' the night bein' that dark as you couldn't see your 'and before you, as the sayin' is; not as cows 'ave got 'ands, tho' she 'ave 'eels like a Christshun, as some likes fried; and I'd dreamt of that cow the night afore, and never thought of mentionin' of it to Liza's 'usband, as would 'ave looked out sharper if I 'ad, not as it would 'ave made any difference, for if we 'adn't gone over the cow we should 'ave been pitched into the ditch, 'cos we'd got off the 'igh road into a by-path, so it were not the cow's fault arter all, as is a 'armless animal in a gen'ral way, though known to turn savidge for to purtect her calf, as is a mother all over?

I shan't forget that cow in a 'urry, for tho' no bones broke I never had a worse shake, and my welveteen jacket with a stain as big as a pancake in the middle of the back, as is no doubt wot I fell upon, as nothink won't take out, and Liza's 'usband he put 'is little finger out a-tryin' to save me, least-ways he says so, but in my opinion not the man to put 'is little finger out to 'elp any one.

So that's why I keeps a reg'lar count like of my dreams, and if I'm took afore the School Board along of 'em, I shall glory in it. Cos they're true, and wot's true did ought to be stuck to, thro' fire and water, as the sayin' is.

But as to tellin' fortins with cards and sich like, I don't 'old with it, tho' it certingly is singler 'ow them things comes true as the cards shows for; but the cunnin' man as did used to live close agin Lambeth Walk, I do believe as he were the old gentleman 'isself, a-livin' up in three-pair back, as he could consult the stars more easier from, and cast 'orridscopes all over the grounds of Lambeth Pallis, as did used once to stretch as far as Bedlim, but is built over now, but was all fields when my dear mother were a child, as would be nearly a sentry now if livin', and 'er father were a carrier, and knowed every hinch of the road from Westminster to Dulwich, as it took the 'ole day for 'im to get there and back in them days, as always were armed for fear of footpads, and remembered seein' Jerry Habersshore, the 'ighwayman, 'ung on Kennin'ton Common, as blowed the 'ead off the last pot of porter as he ever drank on 'is way to the gallus at the door of a public in Newin'ton Butts, a-sayin' it were un-'ole-some to drink it, tho' he 'adn't a 'our to live, as shows the force of 'abits, as the sayin' is, as did ought to 'ave been corrected in 'is youth, and then wouldn't never 'ave come to that untimely hend, as I considers a gibbet; but as to bitin' off 'is mother's ear at the foot of the gallus like Jack Shepherd, it must 'ave been in 'is dyin' struggles, should say, and 'er a-goin' to give 'im 'er last kiss

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as ain't allowed now, any more than a-kissin' any one thro' the railway winder with the train started, as werry nigh were all over with Mrs. Twissell in sayin' good-bye to Twissell, as were only goin' for the day to berry 'is pardner, and if he hadn't throwed 'is arms round 'er neck and 'eld 'er tight agin the winder till the train were stopped, she'd 'ave been smashed to atoms, and, as it were, as black as a coal in the face when they took 'er down and fined her forty shillin's, as made Twissell forget 'isself and say as he wished he 'adn't never 'eld 'er.

So don't let nobody make light of dreams nor yet trust to fortin-tellers, as is a month with 'ard labour if caught in the fact, but three months if they've done you out of money, tho' in my opinion you deserves wot you gets for bein' sich a fool, the same as that gal Mary Ann 'as 'ad her fortin told at my own airey-door by a wile deceiver as walked off with my second best tea-pot and Brown's boots, as tho' only Britannia mettle, were quite good enuf in the general way, partikler as them gals always will put it on the 'ob, and 'ad only been brought 'ome the night afore, and three-and-sixpence to pay for clumpin' 'em and twopence for the new laces.

I were put out at that fortin-teller, as led to werry unpleasant consequences, thro' me a-resolvin'

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to punish the next one of the gang as I see about the place ; and so the werry next week I see a old woman a-stoopin' down a-talkin' to the gal at the kitchen winder jest as I turned the corner of the street, as were a-gettin' dark.

So as it 'appened, a perliceman come up, and I says to 'im, "There she is at it agin."

He says, "Who?"

"Why," I says, "a wile fortin-teller, as one on 'em 'ave robbed me a'ready."

"Ah," he says, "I'm on the look out for 'em, as there's a lot about."

So we watched 'er up the steps, and see the gal let 'er in, and then follers, and thro' me 'avin' the key were in at the door afore she were out of the passage.

So the perlice says, "I've got you, 'ave I! Oh," he says, "you ain't the party as robbed the safes all down the road last week?"

She says, "Who dares say I am?"

Says the perlice, "This good lady told me as you was a fortin-teller, in the 'are-skin cook line."

I 'adn't 'ardly got my breath thro' a-walkin' that sharp to keep up with the bobby.

So I says to the gal, "Ain't this the party as you give your ear-rings to, as promised you a new sweet'art?"

Says the gal, "Law, no!"

art.

ys the gal, I s the galls g oht

Says the old woman, " My name is Melters, and I'll punish you for this, see if I don't."

I thought I should 'ave dropped, and says, " Oh, Mrs. Melters, mum !"

But she turns round on me and says, " I've 'eard on you afore, Mrs. Brown. You've been drinkin', as usual, and if it wasn't for your 'usban' bein' a decent man, I'd indite you for a noo-sance."

If it 'adn't been as the passage were too narrer, I should 'ave set down on the door-mat like a shot, for never in my life did I get sich a back'ander.

I tried to grasp out a few words, but she shoved by me and walked off, and the perlice too, a-sayin', " I think as you've been and woke up the 'rong passenger this time, old lady."

I couldn't speak, for that Mrs. Melter's 'usban' 'ad partikler busyness with Brown, as 'ad said to me, " Now, Martha, mind, if Mrs. Melters should come to see you, as you're partikler civil to 'er, and show 'er all the attentions as you can ;" for 'er 'usban' he owned a lot of 'ouse property all about, and the perlice, in course, knowed the name, and Brown were a-goin' to buy a 'ouse of 'em as were a bargin, and she 'ad been took up once on suspicion for shopliftin', as they said were a manier as she'd got, tho' nothink weren't proved agin 'er, so didn't punish 'er, tho', no doubt, if she'd been

agin

, if she'd'ond

drenched her to the skin, poor soul, as meant well, and got the roomatics for 'er pains, as is wot comes of interferin' with your naybour's affairs, as is wot I never will do myself, not to my dyin' day, as the sayin' is.

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MRS. TROTT AND HER FRIENDS

BY MRS. TROTT

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MRS. BROWN AND DISRAELI.

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I SAYS to Brown, I says, "Don't talk to me about estendin' women's suffrages, indeed, for I'm sure they don't want them estended, as is 'it about and 'arf killed by them willins from mornin' till night, as only gets three months for it, and bound over for six, escept now and then when the magistret 'appens to 'ave a feelin' 'art, and will order 'em the cat, and that only thro' bein' a single man, as don't know 'ow aggrawatin' a woman's tung can be, like Mrs. Lister, as lived two doors off me, as I've 'eard 'er myself go on with my own ears at Lister by the 'our together till that time as he sent a flat-iron at 'er, as went thro' the kitchin-winder, and smashed the pot-boy's nose flat to 'is face, as were jest stoopin' down, poor feller, to 'and in Mrs. Challin's noonin's, as were there for a 'ard day's wash, as it was, with everything done at 'ome, and nineteen in family, includin' the wife, with ever'one else in the family, inoni, y'lim."

the lodgers and twins, as makes a deal of to keep 'em clean and tidy; and if it 'adn't as Mrs. Challins 'ad 'ad the presence of mine straighten that young feller's nose out with finger and thumb, as brought it to its lawful s afore Mr. Polden's 'sistant took and strapp up that tight as he'd 'ave 'ad a nose flat face like a thick-lipped nigger, as don't m for a black, and only looks nat'ral; but v 'ave been a dreadful defacement for a human b

So Brown, he give one of 'is grunts, and "I wish to goodness they'd take and send you Parlyment, Martha, and then I should 'ave a quiet of a evenin' to read my paper in peace."

"Well," I says, "Mr. Brown, if you wan read in peace, I'm sure I can set with the gal, a werry nice scolar, in the back kitchen, boarded over jest like the front, and 'ave re good deal, and knows a many things more wot you might think, and that attentive to wo says to 'er, tho' she do get that confused in 'er and said as I told 'er as Gladstin 'ad 'ad sich a fall thro' Disreely a-trippin'-up 'is 'eels, as they both a-goin' to see Queen Wictorier at Winsc asked 'em to lunch in a friendly way, a little thi as they couldn't keep the peace, and as to me a-sayin' as Disreely were the 'Igh Priest, and wild at findin' 'isself born a Jew boy as he

and rote a lot of books for to prove as everybody else was Jews, why it's downright false ; I certingly 'ave been told it, cos in course I couldn't 'ave set and inwented sich a thing as that agin anyone in cold blood over my tea. Tho' Miss Brayim did say, when she were a-drinkin' tea with me, as the Jews was to reign werry soon, and that gal might 'ave 'eard 'er, for she certingly were a-toastin' muffins 'ot and 'ot for us, thro' me a-likin' to butter 'em myself, but can't stand the toastin', cos the fire do ketch your face so ; and 'ad 'ad a muffin and a crumpet for 'er own tea, cos I can't a-bear eatin' everything up yourself, and not a-thinkin' of a servant, as is flesh and blood arter all said and done. I think Miss Brayim were of Ebru distraction 'erself, a-judgin' by the nose, and bein' that corpilent, as she says is only four-and-twenty, tho' the figger of forty, and let out as 'er aunt were married to old Jacobs in the second'and line, as is one of the children of Israel, as the sayin' is, as all looks Jewy. Not as I'm one to throw anyone's religion in their face, and 'ave seen Miss Brayim eat 'am as free as Mr. Spurgin, as I've 'eard say glories in a pork chop, as he calls 'is Christshun privileges." So Brown, he says, "I'm sure I don't want you to set with no servant gals, and would rather as you'd set quiet 'ere and keep awake, so as to 'ear wot's a-goin' on in the world."

"Oh!" I says, "I knows the time of da tho' I may look like a fool, I'm up to a th two, as the sayin' is, and wasn't a-goin' to b in by that there Californian gold chain as Brayim wanted me to 'ave for thirty shillins, said were worth five pounds by the weight alo

As I says to er, "I'm sure I don't want t five pounds round my neck, as would sink m a shot, if upset in a boat, as I was once when in Chelsea Reach, and went down twice, as the time would 'ave been my end, only Charley field took and 'it me over the 'ead with the 'ook, as he were a-tryin' to 'itch me out wi stunned me, so then in course I come to the t floated, thro' bein' a dead weight, as water w ways give up, jest like a dead dog, as always with the tide, and so floats back'ards and fo for days, as I've seen 'em myself scores of jest agin Battersea Bridge, as would cling t piles."

Says Brown, "When you've quite done go about Jews and dead dogs and all manner like preaps you'll listen, cos ere's somethink a might like to know."

I says, "Wot's that."

"Why," he says, "Gladstin, he's reglar fl and the Queen 'ave been and sent for Disreely

"Well," I says, "for my part, I think it's

one and 'arf a dozen of the other, as the sayin' is; and we shall have to pay just the same; but I must say as I am glad as Gladstin is floored, cos the way as he were a-interferin' with parties over their beer, and then a-sendin' fellers to ask 'ow many children you'd got, and where they went to school, as is wot I consider a-pryin' into families, as there's a many as wouldn't care to be asked sich questions, as give poor Mary Ann Blinks that shock as brought on a fit on the door-mat afore she could answer the question."

As she certingly were the plainest 'eaded one I ever see, and no figure to speak on, not as that were any excuse for that tally man a be'avin' as he did to 'er a-comin' reglar every Toosday for to collect the money and gettin' a good lunch, leastways a snack, and 'is pint of bitter, and at the end of eighteen months to tell 'er as he were a married man and father of five already.

Not as Mr. Gladstin could 'ave knowed that, cos in course he's a man arter all, and wouldn't go to 'urt any 'ooman's feelin's, tho' she might be blear-eyed in the name of Blinks, as the feller as come round about her children thought were Mrs. Wandel as keeps the 'ouse with a brass plate on the door thro' Wandel bein' in the coal trade once, and tho' dead many years she could never bear to 'ave their fam'ly pride took down, in a-giyin' up the plate, as certingly were a noble bit of brass, tho'

giyin' up
of brass, as

of brass, as

the black in the letters is nearly all rubbed off, and were thro'usin' vitriol to it too frequent, as is a
I never allow, cos I always says my coal scuttle
kittle will always come bright enuf if gr
afore bein' put on the fire.

Says Brown, "Do you know, Martha, I should
wonder but wot we shall see great changes."

"Ah!" I says, "I shouldn't wonder, cos
says, "wot 'as been may be, as we all knows, as
am sure the changes as I've see myself as aint
yet, would make my dear mother stare, and
most parties see as lives to ninety, for there
Mrs. Codlinton as is over ninety, she can't
believe 'er senses, as 'ave got 'em all but her
and 'air, as is both false, and when I told
they was a-goin' to take down Northumbere
House, busted into tears, and says, 'I do 'ope
Lion won't come to want.' For she were born
Chandos Street, poor thing, as 'er father kept
brush shop, two doors off my own grandfather's
was friends to my dear mother's dying day, and
years older for that matter, and were born 'tho
of the riots, and 'ad a uncle as were shot
hind Temple Bar a-tryin' to get thro' with
Lord Mare a-chargin' the rioters right and left
made King George larf till he cried when they
'im about it, and all as he could keep on sayin'
'I 'ope as you peppered 'em,' as went to St. Pau

to return thanks for gettin' of his reason back agin, as wasn't much to be thankful about, for he never had much, and very soon lost that as some say thro' ill-usage, as couldn't a-bear 'is eldest son to be a-rulin' while he was alive, as was called Prince Regent arter Regent Street and the Regency Park."

Brown, he kep on a-readin' to me bits as I likes to 'ear 'im, cos 'is remarks is that sensible over everythink, and he says, "Martha, in my opinion, you'll see as Disreely will take and do things as Gladstin didn't dare to."

"Well," I says, "he may do as he pleases, so as he don't interfere in no family matters, and don't tamper with the beer."

Says Brown, "If he's 'arf sharp he'll take and put the saddle on the right 'orse, and make the rich pay the taxes, and lighten the poor man's load, that's wot he'll do. Cos," he says, "it'll come better for the swells to give up somethink of their own accord, than 'ave it took from 'em by a lot of roughs, as'll come into power if Disreely can't govern the country."

I says, "We don't want nobody to govern the country as long as Queen Wictorier lives, bless 'er; and I knows if I was 'er, I'd take things a deal more into my own 'ands, and not let a lot of fellers do as they please, cos people would take things better from 'er, if she was to say straight out as she

wished it; but in course don't like to 'ear ministers a-sayin' as it's 'er Majesty's pleasure to 'ave this, when it ain't no pleasure to 'er any more than a-keepin' anyone in prisin durin' Majesty's pleasure, as is the reason, I suppose they've let so many out lately, cos it's many a day since 'er Majesty took any pleasure in think, poor dear soul; tho' it's a pity as she 'ad somebody to rouse 'er up, like the old Duke Wellington, as would be pretty nigh as old as salem, as the sayin' is, if livin', but yet could put in a word, and not much over a 'undred no cos 'im and Bonyparty was born the same day can remember werry well 'im a-dyin' over the a tremendous thunder-storm, tho' quite a ch I've see a picter on 'im a-standin' under a tree, as is werry dangerous in a storm, and rather get soaked thro' and thro' myself af put up my umbreller, as might act as the con to the lightnin'; and bring the lectric fluid the 'andle; as in course would run into th and up the 'arm to the 'art; if you 'appene left-'anded, or even a-usin' of it to rest your as I'm sure I've done scores of times mysel them alpackers bein' such a weight when makes me often think of my gingham, a carried out to sea, with a sigh, off the c Margate."

“But,” I says to Brown, “don’t you think as Gladstin will turn on Disreely when he meets ’im like a basted bull.”

“Oh! yes,” says Brown, “Dizzy must look out as he don’t make a false step, or he’ll ’ave ’is ’eels tripped up, and down he’ll go.”

“Ah!” I says, “and a nasty fall he’ll get on them polished floors, partikler at ’is time of life, as is a-gettin’ on like the rest on us.” I says, “I’m glad I ain’t Catherine Gladstin as rites about all the good she’s a-doin’ in the papers, as’ll ’ave a nice job to keep ’im sweet, now he’s at ’ome all day, I should say; as must feel ’is fall werry much, arter a-doin’ all as she could for to please the ruffs, and come out a-bowin’ and a-smilin’ that sweet at ’er own winder, poor thing, and rode in a waggin’ to Black’eath, as I considers werry noble on ’er, jest to purtect ’er ’usban’ from dead cats and cabbidge stumps, as he’d ’ave got throwed at ’im pretty free if he ’adn’t the presence of mind for to take his wife and dorter along with ’im.”

Not as ever I shall ever respect ’im no more arter ’im a-singin’ them infidel praises afore a mob, cos tho’ he mayn’t be no religion ’isself no longer, yet he didn’t ought for to brag on it in public like that, as is a-settin’ a bad esample, as is wot I don’t consider as nobody didn’t ought to do, for I’ve knowed parties myself as ’adn’t no more religion

do, to
no more rri et

than cocks and hens, as walks about while other p goes to church, yet sent the children to ch and would go theirselves now and then, partik new clothes, jest for the look of the thing, remembers one Lord Mare as were a Jew a- to St. Paul's in that state as he were called to set and listened to a bishop a-preachin', th course he were a-larfin' in 'is sleeves, as the s is, all the time. Cos in course that bishop a-doin' of 'is dooty in tryin' to conwert 'im a time, and in my opinion it's a pity as they c make a Jew a archbishop, that would be the w conwert 'im, cos then he'd see what a 'appy t it is to be a good Christshun; and live in a p and give up the world, with 'is wife and fan cos if that ain't Christianity wot is I should lik know. And it wouldn't go agin a Jew's conshe to be made a archbishop, as it does agin a Ch shun's, as not one on 'em would do it if it wasn Queen Wictorier will make 'em, and could send to the Tower if they was to refuse, jest as that hangel Queen Lizzybeth did used to, a-usin' frightful langwidge to 'em as terrified them old gentlemen to death; so they let 'er 'ave own way, and that's 'ow it is as she come to 'ead of the Church, the same as Queen Wictorier this werry day, but too much the lady to swear bishop, and threaten with a hoath to strip 'is b

sattin frock off 'im with 'er own 'ands, as wouldn't leave 'im nothink but 'is gaiters and 'is apron to stand upright in, poor man; as wouldn't be a-treat-in' 'im with respect, in my opinion.

Says Brown to me, "They'll soon make Gladstin's five millions fly."

I says, "And so much the better; wot do we want with savin'? for wot we wants is the money spent, why, wotever is savin' five millions, and then go and pay those Yankee doodles three millions down under false pretences as were a mean transaction, as they deserves to be turned out for. Cos they wos either tryin' to cheat the Merrykins when at first they refused to pay, or else they let them arterwards cheat us through being afraid on 'em."

Says Brown, "I'm sure nobody in this world can't want war, but we shall be drove to give the Merrykins a good 'idin' some day, jest to teach 'em as they didn't ought to let theirselves be ruled over by a set of tinkers and tailors as they are, and then the Merrykin gentlemen would take and rule the country proper instead of leavin' it all to a set of thievin' roughs, as ain't got neither manners nor yet morals. Cos I considers Merrykins jest like our Westry 'as none of the respectable parties in the parish will be seen in; and so it is as things is all mismanaged by a ignorant lot as grinds down the poor so as to get the pickin's for theirselves."

I says, "Right you are, Brown, as speak a book, as the sayin' is;" and I'm sure I thinks it's a pity as Brown ain't in Parlyment somewhere as he could be 'eard, for he's a man 'ave got things in 'is 'ead as never 'ardly come as if they did would wake parties open their eyes as the sayin' is.

Brown kep' on readin' bits to me, as certainly did set me a-wonderin' wotever he meant Gladstin's surplus, as I says, "How come you have a surplus as ain't a clergyman?" and I remembers when fust they took to preachin' 'em the row there was in a church down where in the East, as were poor Mrs. Parnock church, as she never missed twice of a Sunday tho' only the free seat, jest opposite the Communion ion, as she set a-facin' of twenty-two years, she told me 'erself where she see the minister walk on it with a couple of candlesticks and go up to the pulpit without a-changin' 'is black gown, she thought she should have dropped, and went 'er sobbin', and never entered a church agin 'er dyin' day, as were over twelve year, but she was a lesson and 'ole duty of man at 'ome, but said she never could set and see Popery, as she could see candlesticks and a surplus afore 'er very eyes, as she believed as the minister meant well, poor soul, and didn't 'old with them riots in the church.

made 'im give in at last, cos in course the churchwardens knowed wot was right to be done in church better than 'im, and stopped the Church Rate, and the pew-rents dropped to nothink, so in course he couldn't live on 'is surplus, and so chucked up the lot, snuffed out 'is candles, and went back to 'is black gownd, and lived 'appy ever arter, as the sayin' is, tho' the people wouldn't never forgive 'im for tryin' of it on, and 'ad a empty church all to 'isself.

Brown says, "I do wish as you'd ask wot is meant by words as you don't understand the meanin' on, and not go a-gallopin' off with the bit atween your teeth."

"Well," I says, "I should like to get a bit atween my teeth now for I'm quite peckish, and it's rabbits and onions as we've got for supper, and I thinks as old Dizzy'll keep till we've polished them off, and I don't want my supper spilte not for all the politics in this world; cos as I said before, I don't much care who is in and who is out, and so I told Mr. Joblins as were in the licensed wittlers' line, 'as 'ave swore wengeance agin Gladstin and his lot over and over agin in my 'earin'; and 'is words 'ave proved true, and I do believe as that man is a profit, for he said as the Rising Sun wouldn't never last, and as the Half-Moon would get on, and true his words proved."

Brown, he couldn't hardly put 'is paper down not

paper down wot

paper down wot

to eat 'is supper, and even then didn't seem to relish it thro' bein' so full of the general election as were a-comin' on; but he certingly did eat his rabbit with a bit of toasted cheese to foller, and when he got his pipe and drop of grog arter it, he set there like a king still a-gloatin' over 'is paper.

"Well," I says, "there's one thing as I'm glad on."

Says Brown, "Wot's that?"

"Why," I says, "it must be the end of the Tichbung trial, cos," I says, "the judge and jury can't set a-wastin' their time over that rubbish when they might be wanted elsewheres, cos in course Queen Wictorier will want all the best judges round 'er for to take 'er pick of 'em to be ministers."

Says Brown, quite sharp, "Oh! rubbish."

"Well," I says, "it may be 'rubbish' is a easy word to use, but 'ow about the jury? Suppose one or two on 'em was to go into Parlyment, they could set there till the day of judgment a-listenin' to that there Chief Justiss as may go on a-talkin' till the last day, tho' they do say he's a-gettin' werry near the end, as must be a wonderful long-winded party to set there a-talkin' a 'orse's 'ind-leg off, as the sayin' is, not as I've read it, cos my mind were made up, as the sayin' is, long ago, as nothink won't ever make me change thro' bein' a

mother myself, and I know werry well wot I should 'ave done if Joe'd been lost at sea and come 'ome arter twelve year and never come to see me, and then took me up a lot of stairs to find 'im in bed with 'is clothes on, with only the back of his head turned to me. I know as I should 'ave took and throwed my arms round 'is neck pretty tight, cos nothing ain't stronger than a mother's feelin's, and I'd 'ave made 'im feel as I were his mother all over."

Brown, he looks up at me and says, "'Ave you made out wot a surplus is?"

I says, "In course I 'ave, as is a minister white gownd, in course."

"No," he says, "it's wot a minister 'got over and above wot he's spent, and it's five millions."

"Well, then," I says, "by the time as they've been and paid for this 'ere Shanty war and sent the money for to feed them other niggers as is starvin' over in Ingee, our surplus 'll look werry like a 'aporth of soap arter a 'ard day's wash, as the saying is."

"Oh!" says Brown, "Coffee 'll 'ave to pay for that war."

"What," I says, "put a tax on coffee, as is rose in price already?"

Says Brown, "It ain't no use talkin' to you, old gal, arter supper, cos then all as you're fit for is your bed."

I says, "I'm not a-goin' till my feet is warm,

and please the pigs, as the sayin' is, I'll put a sack bag at the bottom of that door to-morrer, for there's a draft as comes under it enuf to cut your feet like a knife."

Says Brown, "'Ave a teaspoonful more 'ot."

I says, "If I do, I'll take it up with me, for it feels as if I'd got a weight at my chest."

"Well," says Brown, "I think you might expect that arter the supper as you've put away, and I do 'ope you won't get a-dreamin' that 'ear for your snores is like a steam-ingin a-puffin'."

"Ah!" I says, "that's when I lays too much on one side, so if I disturbs you, take and roll over gentle, that's a dear."

He says, "Roll you over indeed, I should like to see any one as could do it."

"Well," I says, "any one might, for I'm the light sleeper, as if you was to whisper in my ear you'd wake me."

"Ah!" he says, "I dare say if I got a speaking trumpet 'andy."

I must say as I felt 'urt at Brown's remark, cos I am a light sleeper, as many 'ave told me, I've set up with, but it ain't no use a-arguin' with Brown, so while I was a-givin' my feet a war, he took and read to me all about Gladstin's a-goin' to Windsor for to fetch away their things, and bein' jeered at by the vulgar crowd, as v

already for to bow down afore Disreely, as come to 'is new place all smiles and curls, not as it were new, cos he's 'ad it afore, and knows Queen Wictorier's ways, and where to find things, so it ain't like 'avin' strangers for 'er; as if she's like me she can't abear, and I'd put up with a deal from a servant as knows my ways, rather than change.

No doubt that Gladstin knowed that, and that's why he took so much on 'isself, a-orderin' this thing, and a-changin' that, and showin' 'is temper, all over the place. As to Lowe, I never could abear them fair men, and don't like even a white cat with pink eyes, as is in general deaf; and then there was Airtin, as nobody couldn't abide; and that there Dook of Argyle, he give 'imself them airs as is werry well for Injier, but won't do for Injland, and tho' is son 'ave married Queen Wictorier's own dorter, that don't make 'im a royal family.

So I think it's as well as Queen Wictorier 'ave sacked the lot, cos if she'd 'ave kept one, he'd 'ave set the others by the ears, as the sayin' is; and now these 'ere new uns will 'ave a fresh start, and no follerers allowed; tho' I suppose them Duchesses is allowed to 'ave their 'usbands come, and see 'em downstairs, tho' it must be werry unpleasant, jest as my Lord Dook is a-settin' over 'is cup of tea with 'is good lady, for 'er to 'ave to jump up and go to anser the Queen's bell, as is too much the lady

up up
much the end

to disturb 'em at their meals, but must ring for what she wants, as might be coals, or a glass of water, or a clean 'ankercher, as nobody under a lord should take the liberty to 'and to 'er, and then only kneel on bended knees, in shorts, with a sword and powder, I've 'eard say.

Brown says, "Don't stop up for me, Marth, go to bed, for I wants to give a eye to the paper summin' up, as is over, but I shan't read it all."

I says, "For mussy sake don't, for," I says, "I believe I could sum it up in 'arf a dozen words myself." So up I goes and gets into bed, for blessed 'art, I knowed 'ow it would be, as Brown would be on a-readin' and a-readin', and I'd been a-droopin' off asleep, ever so long afore he come up, and I 'ear 'im a-mutterin' "wonderful man," and "a memory," and all like that; illudin', no doubt, that there Chief Justiss, as certingly must be of that there Tichbung, to set there day after day a-gloatin' over 'im; and 'ow he can do it I don't think, as must 'ave got 'is settin' unmentioned on, as the sayin' is, with the gift of the gab, for the bargain, as should 'ave give 'im a lifer term years ago, a lyin' scoundrel, and as to one of the jury a-'oldin' out, I don't believe as there's a 'uman out of a madhouse in all England as don't talk on that corpilent wiper as a foul-mouthed rascal, as the sayin' is; and ought to be crushed like

serpint under your 'eel, as crosses your path. But thank goodness, it will soon be over, not but wot I've give it up myself this many a day; and so 'ave Queen Wictorier and the rest of the royal family, no doubt; and as to your a-sayin' as I'm a-snorin', Brown, 'owever can I be, when I ain't been reglar asleep yet, only layin' ere a-ruminatin' like a lamb at 'is mother's breast, thro' a-thinkin' of many things, with this ere war agin the niggers, and Gladstin and Dizzy a-crossin' of my mind, and I'm sure I feels for Queen Wictorier, as must lay 'er royal nightcap on many a-uneasy pillar, a-thinkin' over what's a-comin' in the mornin' thro' the telegraft, as pre'aps might be war broke out with the Rooshins, or massacree of Wolly, or the fall of Baberlon, or the end of everythink by Dr. Cummin come true; and I'm sure Brown needn't talk of snorin', for 'is was more like growls of distant thunder a-rumblin', and that's why I'm sure I weren't asleep, when I see Disreely come a-floatin' like a sperrit thro' my room with a smile on 'is lips, as set down as light as a feather on the foot of our bed, and says, "Escuse me, Martha, but my 'art's that light as I 'ope you don't feel my weight on your feet."

I says, "You never was a man of no weight in my opinion, tho' a wonderful'and at chaff." "'Ear, 'ear," says a voice, and if there didn't set Queen

Wictorier in 'er crown and spectre, a-lookin' tha solim, and then I see as she were a-settin' in 'e Cabinet Council.

I says, "Escuse me, your grashus, but I can't think 'owever I got in 'ere, as was in my own bed a minit ago," and jest then I 'eard a snortin' snor as made me jump, and there were old Gladstin with 'is 'ead back and 'is mouth opin, as fast as a church as the sayin' is.

I were a-goin' to give 'im a drive in the side for to wake 'im up, when Old Dizzy says with a grin "Let 'im sleep, we shan't want 'im, shall we, your grashus, for some time to come, and then only to turn 'im out agin."

"Not a-knowin' cannot say," says Queen Wictorier, with a solim bend, as were a snub for Dizzy, leastways, I see 'im pull 'isself up.

"So," I says, "I think he did ought to be woke up, if it's only to ask 'im wot busyness he 'ad a-sendin' our brave sojers to be massacred by them black beast."

"Ya! ya! ya!" says a voice, and there set King Coffee in a white 'at, with his umbreller up, and ridiculous shirt collars, a-playin' with 'is bones.

"You shet up," says Dizzy, a-glarin' at 'im, "and don't speak afore your betters."

"Yes," I says, "and 'ow about them ounces of gold as you promised to pay us?"

He only gave a chuckle like, and says "Golly, golly, golly, me 'umbug old Woolsey Poolsey, me no pay, but ketch 'im nice in a trap."

I says, "You good for nothink, lyin', black beast; why, your as bad as Ortin;" when up comes Wolly all of a bustle, and says "He's a friend of mine, I won't see 'im put upon," and he ketches off 'is white 'at, and takes up a banjo and begun a-singin'.

I says "Drat your noise."

Says the Lord Chief Justiss, a-lookin' over the foot of the bed, "I can't 'ave this row, so you please get out."

"I'm only in the well," says Wolly.

"Let well alone," says the Lord Chief, "cos I'm sure that ain't no place for you, as is where truth lies."

He says, "I never told no lies."

Says the Claimint a-wakin' up with a snort, "No, you never did, and wot the noble judge says is true, cos it's truth as lies."

"Don't address the court without your wig and gownd on," says Queen Wictorier, a-lookin' that stern, up by the side of the judge as made that there 'og in harness trimble in every limb.

I says, "Right you are to make 'em stick to them things, for," I says, "your Majesty don't know the way as parties is a-goin' on jest like Merryker,

don't know
ke Merryker.

where the judges is just like common people, an 'ave see 'em myself a-chewin' the cud like beasts of the field, as the sayin' is."

Up jumps Gladstin, with sich a yawn, as made me say, "Do put your 'and afore your mouth, for I can see down your throat."

He says, "Who's been a-sayin' as it's my fault as them blacks 'ave been and very near licked us?"

Says Queen Wictorier, a-lookin' werry stern "Didn't you say as there was lots of rice for 'em all, and now they're a-starvin' by millions, and ain't I cut off rice puddin's from my own royal table, as is things as we're all partial to thro' 'avin' brought up my royal family on 'em, as roast leg of mutton and a baked rice puddin' were a standin' dish, and 'ave 'ad the Prince of Wales put in the corner over and over agin for a-darin' to leave it, and made Alfred say 'is Kattykism back'ards, for a-darin' to call it beastly."

"Ah!" I says, "you 'ave brought 'em up well, you have," I says, "tho' I considers as the Kattykism straight thro' is a puzzler for a child, and must be werry confusin' back'ards."

"What is your name?" says Dizzy, a-turnin' on me sudden like, it's a mussy as I remembered for to answer M or N, for we was in Westminster Abbey, as were all werry grand with picters and candles, as were bein' got ready for this ere

Rooshin Princess, and there were a party a fallin' down and kissin' of a picter. I says to the werger as were a-showin' us round, "Whoever is he?"

"Oh!" he says, "our dean, as is pertendin' to believe the Rooshin religion, jest to please this ere Grand Duchess, as don't believe in our 'Dearly Beloved,' cos he's a reg'lar freethinker, and don't believe in nothink partikler, and 'ates the Pope with all 'is 'art."

"Well, he's paid to do that," says I, "and it's werry nat'ral as he should, cos he knows werry well as the Pope would soon give 'im the sack, if he 'ad 'is way, cos he don't allow no freethinkers in 'is church, and quite right too. Cos wotever is the use of stickin' up a church and then lettin' everyone believe jest wot they likes, cos they can do that without no church."

Says Dizzy, "I'm the head of the church."

"You be blowed," says a party in large musling sleeves.

"Oh! oh!" says Dizzy, a-winkin' at me, "that's your little game, is it? My Lcrd Bishop, you jest wait till either of them archbishops drops, and see what I'll do."

"Hold your row, can't you," says some one, "we're in convocation. "Turn that old woman out," says a party in a shovel 'at.

"Let 'er stop, George Antony," says another;

"she'll only make one old woman more. You're a profane person, Arthur," says another, and he ceasing to talk, they were, for all the time as them old swells were a-talkin', that there Arthur kep' on a-larfin', and a-jeerin', and winkin'.

"Well," I says, "I don't consider this behaviour for a place of worship."

Says that there Dean to me in a whisper, "It's all tomfoolery; we're only 'avin' a lark, and going to make John Bright a bishop, jest to send 'im to the 'Ouse of Lords, cos he's sich a reg'lar old square toes, and stops the way."

"Ah!" I says, "them 'umble parties like the Quakers is jest the ones for bishops."

"'Umble, be blowed," says Dizzy, "I won't 'ave it; the only 'umble people is the 'Ebrer race."

"Oh! indeed," I says, "then why not make a Jew a bishop, as I said afore."

He says, "You wait a bit, and see what I'll do."

"Well," I says, "go on, only don't go too far, cos tho' you've got in, your turn to be dissolved may come sooner than you expects."

"Yes," says Gladstin, a-puttin' out 'is tung at 'im, "and if ever I comes in agin I'll makes Bradlaw Archbishop, Onsler Chief Justiss, and Wolly Lord Chancellor, and the Claimint he shall 'ave the 'andlin' of the till, and receive all the taxes, so as he

may penshun off all 'is friends, and that's 'ow to govern a country."

I say, "Don't go on like that, Gladstin, don't; for I can't get to sleep for you a-tossin' of your arms about."

He says, "I ain't Gladstin, Martha," as I knowed to be Brown's voice. "Why," he says, "you're frightful restless."

I says, "And so would you be if you 'ad as much on your mind as me, and Queen Wictorier a-ringin' of 'er bell like mad for 'er clean things, as is that damp I must air 'em, or she'll get 'er royal death of cold, and I'm sure I wish as they'd give one of them Duchesses the job of lookin' arter 'er wardrobe, for I'm downright sick on it, and can't get the things 'ome from the mangle, tho' the gals been for 'em twice, as I believe is all Gladstin's spite, as won't turn it for 'is wife, poor soul, cos he's lost 'is place and 'ave gone dead sulky, and wouldn't go down to Winsor not to say I wish you a good mornin' to Queen Wictorier, as 'ave been a good missis to 'im."

Says the Prince of Wales, "Oh! Mrs. Brown, would you mind a-sewin' a button on for me, for," he says, "I ain't got another shirt, for they couldn't wash nothink for me in Roosher cos it ain't the custom of the country."

I says, "In course not, my dear boy, for 'ow

can they with the place all froze up, as would 'ave to send 'undred of miles to borry a pail of water."

Says a voice in my ear, "Are you goin' to bring my——"

I knowed it were Queen Wictorier's a-callin' over the bannisters for 'er clean things, and if they wasn't gone, jest while I turned round to speak to the Prince of Wales.

I says, "I shall lose my 'ead on Tower 'Ill if them royal things 'ave got scorched, and I were a-lookin' for 'em all round, when I see Dizzy's curly pole on all fours, a-lookin' about on the floor.

"Why," I says, "wot do you want?"

He says, "That feller Gladstin says as he've give up the seals to-day, as nobody didn't see 'im do; and must 'ave done it while Queen Wictorier were a-readin' of the noospaper, cos they ain't to be found 'igh nor low."

I says, "Is it a bunch? cos pre'aps Low's got 'em, as may 'ave put 'em in 'is pocket without thinkin'."

"Walker," says Dizzy, "he's jest the party to do anythink without a-thinkin'."

I says, "You won't find 'is match in a 'urry."

Says Gladstin, "Ah! you old women never can forget 'im about the matches."

I says, "You're jest the feller as we wants,

where is Queen Wictorier's seals, as she trusted you with?"

He says, "Ow about that; why I've give 'em up all right."

"Then," I says, "no doubt Queen Wictorier 'ave been and put 'em on 'er watch chain, thro' bein' that worreted."

Says Dizzy, "'Ow can she 'ave got 'er watch on, when you're a-keepin' of 'er a-shiverin' for 'er things, as can't 'old a council all thro' you, as is a-playin' into William's 'ands, you old cat."

I says, "Why there's Queen Wictorier a-settin' 'oldin' of a court, so must 'ave got 'er things;" and so she were, and noble she looked, and the moment as she see me, beckoned for me to come to 'er, a-sayin' to me with a smile, "What a time you've been, Martha, a-comin'."

I were a-goin' to say somethink about the Prince of Wales a-wantin' of a button on, when I see 'im close to 'is Koyal ma, as give me a look not to say nothink, cos I dare say it would 'ave brought on words atween 'is wife and 'er ma-in-law.

As was the cause of me a-quarrelin' with my son's wife over in Merryker, cos she neglected 'is things that shameful, and 'oles in 'is stockin's as you could put your fist thro'.

So then Queen Wictorier she says to me, "Ain't this jolly news from a shanty?"

“Ah!” I says, “they lives in ’em over i Merryker, and it’s ’igh time as they knocked th ’ouses about them black beastes ears, a-darin’ for t fire on their betters; but,” I says, “I knowed a Card’nal Wolsey would soon settle ’em, for h always were a great man, as I ’eard all about tha day as I went to ’Ampton Court, as was built by ’im, but,” I says, “I do ’ope that King Coffe won’t be a-wantin’ to come and stop here like the Shah.”

“Oh!” says Queen Wictorier, “I don’t much care ’cos old Dizzy ’ll ’ave to look arter ’im, and he’s never so ’appy as when he’s a-dancin’ and a-singin’ to the banjo, so they ’ll get on fust rate, and Alfred, he’ll chime in with violin when he gets ’ome, so they can amuse theirselves, and not bother me.”

“But,” I says, “Dizzy ’ll ’ave somethink else to do now he’ve come in, and mustn’t be a-idlin’ of ’is time with a banjo, and sich rubbish. Whyever not let Gladstin learn it, as would be somethink for ’im to do, for I’m sure ’is good lady won’t want ’im at ’ome all day a-idlin’ about.”

“Law,” says Queen Wictorier, “he’s sich a temper, he’d take and pull Coffee’s wool out by the ’andful, and spank ’im with the banjo afore arf a ’our was over their ’eads.”

“I say ’ow he must long to get ’is fingers among

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old Dizzy's curls, as would come out by the roots, no doubt."

Says Queen Wictorier, "Oh, they'll never pull together; but I don't care, and so long as they be'aves theirselves afore me, 'cos if they don't, I'll fetch 'em sich a topper with my specter as 'll wake 'em both up, 'cos I ain't a-goin' to stand no Beast-mark's ways over we, as is a reg'lar bully over that there old psalm-singin' William."

"Ah!" I says, "so I've 'eard, and I do wish as your grashus would 'ave a bit more, as is as tender as a chicken."

"Never enjoyed anythink more in my life," says she, a-layin' down 'er knife and fork, as 'adn't 'ardly touched a bit, as were biled pork and greens, as we'd got for supper, and Brown a-settin' there with 'is paper, as I wanted to give 'im a nudge, jest to say as it were Queen Wictorier, for fear as he should make a 'ole in 'is manners, as the sayin' is; not as he's one ever to speak agin 'er, nor yet the Royal Family, and always stickin' up even for that there Prince Christshun, as everybody abuses.

But jest as I were a-goin' to put my foot on 'isn I see as it weren't Brown at all, but Dizzy isself a-settin' there a-pitchin' into the pork like anythink, as shows as he's a sincere Christshun any'ow, as I were glad to see, for Brown's one as don't believe in conwerted Jews, tho' there's Palistine Place, near

Bethnal Green, as I've see with my own eyes were built a-purpose to take 'em in, and a werry comfortable livin' some on 'em gets, poor things.

So a-seein' as Dizzy 'ad been and empty plate, I didn't like to ask 'im to 'ave any more, for fear as pork might grate on 'is ears, as the missus is, and in course shouldn't go to call it Ambrose, as I've knowed parties do as still kep' to it or twice a-year, when they 'ad new 'ats on.

So I says, "Mr. Disreely, suppose w'ave a glass," as the werry mention on seen to wake 'im up.

I says, "I ain't got no srub, as is the missus knows as your people 'olds with, not as it's time' neither."

'Cos I wanted to show 'im as I were up to or two about 'is religion.

So I says when 'is glass were full, and he says, "You can speak out to me like a friend."

He says, "I looks on you as a friend, Mrs. Brown."

I says, "That is a good un. W'ave a senerer a good five year."

He only winked, 'cos he couldn't bein' a-drinkin' at the moment.

So I says, "Now I tell you w'ave a better look out, 'cos you ain't got no more."

don't you go a-playin' the fool; and a-thinkin' as nothink can't turn you out, 'cos it can; and I says, tho' Queen Wictorier is a-noddin', she's wide awake enuf not to stand no nonsense."

For there she sat oppersite me, as give a gentle snore like a lamb, as much as to say, "Right you are."

While I was a-speakin', if Gladstin didn't come and try and set on the hedge of Dizzy's chair, so I says, "You boys, be quiet, do; you'll 'ave the arm off the chair, it won't 'old two, I tell you."

"It's quite big enuf for two," says Gladstin, "if you wouldn't kick about so. Why, wake up with you, do; I think you're mad."

I says, "Where 'ave we got to, William, I says, for it's all dark."

"I tell you wot it is, I shall go and take lodgin's if you goes on like this, I can't get a night's rest for you."

I says, "Where am I?"

"Why," he says, "in your own bed."

I give sich a jump as reg'lar woke me up, and there was Brown, as said I'd been a-plungin' and a-talkin' and a-snorin' all the time as we'd been in bed.

"Why," I says, "it must be nearly mornin'."

"No," he says, "only jest gone twelve."

"Then," I says, "it ain't a mornin' dream as I've been 'avin', as always goes by contrairy's, but

a real live dream, and you see if we don't 'ear mo on it."

"Oh," he says, "go to sleep and be blowed you, and were off in a hinstant, but sleep I couldn' for I'd been put out dreadful that day, all thro' the old thief of a tallyman a County Courtin' me over bill at 'is shop, as I never 'ad a rag on, but only went with Mrs. Mardin like a friend, as no doubt were 'er art to get me to go with 'er, a-pretendin' as I were sich a judge of long cloth, as said 'er good gentleman 'adn't never 'ad sich comfortable night-shirts as I'd got the stuff for, tho' not a tally-shop, as is a place as I never did 'old with, and never would 'ave 'im a-comin' to my door every Toosday, as is often a-payin' thro' the nose for rubbish, the same as chargin' Mrs. Wellbit a guinea for a al-packer umbreller, as turned inside out the fust time as she put it up, with three ribs as come thro' a lanceratin' the sides, and only got a flower-pot for it at the door, as 'ad a girinium stuck in without no root to it, so in course waterin' on it didn't do it no good, nor yet red leadin' the outside of the pot, to look nice for Sunday on the winder sell, but was as dead as muttin, as the sayin' is, afore Saturday were out."

I shan't never forget that Saturday night as Brown come'ome from 'Arrich, as he'd been at all the week thro' them steamers, and brought 'ome some

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ducks and young pork as all wanted cookin', partikler the ducks, as were that tender as they come away from their bones with lookin' at.

They was werry nice for supper, but somehow seemed to lay like lead on my chest, tho' in my opinion it were the cream-cheese and reddishes, as Brown said would disgest a helefant, with bottled porter, and took a drop of Scotch whisky cold, tho' not weak, and went to bed like a infant, and slep' too; but law, the wishuns as I 'ad, as was King Coffee, a nasty black beast, and the Hemperor of Roosher a-quarrelin' over a mishunary; and then come that Ortin, as took and set down with a flop in my easy chair, as I'd left my work a-layin' on, and jumped up agin' a bloated beast, as proved as he'd got feelin's when anythink come 'ome to 'im; and up I woke, and couldn't get off for a-thinkin' of all manner, till I see Gladstin with 'is throat tied up in a old worsted stockin', as I knowed meant 'is glans down, or somethink wuss.

So I says, "You'll escuse me, but in my opinion change of hair is the best thing for you."

"Oh, bother change of hair!" says he. "Why, ain't I jest been to the country?"

"Yes," says Queen Wictorier, as were a-standin' at 'is elber, "but, my people's Willyim, you went too soon; but law bless me!" she says, "I can't stop talkin' 'ere, for I've got to get to Gravesend

for to meet the young couple ; and which way, rail or boat, should you say, Mrs. B.

“ Well,” I says, “ I considers it full the boat ; but in course it depends on the

“ Ah !” she says, “ that’s where it is so tied by the leg, as the sayin is, with the Ministers and their counsels, two in one only a form as they will stand on a-fidget

“ Ah !” I says, “ and a nice crack o’ young Waters got thro’ not a-standin’ when put there thro’ not a-learnin ’is le went over back’ards ;” and then I look there stood Gladstin on one form, and another, a-’oldin’ of their books, and Queen Wictorier, a-lookin’ the school over, as says, “ As to you, Master G., you’ve been and neglected all your lesso grace ; and now to want to be escused do a sum all right next time ; why, it wo

Dizzy bust out a-larfin’ at them word Gladstin that shirty, as seein’ as Queen were a-lookin’ in ’er work-box for som took and shied ’is book at Dizzy, as duck suddin ; and if the book didn’t take a Dook of Edinburrer in the heye jest a a-comin’ in with Alexsandrowner on ’is a ’is temper, and give Dizzy such a kick balance, and so did Gladstin, and over

with sich a crash as woke Queen Wictorier up, as were noddin' over 'er work, as was darnin' stockins.

"Wot the devil's that?" says a voice, as were Brown a-settin' up in bed.

"Law," I says, "I took you for Queen Wictorier; but in my opinion that noise is the wind, as 'ave blowed down the chimbly-board in the next room, as you'd better get up and see."

He says, "I'll see you blowed fust, and then I won't."

I felt 'urt, in course, but didn't say no more, cos Dizzy he come up to me and says, "Don't you think as I might tax chimblies?"

I says, "You'd better tax the wind at once, as well I remembers when the winder tax were in."

"Why," he says, "you remembers heverythink, and pre'aps can tell me wot is good for a carbuncle."

"Well," I says, "I 'ave 'eard as soap and miste sugar is a fine thing; but," I says, "if you've got anythink like that, don't you go a-eatin' none of them candles, nor sich Rooshin dishes, as is nothink but bile."

Says Gladstin, "Oh, let 'im alone to eat dirt, if he can get anythink by it."

"Wot are you a-callin' dirt?" says the Gran' Duchess, a-turnin' as red as a turkey-cock.

"Oh, Halfred!" she says, "'ere's insults, afore ever I've put my foot ashore;" for she was a-

standin' a-leanin' on 'is harm, a-lookin' out on board a wessel for to take a sight at England, tho' if she started in the dark she'd be close in shore when she got up.

I says, "I wish you'd put me ashore somewheres, for I 'ates a wessel, and can't a-bear a crowd."

"Them's my sentiments," says Queen Wictorier, close in my ear; "but," she says, "'ush! they don't know as I'm aboard, as 'ave been with 'em all the time, dressed up like a bishop; and when I gets that old Stanley over, I'll show 'im who's 'ead of the Church, a-makin' a fool of hissself in church along with them Rooshins, and their goin's on, as is werry nigh as bad as the Rityeralists."

Says Gladstin, "There's three ways of lookin' at this."

"Oh, bother!" says Queen Wictorier, "don't be a-puttin' your oar in. I've 'ad enough of your three ways, as the way out is the last as you 'ave took."

I 'eard Dizzy a-sniggerin' in 'is sleeve close behind.

So to change the subjec, I says, "'Spose we was to 'ave a little music, cos I 'ear as Allysandrowner is a fine preformer."

"You 'ear 'er on the banjo," says Halfred, as took and flourished 'is bones quite close under the Prince of Wales' nose, as said, "If you 'ave been

and married a 'airess, you needn't be insultin' over it."

"Oh," says Queen Wictorier, "I 'ear 'em, I 'ear 'em. It's Lorne and 'is pipes. 'Ow kind on 'im to come, as must 'ave come by the steamer!"

Then I says, "He've picked up a good bit, if he's been a-playin' on them pipes all down the river, cos I'm sure every one aboard would 'ave give 'im a 'apenny to leave off."

"Not if 'is noble pa were a-dancin'," says Gladstin, a-turnin' up 'is nose; and there, sure enuf, were that noble Muck-all-em-more, as they calls 'im in Scotland, a-dancin' in a red waistcut, and 'is 'Ighland plad, and 'avin' of 'is fling all over the deck, a-kickin' out right and left, as made the Prince of Wales draw up 'is legs quite 'orty, and say, "Why don't he go for'ard, and make a fool of 'issself?"

"He's only a re-'ersin'," says Queen Wictorier to me in a whisper, "cos we're a-goin' to 'ave a family meetin' at Winsor, and he's to dance on the lawn afore the winders, cos Halfred won't 'ave the Scotch fiddle in the room, thro' a-playin' of the violin 'issself, and them musishuns is always that jealous."

"Ah!" I says, "right you are, your Majesty, for them waits 'ad a fight at the corner of our street last Christmas Eve but one, as were caused cos the man on the key-bugle blowed the violin out of time."

"Ah!" says Queen Wictorier, "I wish they were more 'armony."

Just then up Alfred struck with his fiddle, and there was the Hemperor of Roosher and Beastman a-waltzin' together quite lovin', and that there old German humbug of a Hemperor a-whistlin' to 'em.

I says to Queen Wictorier, "Would your Majest like a s'rimp to take 'ome with you for tea, cos in course you can't get 'em as fresh at Winsor as you can at Gravesend, as is their native shores."

She says, "That I should, tho' we've got redishes, but let Alfred pay for 'em, as can put 'em in 'is 'at."

I says, "My 'ankercher is quite clean, as will save the cotton bag, as they charges a penny for."

"'Ang the espense," says the Prince of Wales a-eatin' 'em with their 'eads and tails, "let's have a quart."

"Oh! Halbert Edward," says 'is Royal ma "How ever can you go on that reckless?"

"Ah!" says Dizzy, to me, "he thinks he can do anythink now I'm in."

"Well," I says, "I'm sure you ain't the part to stint 'im for anythink, as didn't ought to be outdone by 'is little brother, and if I'd my way he should have double the money."

Says Gladstin, "So he should if I was in."

"Walker," said the Prince, in an under tone, a
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tippin' me a wink, as didn't mean nothink free, but only 'is playful ways with a old friend.

I says to him, "I'll stand by you, my boy, as always was a pet of mine, and I should like to see Old Dizzy a-darin' for to let you be cut out by any Rooshin as ever sucked a candle," so I says, "you only keep quiet till I gets a word or two with them ministers, cos in course it will come better from me than from your Royal ma."

"Oh, you do spile that boy, Mrs. Brown," says Queen Wictorier, a-shakin' of 'er finger at me, with a smile, as I see were pleased at me a-takin' of 'is part, cos as she whispers to me, "Tho' not a large family, four children, and 'arty ones too I can tell you, for they've been a-stoppin' along with me, as makes a leg o' mutton look foolish, as runs into money with things such a price, and Old Nollis! I'd rather keep 'em a week than a fortnight, as the sayin' is."

"I wonder wot's the Rooshin for, do you sleep on a feather-bed or a mattress?" she says.

"Oh!" I says, "that's easy managed, cos when you show her the bed-room you can jest give the bed a punch, and say, 'Comon vous portez vous, s'lar,' as is French for it."

Says Dizzy, "It's werry rude of you for to talk Germin, Mrs. Brown, afore me."

I says, "'Owever should I know you was a-goin' to

talk anythink, as would show your manners if you wasn't to speak till your spoke to."

Says Queen Wictorier, "That's right, Martha, keep 'im in 'is place."

He says, in a hundertone, like, "If she'd only do that, I don't care what she says to me."

So I says, "Well, if you're a-goin' to speak Germin, fire away."

"Ah, ah!" says Beastmark, "let's 'ear 'im, for Gladstin made a nice mess on it, and so did that old fool, Johnny Russell."

"Ah! but," I says, "he always were a nin-cumpoop."

Says Dizzy, "I should be happy to try my Germin, but really don't know only two or three words."

"Then the sooner you learns the better," says Beastmark, a-glarin' at im, "cos very soon I shan't allow no other language to be spoke, cos it's the only one as the Pope don't know, and I mean to shet 'im out in the cold."

Says Queen Wictorier, "Don't you interfere with the Pope, nor nobody else in my 'ouse, if you please, or else pre'aps you may find yourself on the doorstep."

"Ah!" I says, "and with them young Prince's boots close behind you, so you jest shet up."

"No," says Queen Wictorier, "you aint a-goin' to bully me as if I was that poor old asmatic Will-

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yim, as daren't call his soul his own ;" and she says, "you ain't got no friend in Mrs. Brown, so don't try and leer at 'er."

I says, "If he was to dare to, my good gentleman would give 'im sich a 'idin' as he never had afore in 'is life."

Some one bust out a-larfin', and there stood that young Bonyparty. So I said to 'im, "Remember, my dear boy, as you're nobody, so keep your toe in your pump, as the sayin' is, and don't you be took in by them donkeys of French as comes over a flatterin' of you, as only 'opes to get somethink out of you; and don't you go a-tryin' it on to get up no row in France, cos you'll find as that there Mac Marn is a reglar Paddy Wack at 'art, and if he ketches you, he'll 'ang you, and I don't think as even Queen Wictorier could beg you off, so you be a good boy, and take care of your ma, and try and forget all that rubbish about your bein' a Prince, cos you ain't nothing of the sort, and only was a sham one, though no doubt if you was to list, and keep steady, you'd rise from the ranks, as the sayin' is; but you ain't got no rights to nothink but wot you works for 'onest, so don't be persuaded to go into no dodges, as 'ave been the ruin of all your family, as might 'ave been respectable if they 'adn't been and overstepped theirselves, as is jest wot Gladstin 'ave been and done."

Gladstin 'as

Says somebody to me, as proved to be Dizzy, you stands a-maggin' here, you'll be too late to get a seat."

I says, "Where?"

"Why," says the Prince of Wales, "a-goin' to sit by me." There he were a-copennywinkles out of 'is shacko with 'is breast as Alfred had brought 'em fresh from Graves but obligated to eat 'em on the sly, cos Q Wictorier can't abear the sight on 'em; he says "Not room for Mrs. Brown! why, she should sit on my knee fust."

I says "Go along with you, do; why, I shan't smother you with this ere jacket on."

Says the Prince of Wales, "All right, old man, you shall 'ave Lorne's place."

I says, "Certingly not, as is your brother-in-law, and didn't ought to be turned out of 'is place nor yet kep out of a room nowheres, not if 'is wife were there; and I do 'ope I shan't 'ear no more about them goin's on, as don't look well in families, that's why I never will 'ave friends without a-as Joe Barnes, as married our Mary Ann, tho' I don't like a bone in 'is body, thro' always a-mistrustin' any one that squints backards, as can't look straight in the face."

Says a voice, "Martha Brown, is this wot you calls a-comin' to spend the day with me on

quiet," and there I see Queen Wictorier in 'er spectacles, a-settin' at a table as were covered with work.

I says, "I were only a-sayin' a few words to them young fellers of yourn, as is so full of their fun."

"Ah!" she says, "they're like the young bears, all their troubles to come."

I says, "'Ush, there's that Ailysandrowner a-listenin'."

"Law!" she says, "she don't understand nothink."

I says, "I'm sure as she cort the word bears; as she knows is English for Rooshins."

Says Queen Wictorier, a-takin' up a sock, "Now, Mrs. Brown, is this worth mendin'."

I says, "I should say not, thro' the 'eel bein' cut thro' as ain't good enuf for to graft."

She says, "Ah! that's wot I says, and it's all thro' Leopold a-bein' at Oxford, as will wear them Oxford shoes."

"Ah!" I says, "they're nasty things for to cut your socks thro' at the 'eel, but," I says, "socks ain't nothink at Oxford to wot they are at Etn, where I've 'eard of a boy as run up a bill as come to pounds for socks alone."

"Ah!" says Queen Wictorier, "I sometimes thinks who would be a mother."

"Why," I says, "you would, and proud of methin'."

and proud broiq

them boys you are, tho' they 'ave, no doubt, got a little trouble; for I could see 'er smilin', tho' she did look a little grave like, when Leopold begun a-chaffin' Artie about bein' spoons over in Denmark.

I could see as Queen Wictorier were a-longin' to talk to me, cos in course, poor dear, she must be a lonesome like, without a friend in the world, as a king or queen can't 'ave, for she give a sigh, and she says, "It's awful dull work for me, Martha, but I can't do nothin' else," and she says, a-turnin' on Dizzy, as were a-puttin' on his new coals in 'is new livery, as in my opinion 'ad ought to have been altered with new buttons, cos he looked a little like Gladstin behind, as made Queen Wictorier say, "Uart, I would say Benjymin, mind, I ain't got no 'ome to nobody."

"Please your grashus, Prince Beastmark's waiting, I've kep 'im quiet with some broken wit and small beer, but he says he won't go till he's seen you."

"Won't he?" says I, "then jest let me see 'is 'ash," so I turns and sees 'im a-cleanin' out his pipe, and says to 'im, "well, my Prooshin be wot's up with you. Ah!" I says, "you need to try to 'ide that bundle in your 'at, cos I knows 'is it is, it's some of the cold meat as you've been grabbed, and tied up in your 'andkercher."

He didn't anser, for he'd been and crammed his mouth that full thro' a-thinkin' it were Queen W

torier a-comin' out, and stared to see me with a crown on.

So I says "'Ow's Willyim's corf;" and tips 'im a wink to show as I knowed all about its bein' a deal wuss than wot they pertend, cos the old willin's got water on the chest, that's wot he's got, so I says, "look here, Beastmark, Queen Wictorier can't be bothered with you now, for she've got 'er 'ands full," as were true enuf, for I'd left 'er with a sock drawed over 'er left 'and, and a needle in the right.

Beastmark didn't anser, and I goes on and says, "Don't you come 'ere a-tryin' none of your games, cos you ain't a-goin' to come the bully 'ere, and if you carries it too far over there, you'll find yourself in the wrong box some day, cos that there Prince Fritz don't love a bone in your body, nor nobody else, and some fine day you'll get showed the door, and if a pistol were to go off unawares, and go thro' your 'ead, I don't think as old Willyim's 'im book would be wet thro' with 'is tears."

So jest then Dizzy come up and says, "Don't go too far, that's a good soul, Martha, cos we don't want to 'ave no row at present."

"Oh!" I says, "all right, only don't let 'im come a-cadgin' 'ere, as there's plenty of 'ungry mouths for our broken wittles, without 'im, cos," I says, "look at that Injin famine, tho' I must say

at 'im, cos
no' I must tarr

as they're very foolish to live on nothink but as ain't a thing to lean upon any more than a potater, as is wot the Irish sticks to; as I cons a poor substitute for the stomick to rest upon same as dry bread."

Says Beastmark, in a voice of thunder, as sayin' is, "I'm blest if I stand this, I'll 'ave a pipe."

I says, "Not in my room, I 'opes."

He says, "There's a bit of fire 'ere, and I sleep a wink, and you're as restless as a colt."

I says, "No man but my lorful 'usband ever——"

He busts out a-larfin', and stirs the fire, and enuf he was Brown a-settin' by the fire a-loafin' of 'is pipe, as I likes 'im to 'ave when he sleeps.

"So," I says, "glad I am as you're there, my life's a reglar burden to me with dreams, pre'aps the baccy will draw me off, and so it is for I don't think as I 'ad another dream, not till I 'eard the milkman a-comin' down the street, as I were a mussy, for them dreams is that 'eavy as a reglar draws me down, and the lot as you dream in a minit or two is surprisin', for I 'eard that milkman turn the corner, and jest give me another turn when I see Dizzy a-standin' with the kittle in 'is 'and, and givin' of Queen V

torier some water in the teapot, as were at breakfast, and says to 'im, with a wink at me, "Take care, Benjmin, as you don't burn your fingers."

So I says jest to change the subjec, "I wonders as you don't let some of the young people make tea."

"Oh!" she says, "Louise did use to, but I can't trust Beetreece, she never cares whether it biles or not; and she says I should 'ave let Ally-sandra do it, but then there'd 'ave been jealousy, for Allysandrowner she made it last night Rooshin fashion, without no milk, and a slice of lemon in it as were beastly."

"Ah!" I says, "I knows that's Rooshin ways, cos a party as lodged with Mrs. Padwick, as knows Roosher well thro' a travellin' in the leather line, he showed us it, only Sunday last, and I couldn't abear it, tho' he said it were that pure thro' a-comin' in a carrywan, but I don't think as bein' shet up for weeks in 'is portmanter 'ad improved it's flavour, nor yet its colour neither."

Jest then there were a squall, and if it weren't as Dizzy in puttin' down the kittle 'ad been and sprinkled Gladstin's feet with it, as 'ad 'em on the fender, for he was a-settin' afore the fire with is 'at on and 'is things in a bundle.

So I says in a whisper to Brown, I says, "don't call that manners, keepin' 'is 'at on, but, I

says, "I suppose we must excuse 'im thro' out, but wot's he a-waitin' for."

"Why," says Dizzy, a-chimin' in, and deal too fond on for me, he says "he's a-w a slice off that surplus; and don't he wis get it."

I says, "Why, he can't expect you're a cut up a surplus for 'im; as would be w as bad as robbin' a church."

"Why not rob a church as well as we body else?" says Beastmark. "I'd rob 'e enuf, only 'ere's old Willyim's got a so and funks dyin', cos he's afraid as the Pop let 'im be berried like a Christshun."

"Oh!" says Dean Stanley, as were "I'll go and berry 'im with pleasure, and minster Abbey, as is where King Coffee as is to be brought 'ome at once, salted dov

I says, "And werry disgustin' too, a-t 'uman bein' like pork. Whyever not b where he dies; and as to old Willyim, as pious, he can't mind dyin', and I'm sure glad to get away from Beastmark, as won call 'is soul 'is own."

"Are you a-goin' to 'ave your breakfast Mrs. Brown?" says the Archbishop of Cant a-puttin' 'is 'ead thro' the bed-curtains.

I says, "Law, no! I'm all right;" and

jumps; and there were Brown, as said he were goin' down to make the tea, and would I like a round of buttered toast; so in course I got up at once; and it wasn't till I'd 'ad two cups of tea that I were feelin' fresh, and never got my 'ead clear of the royal family not all that day. I'm sure I could swear as I were wide awake that same evenin', tho' I always do feel dosy atween the lights, and that's why arter tea I got my work, for fear as a book should send me to sleep, and felt as wide awake as ever I were in my life, and the fire a-burnin' that cheerful, and see Gladstin as plain as a pikestaff, as the sayin' is, a-settin' oppersite to me a-warmin' of 'is 'ands, as said he'd jest come back from Winsor. "Ah!" I says, "no doubt you found it cold enuf there, and I see as Queen Wictorier wouldn't 'ave you and Dizzy set together, or it would 'ave been 'ot enuf between you."

He says, "'Ow do you know, as wasn't there?"

I says, "Wasn't I, jest? and shan't never forget Dizzy's face when he 'ad to drink the Hemperor of Roosher's 'ealth in train ile."

"I wouldn't do it," says Gladstin. "I never did eat dirt."

"Oh, didn't you, tho', old feller," says I; "'ow about Merryker and the Hallybammer claims? You certainly eat your full peck that time, and made us eat it too; but," I says, "let bygones be

time, & let bygones be bygones.

bygones; and now wot are you a-goin' to a livin', and wotever is Lowe and Airton a-turn their 'ands to?"

"Oh," says Gladstin, "they be 'anged, as ruin on me;" he says, "I've 'eard as Bob is to teach rethmitic in a school; and as to Beastmark 'as give 'im a place over there wants a master of the ceremonies for to tea Germins manners; and," he says, "as to think as I'll turn commershul."

"Ah," I says, "that'll be a constant ch

Says Dizzy, in my ear, "Law bless y good soul, nobody won't trust 'im."

I says, "Do leave off a-aggravatin' ' tiresome toad, do."

Says Queen Wictorier, a-bendin' to m the carridge winder, jest like I see 'er th she brought that there Grand Duchess into thro' the snow, "Mrs. Brown, I 'ope they're care of you down there, cos I can't see you

I says to Brown, "Ain't it singler a Wictorier should set down in 'er bonnet, crown on the top of it, as is wot she went ceshun to the Tower for to get it out, cos i they won't give it up to nobody but 'er ow as keeps the key of that hiron cage, as in the Tower in, loose in 'er pocket, and bunch with the rest, for fear of losin' the lo

Says Dizzy to me, "This ain't busyness, now, Mrs. Brown; do be serous. Wot 'ave you got to say to me? Cos Queen Wictorier 'ave told me to ask you wot I'd best take and do over this 'ere budget."

"Well," I says, "that depends."

"Ah!" says Gladstin, "my fine fellow, now you're in for it, and I wish yer joy. You'll 'ave to take off all the taxes, and put down the 'Stablished Church—not as you'll care much for that."

Says Queen Wictorier, in a woice of thunder, "I'll send you both to the block on Tower 'Ill, and you may wait there till I comes to fetch you away, if you dares me, a-skylarkin' under my nose;" and then I see as Dizzy were a-tryin' to stick a bit of paper up Gladstin's collar.

Says Dizzy, "Please, mum, I didn't go to do it, but he is that tormentin' a-makin' faces at me, and a-sayin' as I must go over to the Dissenters, and make Spurgin a bishop, as don't want it, cos he's got as much as most on 'em a'ready."

Says Gladstin, "There's three courses open to you; one is to jine Dilke, and go in for a Republic; and the other is——"

Says the Prince of Wales, "'Old 'ard with you there. If you says that agin——"

"Do be quiet, Halbert Hedward," says the Queen,

“and let 'im 'ave 'is say, as is the British stitushun.”

“Yes,” I says, “mam,” as is wot they all 'er at cort; “but if he was to dare go on 'eath and talk about 'is three courses, he'd pro soon get 'is desserts, as the sayin' is, and serv right.”

Says Dilke, “I'm sure I never meant no disre to Queen Wictorier, as my family owes every to, and I ain't that ungrateful as to go and tu my best friends; and to tell you the truth, Brown, it's all my fun about a Republic, and I said it jest to see wot they would all say.”

“Well,” I says, “my fine feller, don't yo a-playin' them larks again; cos,” I says, “i wants to see wot parties thinks on it, you'd jest go out and say as much next time as Queen Wictorier comes thro' the streets in state, and see where you'll be, with your 'at knocked your eyes, and every rag tore off your back, b Queen Wictorier could say a word to save you

Says Gladstin, “As I were a-sayin', th three courses open to 'im.”

“Oh!” I says, “do dry up with them courses; for,” I says, “Queen Wictorier 'ave to bed with 'er bonnet on; as'll give 'er a frig 'eadache afore mornin', and no one durstn't t off cos of the crown.”

Says Dilke, "Oh! nobody cares for the crown."

Up jumps the Dook of Edinburrer, and says, "Jest come outside, will yer, and I'll soon show yer who cares for the crown."

I says, "I'll call the perlice if there's goin' to be fightin', and," I says, "I wonders at your Royal 'Ighness a-noticin' on 'im, as no doubt could punch 'is 'ead, but might get a black eye, as wouldn't look well in uniform, and pre'aps give your good lady a turn; so," I says, "'ands off, and let's 'ave a round game till supper's ready, as'll be nine punctual."

Says Gladstin to Dizzy, "I'll buy your deal."

"That you won't," said Dizzy, with a grin, showin' me the Queen as he'd got, so in course only wanted a ace for to turn up a natural.

"It's my pool," says Gladstin.

"You're another," says Lowe, a-tryin' to grab the lot, and if that there Lord Shaftesbury, as were lookin' on, didn't take and pull the cloth off the table, cards and all, a-sayin' as cards was sinful, tho' two bishops was playin', but it was only 'is spite, for fear as Gladstin should win, as made Airton that wild, that he took and kicked 'is shins on the spot, as sent Lord Shaftesbury off with a 'owl, a-swearin' as he'd bring it afore Exeter 'All the very next time as Archbishop Mannin' took the chear there for a testimonial to Dr. Cummin', thro' 'im 'avin' took the pledge, and purposed the Pope's 'ealth in

Pope's 'ese' a

toast and water, when a-dinin' along with the masons, as wants the Pope to be their Master.

I says, "Nonsense, he don't 'old with ways, and won't let none of 'is flocks belong 'em, as rayther puts Brown out; not but w says as it's right as the Pope should 'ave 'is and let them as likes obey him; cos I cert 'ave knowed some Freemasons as was 'owda characters, as was Mr. Bummil, the plumber glasher, as beat 'is own wife with a sodderin' and took the 'air off the crown of 'er 'ead, a p as big as a palm of your 'and, as she did use say brought 'er to fronts at four-and-twenty, th never see 'er in 'er nat'ral 'air, except stickin' grey under 'er cap in the nape of 'er neck, as nearer to sixty than fifty, when we fust com South Lambeth. But he certingly were dreadf 'is goin' on, and 'ad to be strapped down in bein' to the stashun-'ouse, that time as he broke all Mrs. Lettlepit's winders, as lived next door, a-co 'ome late the wuss for licker, and a-mistakin' 'ouse, and flew in a rage, cos they woul let 'im in, when he'd been a-knockin' and rin 'arf a' our, as in course 'is poor wife would 'eard next door if she 'adn't been alone in 'ouse, and could only 'ear with her left ear, as is only side as she can sleep on, thro' bein' t

asmatic as is nearest the 'art, and won't let the lungs 'ave full play if pressed on with the whole weight of the body, as in course you can't help in sleep, tho' I've knowed parties as set up in bed all night, as were a aunt of mine, and werry uncomfortable to 'ave to sleep with her, as I've done when a girl, thro' a-lettin' the cold hair down into the bed, but didn't matter so much thro' her bein' a single woman, for I'm sure it's wot Brown wouldn't never put up with, not if he'd married a Princess Royal, so no doubt the Pope is right about Freemasons, not as I believes in their secret, cos it's all my eye talkin' about a secret that is bekown to thousands, and them mostly married men. Law bless you, it's agin nature, and that's why them Rityeralists won't never get parties to be sich fools as to go a-confessin' to them, cos they knows werry well as they'd tell their wives as sure as a gun, as the sayin' is, cos in course no wife in this world wouldn't stand 'er husband keepin' a lot of things from her as he'd 'eard in the parish, as she'd be a-dyin' to know thro' 'appenin' in all the naybours' families, and a nice row there'd be. Oh! dear no, the bishops is quite right to stop such goin's on, and if they don't, why, in course Parlyment will step in and soon put it down, not but wot I should let parties do as they please, and confess to the parson and 'is wife too if they likes it, as is wot I calls liberty of consence, as nobody

so if they
ence, as n. n. as

didn't ought to interfere with, nor yet ridicule, and so I told Mrs. Pilikoo, as have joined some of the wild sexes, and talks of bein' converted, just as she'd been a Jew Israelite; but law, I ain't no time to bother about sich things myself, and I do 'ope Disreely won't go a-'avin' no finger in the about religion, cos he'll burn it to a certinty, and that's 'ow Gladstin 'ave been and fell thro' a-play fast and loose, as the sayin' is, with them church as is all sorts and sizes—sometimes 'igh, sometimes low, sometimes broad, and sometimes no.

Says Gladstin to me in a whisper, "I'll serve 'im out old gal; he's got in, and I'll smoke 'im out; for if he stops in he'll have to put down the Church, and the Lord Mare and the City of London, with both Universities, and let the Hirish 'ave a king of their own, will pre'aps be Wolly, and sell the crown jewels to pay the income tax, and make Ortin a judge; and I'm a-goin' to pertend to retire, as'll only be jest round the corner for to get a few lessons from Johnny Broon in the noble hart of self-defence, and then see whether I've got the gloves on if I don't knock the Ebrer silly."

I says, "You'll never go a-prize-fighting afore Queen Wictorier's werry face, particklar now as she've got the Hemperor of Roosher drinkin' tea with 'er, and the Hemperor of Morocco expectin' to drop in to supper, cos the two of em ain't used to see no sich goin's on at 'ome, and

might give you a nasty one, cos they always goes about with fire-arms, and I've 'eard say as the Hemperor of Roosher's boots is tremenjous 'eavy."

Says the policeman, as were a standin' by, "Oh! let 'im talk, he's only a-blowin' off the steam, cos he's that wild at 'avin' made sich a fool of 'isself a-goin' and dissolvin' all of a sudden, when he might 'ave been and held together all the year any'ow, as would 'ave been a somethink in 'is pocket."

I says, "Perliceman, I'm surprised at you for to think as he'd take any tips."

He only give a wink, and then I see it were Dizzy dressed up like a perliceman, as were jist a-watchin' of Gladstin, as were tryin' to sing the Rooshin 'Imm, as they was all 'avin' a-goin' in at, with Queen Wictorier a-playin' on the pianer, and Alfred with a wiolin, and the Prince of Wales a-beatin' time, and old Dizzy, he'd got the cymbals a-bangin' away that loud, and there was Dean Stanley with a 'and organ and the pan-pipes, and 'is good lady with a tambourine, and Beastmark, he puts 'is 'ead in at the door, with his nightcap on, and roars out, "If you don't stop that there row, I'll have the lot of you run in, as must be brutes to go on like that with me, 'avin' gone to bed early and got sich a sore throat."

"Who are you callin' brutes?" says that young Bonaparty boy, as were a-playin' with a comb and paper.

"Look 'ere," says Beastmark, "don't let 'ave none of your cheek, young Brummygim, or I'll give you a good thrashin', as I 'ave done elders."

Says the Pope, "Let the boy alone, and speak civil to them musishuners, and give 'em somethin' to go into another street."

Says the Prince of Wales to me, "He thinks 'isself a swell, that Beastmark does, but he'll 'ave a bad fall afore long, see if he don't, cos they 'ates 'im, a-knowin' as 'is game is for to make 'im fust everywhere, and only wait till old Willy drops, and that there old Beastmark will be fit for dogsmeat."

"Law," I says, "I pities the dogs as is drownded to eat 'im."

Says Queen Wictorier, "Martha Brown, er she's present for you; it's King Coffee's umbreller they've been and sent me, as will be a deal more use to you than to me, thro' seldom goin' out of self when it's showery, for fear of roomatics."

"Law," I says, "what a beauty."

"Yes," says Queen Wictorier. "And I 'ad words with all my children 'cos I wouldn't let it up that day as I drove thro' town with this drownded Allysandrowner."

"I'm sure," says the Princess Louise over the back of my chair, "it's a wonder as ma didn't"

'er death in all that snow, as is more than she's ever done for one of 'er own."

So I see as there was jealousy there, and says, "My dear, your ma 'ave a feelin' 'art, and in course wished to be partikler kind to this 'ere poor Rooshin young creetur, as must feel lonesome, now them crackjaw parties 'as gone back to Roosher, and left 'er."

"Oh, no, Mrs. Brown, I ain't a bit dull," says a voice, "and if it wasn't that werry Allysandrowner a-standin' by me a-feedin' of the ducks on that bit of water in the Park oppersite Buckinam Pallis."

I says, "I'm glad to 'ear it, and 'opes as the pallis ain't damp thro' bein' shet up so long, and 'ave 'eard say as all the chimblies smokes, as is why Queen Charlotte did used to take snuff, and nearly always in a bad 'umour, thro' the blacks a-settlin' all over the place, as were nat'rally a clean disposition, thro' bein' used to washin' constant, as were brought up to the clear-starchin' afore ever she thought of bein' Queen, and they do say as King George never did fancy 'er, and any time my dear, I says, as you should like to 'ear all about that old King George's Royal Family, I could tell you volumes, thro' 'avin' 'eard it all from them as knowed all about it; not as I'm no relation to the boy Jones, the young sweep as got into the Pallis thro' the chimbly, as was like 'is dirty ways, and

took and listened to things as Queen Wictorier under the sofy; as I knows a deal about only in course shouldn't mention."

"If I ketches you a-sayin' a word agin Wictorier, I'll jest send you to the Tower Brown," says a park-keeper, in a woice of th and a fierce glare at me."

I says, "Me say a word agin 'er, bless 'er 'art, never, as feels like 'er own sister, but," "Mr. Dizzy, you needn't go a-dressin'-up park-keeper, jest to listen to wot I'm a-sa this 'ere young lady, as I don't consider bein and aboveboard."

He didn't say nothink, but goes and p boy's cap off as were a-settin' on the bank with a pin at the end of a stick and a bit of s

"You'll leave me alone, you big bully," sa boy; and if it weren't Gladstin, poor felle settin' there, jest a-tryin' to amuse 'isself, no out of place.

I says, "Don't be sich a spiteful old Ben, don't; it's mean on yer, and tho' Wictorier, no doubt, didn't like a bone in Gla body, as the sayin' is, yet I'm sure she's too the lady to set by and see 'im put upon now, as been and sacked 'im."

I see old Dizzy turn pale, cos he 'adn't Queen Wictorier were a-settin' under a tree clo

a-readin' of a book, with them young Waleses a-playin' about. She weren't no more readin' than I was, cos she got a eye on 'er grandchildren for fear of the water, as was a-playin' werry pretty at 'orses, on a old broom, as kicked up a deal of dust, and she were a-watchin' Dizzy too with 'er other eye like a couple of links, as is reg'lar piercers, so Dizzy, he pertended not to see 'er, but took and sloped all of a 'urry, tho' pertendin' to walk slow, a-feelin', no doubt, as he'd been and put 'is foot in it, as the sayin' is, cos, in course, nobody don't like to see nobody bein' kicked when they're down, as the sayin' is."

"I wish, Mrs. Brown, as you was mistress of my robes," says Queen Wictorier, as I were a-passin', "for I never see a sweeter dresser, and that there polernaise fits you like your skin."

I says, "Well, to tell your Majesty the truth, it's a little more tighter; and cuts me dreadful under the harms, and if I'd 'ave knowed it would 'ave turned so mild, I shouldn't 'ave wore it, but dressed warm this mornin' cos of the snow, in goin' to see your Majisty bring this 'ere young Duchess into London, as will no doubt soon get used to our ways, and must 'ave felt quite at 'ome in the snow, as it was werry considerate for to come down 'ansom jest then, and made 'er feel at 'ome, no doubt, and was well ropped up, I 'ope, like the lot on you."

no doubt
lot on you

Jest then there was a tremendous crash, "I says, "I 'opes as none of the little royal ain't fell off that broom, and 'urt their royal selves nowheres, or preaps it's that G been and broke thro' the hice, and drowned cos he can't 'ook no more fish, or preaps rile not a-bein' able to bear to see that there a-standin' over Queen Wictorier, and a-tel wot she did she ought to say to Parlymint. goes up to 'im and whispers, "You 'ad bett out, old man, and see wot you're a-goin' yourself, cos, my fine feller, every one will do you."

He put 'is 'and on my shoulder, and "Wake up, old lady," and if I didn't look see Brown, as 'ad come in with 'is key, a over the coal scuttle, as that dratted gal 'ad the passage, as she said, only a minit, wh went to turn on the gas at the metre. I jun and give it 'er pretty 'ot, I can tell you, "c I says, "if you leaves anythink anywhere rong, only for a minit, someone's sure to c at the momint, jest the same as poor Mrs. come to be in 'er bed for weeks, thro' a down suddin on a lookin' glass, as 'er own 'ad laid on a chair, only for a minit, as is qui for a powder magerseen to go off in under y she weighed over two and twenty stun, poor s

is more than any lookin' glass in this world can be expected to bear up agin.

So Brown he says to me, "Martha, it's werry dangerous in you to go a-noddin' and a-blinkin' over the fire like this."

I says, "Why, Brown, I ain't been set down ten minits, but am that tired thro' a-standin' so long yesterday, for to see the Gran' Duchess go by in percession."

"Ah!" he says, "I thought you'd be there."

"Yes," I says, "and didn't ought to 'ave stood at all, thro' a-payin' 'arf a crown for a werry good place in front of a shop, as 'ad put up seats all boarded in front, as I got a corner one, so as to see 'em well both ways. I got there all right enuf as weren't far from the New Road, and must say it were not a roomy seat, but bein' the front row I didn't complain. I got into it all right enuf, and there I set pretty nigh perished for over two 'ours, and jest as the percession were a-comin' by, a party settin' behind me, kept a-leanin' over on my back, and parties behind 'er agin was a-leanin' forard over too; and if they didn't take and shove me right off my seat, as slipped down atween the seat and the 'ordin in front of it, 'as 'ad been put up to keep the crowd off, and were that jammed in, as get up agin I couldn't; and as them boards jest reached up to my eyes, I couldn't see nothink but

boards
e nothink

only the tops of the sojers a-ridin' by, they was passed I never should 'ave got this world, if they 'adn't been and kn boards away, for they was tight as I cou get my breath. I was wexed; but m parties as the shop belonged to be'a 'andsome, for they took me along with t underground, as was close by; and we Jameses Park in time to see the perces and then all on 'em come out on the certingly were a sight to do your 'art g didn't mind the scrougin', nor the pi nothin' as they took out of my pocket, sorry for my little flat bottle, as is a old frie as is things as I'm fond on, and 'ave sa and others' besides; so I always says, ne teetotalin' for me, as is werry well for that degraded characters as can't trust to a drain and not make beasts of their knowed a old feller once, as did used he'd gone to bed drunk every night years, and then took and turned teetotal hage, as pretty soon polished 'im off. Brown, I ain't rested yet, as no doubt, a will pull me thro', all straight agin."

I'd been werry much put out thro' agin, as 'ad rote a-warnin' the tax-g I'd been and left our last 'ouse witho

the rates, and all as we owed were 'arf a crown for gas, as were the collector's own fault; but that old wiper with one leg shorter than the other, as 'ad been a excise man, he were my bitterest enemy, all thro' me a-lettin' of 'is dorter know as he were a-goin' to marry a bit of a gal in the name of Sarah Soper, as lived there, as told our Mary Ann, over the wall, as I over'eard 'em a-talkin', thro' a bein' in the washus, a-tryin' to get some mildew marks out of a table-cloth, as must 'ave been put away damp. I didn't say a word to our gal, as I'd 'eard wot they was a-talkin' about, and shouldn't 'ave, if it 'adn't been as there were a pane of glass out of that washus winder as I'd broke myself, to let the steam thro', so I made it my busyness to say to Miss Sinful, as is ugly as a 'orse, as I met a-walkin' down the street, as orty as a Hostrich, "Good mornin', and wishes you joy of your new step-ma."

She stops short and says, "If you insults my pa any more, we'll have the law on you."

I says, "Pray do, cos insults is the last of my thoughts, and 'opes when he's married as you'll all be 'appy together."

She says, "Wot do you mean?"

"Why," I says, "you and your new stepma, Miss Soper, as is goin' to be married to your pa to-morrer morning at Spitalfields Church, and I means to be there and see."

and I

She says, a-turnin' pale, "You don't serious, Mrs. Brown?"

I says, "I ain't in the 'abit of jokin' things."

She says, "Who told you?"

I says, "That's my busyness, and I w good day," and on I walks, leavin' her pla on the pavement.

Well, the next mornin', who should co of a hurry, jest on nine, but Miss Sinful, "Can I say a word to you, Mrs. Brown?"

I says, "Certingly," thro' breakfast b and Brown started, and the gal were out.

She says, "It's all true; that young 'u entrapped my old fool of a father into ma She'd give warnin' a month ago, and left la I'd ketched her a-trimmin' a 'at the night she said were for 'er sister to go to a cl in. Well," she says, "this mornin' father quite early, as ain't 'is abits, nor more tha ain't never 'ardly down till nine, in a gen'r I 'eard 'im a-movin' about in 'is room, an 'eard 'im call; so I goes to the door, as and locked on the outside the night afor as took away 'is two sticks and 'is clum can't walk without. When I went in the l I wished 'im good-night with a basin of ' So when I 'eard 'im call I goes to the c

says, 'Wot is it, father?' He says, 'Oh, is that you, Nancy? Send old Martin up to me,' as is a old feller as comes of a mornin' to do odd jobs about the 'ouse and gardin. So I says, 'He ain't 'ere.' 'Ain't he?' says he. "'Ow strange! I told 'im to be 'ere afore eight, cos I wanted 'im.' I says, 'He's been fast enuf, but I started him off agin, for I think he were in licker thro' a-sayin' as you was a-goin' out early.' 'So I am,' says father. I says, 'I'll go with you.' 'No,' he says, 'Martin will do; but where's my sticks?' I says, 'I've got 'em, and your clump-foot too, all right, so don't worret no more about 'em;' and downstairs I went, a-leavin' the door locked. And now I've come in to you, Mrs. Brown, jest to say as I've locked up all the 'ouse, and shan't come back for a 'our or two, and don't you mind if father makes a noise, cos he can't get out, and I'm a-goin' arter a servint."

I says, "All right; it ain't no business of mine, so shan't interfere."

"No," she says; "but as you're the only nighbour, thro' the 'ouse the other side bein' to let, I thought I'd tell you not to mind 'is 'owls and 'ammerin's at the door."

I says, "All right," and out of the place she walks.

But law! she didn't know wot a desperate old waggerbone 'er father were, for I went to our back

door, and 'eard 'im at 'is winder, as were the pair back, a-shoutin' "Thieves!" and "Mr. Brown like anythink. So I didn't take no notice, but I went in agin, and then I 'eard a knockin' at the front door, and looks out at my parlour window to see that impident young minx, as I knowed her, all dressed out, and a old fish-fag with 'er. I went to the door, and says, "It's no use your knockin', cos the lady 'ave gone out, and the gentleman he's confined to 'is bedroom."

Says the gal, "Yes, I knows, and that's 'is way of a dorter's doin's."

I says, "Oh, indeed!"

"Yes," she says, "as is goin' to shet hisself in a mad'ouse, and all for 'is bein' fond and fast."

"Ah," I says, "I dessay, but I don't want to nothink about 'is ways."

Says the old woman, "Would you mind if I had a friend of ourn go thro' your premises and climb over the wall, so as to get in the back way."

I says, "Oh, dear, no! I couldn't allow that, for it might turn out burglars."

Says that young gal, "Ah, you're jest a little afraid of that old cat, 'is dorter, but," she says, "I'll go and 'im if I tears the door down to get at 'im, and I'll give my lorful 'usban'."

I busts out a-larfin', and says, "You're jest on your grandmother! Why, he's jest on eighty!"

“He’s only jest over sixty,” she says, “as I considers in ’is prime.”

“Yes,” says the old woman, “in course it is, and this young gal doats on ’im.”

“Ah,” I says, “no doubt she’s one of them as would rather be a old man’s darlin’ than a young man’s slave; but,” I says, “as to old Sinful, he did ought to be took up, a old beast. Why, she ain’t sixteen!”

She says, “I’m nearly twenty.”

“Ah,” I says, “you’re old enuf to know better, the same as ’im, but,” I says, “you don’t come thro’ my place, that’s all.”

She says, “I’ll have the door bust open.”

I says, “You’d better. Ah,” I says, “and ’ere comes Miss Sinful to ’elp you do it, as’ll soon settle the pint.”

And there, sure enuf, she was, and when she come up that gal were a-goin’ to cheek ’er, but Miss Sinful she says, quite perlite, “Oh, pray walk in, Miss Sloper, I wanted to see you; and will you come in too, Mrs. Brown?”

So I says, “Certingly, if you wishes it;” for I’m sure I never ’adn’t’ardly crossed the door friendly, and as to a cup of tea with ’em, why, I never ’ad so much as the smell of one in that ’ouse.

So we all walks into the parlour, and then Miss Sinful says, “Sarah Sloper, I thinks it right to

and them
inks it right to

tell you as my haged pa is a loonatic ; ther doctor's certificate, as I've been and fetcher you dares to come near this 'ouse agin I'll l up, and 'im too."

The gal begun a-whimperin' and a-cryin' the old woman as were with 'er, she says, "on, it's no go," and takes and pulls 'er out o' room, and off they walks.

I says to Miss Sinful, "Your pa's unc quiet, and is up to mischief, no doubt, like t' dren always is, when not a makin' no row."

She say, "'As he been uproarious."

I says, "I believe you, enuf to bring the 'ouse if it 'adn't been the back of the 'ouse."

So she goes upstairs, and opens 'is door, give a yell as made me 'urry up, and if th' room weren't empty and the winder open. I rush up, cos she was took faint, and there I see old man a-'angin' on to the hivy, as grows up the wall o' the 'ouse, jest over the waterbutt, with his trousers on ; I knowed it wouldn't be long before I a-ketchin' 'im by the 'air, as were only a wi'nd course would come off in my 'and like a rag or the 'andle of a jug ; so I makes a dive at 'im, and gets 'old of 'is harm, as werry nigh pulled 'im out of the winder, but he couldn't 'it me for leavin' go of the hivy. So I 'ollers to 'is wife, "Don't set there a-faintin', but come and

the
avin' go of 'is og
Don't set t'it tea t'noD
n't set t'it tea t'n

ketch 'old of some vulnerable part on 'im with the tongs, and don't mind a-pinchin' 'im if it's to save 'is life."

She jumps up, and jest then Mr. Cardwell, as lives at the back, as is a rope-maker's walk, he come over the palin's with a boy and a ladder, 'earin' me 'oller 'elp, jest in time to save that old man from droppin' into the waterbutt, as the lid on, were broken, for he were a-slippin' thro' my fingers, and 'adn't no strength left to 'old on to the hivy by no longer; we got 'im thro' the winder and on to 'is bed, and the way as that old reprobate cussed and swore at me, tho' in fear of 'is dorter, were enuf to turn a Quaker's blood cold. So I werry soon made myself scarce, as the sayin' is, and 'ome I went, and I don't believe as the old beast is any more mad than me; and as to that doctor's certificate, it were only to say as he were too old to serve on the jury, and that I know as a fact. She's a artful one is Miss Sinful, for she reg'lar worked 'er own sister out of the 'ouse, as well as that sister's child, not as I ever interferes in family matters, but never arter that could I go out in my gardin without old Sinful a-settin' at his back parlor winder a-cussin' and swearin' at me, as were partly the cause of me a-persuadin' Brown to move, as said go and live on the top of the Monyment, so long as you're 'appy and don't bother me; as made

me feel 'urt, and never in this world a-movin'; and then when clear out think of that old Sinful a-pursuin' spite all the way to close agin the we moved to, cos it suited Brown Great Western; and a nice job it 'ad one of them wans as moves packin', tho' it give me a turn to see things into it all undone, and didn't see it packed full and locked, and a cab with the cat in a band-box, light things besides. I'd sent Mrs. C with some odds and ends in a tilt to her niece's 'usband, as kep' a coach and wanted to move me altogether. But Brown he's all for progress, he this ere new inwention. So I got as is a nice 'ouse enuf, close agin as leads to Kensil Green, so a cheer there's one funeral a day as passes always keeps the road lively. I took Padwick, as I were a-goin' to sleep went on to the new 'ouse, and wait for that wan, but all in wain.

In course it ain't no use a-w removed arter twelve o'clock at give it up for a bad job, and we moved a Padwick's to sleep, tho' I'm sure it

see it up for
Padwick's to a

Padwick's to a

to call it sleep, for I was nothink but dreams all night, and fancyin' fust as I 'ad got my drawers over my 'ead and on my chest, and then that I was bein' drove on a wan, a settin' on the top of my own beddin', as fell off behind with me; and then as Mrs. Challin 'ad got me down, and were a-tearin' out my back 'air with a carvin'-knife at my throat. So in course didn't wake up much refreshed in the mornin', and 'urried thro' my cup of tea, and gets over to our new place, but not a trace of no wan nor nothink, and my heart misgave me a-thinkin' the way as them fellers 'ad most likely treated my things, for the last time as I moved you'd 'ave thought as it were a earthquake as they'd underwent, at the werry least; and 'ow Mrs. Padwick could stand by and let 'em leave the bed-room in the settin'-room, with the 'andles knocked off right and left, and the settin'-room things took up to the garrets.

I see it weren't no use a-tryin' to do nothink but set on that washin'-tub and wait, and was a-wonderin' wot 'ad 'appened to poor old Challin, as 'ad started off over night reglar screwed; and I 'eard as the perlice collared 'er at the corner. Jest then came a knock at the door, as proved to be 'er, with a black eye like a addled hegg, as she said she'd 'it it agin the bed-post, a-gettin' up in a 'urry, so I see as she'd forgot all about overnight.

So I says, "Wherever did you sleep, the
She says, "Why, a friend give me
bed."

I says, "You're a lyin' old toad; I know
you slep', as were the Perlice Station; so,
I knows all about it, as did ought to be ash
yourself, not to be trusted with the licker
time of life."

She began a-wimperin', and sayin' it w
think but fatigue.

"Well," I says, "let it be a warnin'
for next time they won't let you off so eas
I could see with arf a eye as the perlice
meant to be 'ard on 'er, so let 'er out w
was sober.

"Well," I says, "turn to with your p
flannin', and try and get a place ready fo
down the things when they comes in."

She did set to work with a will, as the s
and jest then there come a man to say as m
was took to the greenyard, thro' the 'orse
bein' left a-standin' at my door with no one
'em.

Wot to do I didn't know, and then the
he didn't take and cheek me, as swore l
'ere by eleven o'clock, and the place all
up, and while he were gone to look arter
the perlice came and collared the lot;

wot Mrs. Challin's nevvv 'ad brought the day afore, so pay 'im I wouldn't, for never did any one see sich a load of rubbish as he'd brought—old flower-pots, and blackin'-bottles, and things as that gal must 'ave put in for nothink but downright impidence; cos she was goin' to leave, as wasn't worth the carryin' downstairs, let alone bringin' away; and as to one chest of drawers, why, they was full of 'oles, with the back leg broke off, so wouldn't stand upright.

I could 'ave set down and 'ad a good cry over them things, only 'adn't no time to, for before twelve o'clock I 'ad the Queen's taxes, the gas, and the water all down on me, as was all owin'.

So I says to the collector, "Then, wotever are you a-goin' to do?"

"Oh!" he says, "I shall distrain on the goods as is in, cos I knows you and 'ave been warned."

So I says, "Oh! indeed," a-seein' it were old Sinful's doin's, and give Mrs. Challin the wink for to get away with 'er pail, as I'd borrered of Mrs. Padwick, and I says, "Go to 'er and wait there for me."

So on 'em words of mine she lewanted on the quiet, and I goes back to that tax-gatherer and says, "I don't believe as it's law as I must pay, and shall go to my lawyer over it."

ust pay, et

“Well,” he says, “I shall leave a m
session.”

I says, “All right,” for I knowed as th
ten shillings worth of things in the place,
the ’ouse I walks, and goes over to the m
moved me without packin’ for to ask why
and detained my goods, tho’ glad in my ’

When I got to ’is place there was tha
a-standin’ under a shed all packed, and w
think, why, if that old impident waggerbo
for I brought it ’ome to ’im, ’adn’t out of
only rote to the tax-gatherer, but if he ’a
and told the owner of ’em wans as I d
the things for a day or two, and wou
know.

It was all right as it turned out, cos i
was able to keep ’em back and reg’lar
rates and taxes; and so I did, for I left ’e
all the rubbish as were on the premises,
left the key with the man in persession
the landlord for to do as he liked, as dic
’ave told me about them taxes bein’ owin

He come over to Mrs. Padwick’s t
evenin’ and squared it with me, so I ro
leastways Mrs. Padwick’s niece did, for
wan man to send the things.

You might ’ave knocked me down wit
as the sayin’ is, when he come over and

shouldn't 'ave a stick till I paid 'im for 'is two wans, as would be forty-eight 'ours at three shillin's the 'our.

"Wot," I says, "seven pounds four! never in this world."

He says, "I'll take 'arf the money, and you don't get your goods till you pay it, and that's all about it."

Isays, "I'll go to the majestret over it."

He says, "You may go to the devil for wot I cares."

I never was so dumfounded, as the sayin' is, cos 'in course the willin' 'ad got the best of me thro' me 'avin' told 'im to keep 'em back; so I 'ad to pay the money, and we got the things unloaded, and they was a-many on 'em reg'lar pulverized; and it's a mussy as Brown weren't at 'ome or I shouldn't never 'ave 'eard the last on it.

And as to that fellow a-sayin' as he moved things without no packin', I'm sure that's true enuf, as 'adn't 'ad even a bit of mattin' put atween 'em to stop 'em from rubbin', and anythink like the weneer on my loo-table I never did; and the things all that dusty and scratched as I could 'ave 'ad a good cry over 'em; with a large stain on the middle of that parlour carpet as I don't believe as no ox-gall in this world won't never get it out.

So arter all I'd better 'ave paid 'em taxes as wasn't much over two pounds.

I was that knocked up when I'd got th out of the wan, as was close on seven o'clock, felt as do no more I couldn't that night, so I says to Mrs. Challin about 'er business, and locks t and goes over to Mrs. Padwick's to 'ave my for I 'adn't 'ad no tea, and says to 'er, things may take care of theirselves for to as I'd got my bit of silver and a few thin valued most along with me, and says, "I'll bed early," and so I did, 'opin' for a good a-makin' up my mind not to 'ave breakfast past eight at the werry earliest next mornin. considers late even when you've nothink par do like Sunday mornin', but the woice of t gard, as the sayin' is, when you're busy. I I 'adn't been a-thinkin' about Disreely nor other pollytics thro' bein' too busy all da whyever I should be a-standin' in a crowd all a-makin' a row and a-talkin' and a-sa they'd come to wait on 'im, I can't think, as from Cherrin' Cross down to 'em two 'O Parlymint, so I says, "Bless my 'art," to a as were a-standin' near to me, as I kno be Wolly tho' he'd got a false nose on, "Wotever is up?"

"Oh," he says, "the British public as is

outraged at me a-bein' sent to prisin for contempt of Court."

"Well," I says, "certingly you always was beneath contempt, in my opinion, and a poor old man as 'is 'armless tho' werry offensive; but," I says, "as to the British public a-carin' whether you're 'anged, drored, and quartered, as your betters 'as been afore you, don't you believe it, my boy."

"You be blowed," says a party, a-turnin' fierce on 'im, "who are you but a ass, as 'ave ruined heverythink as you touches."

"Come, come, Onslar," says Wolly, "don't you turn on me like that."

"Turn on you, I should like to stick you, to think of the money as I've lost thro' you, and my seat too."

Says a man, "I'm blessed if I don't 'ave my money, to set there for nearly two 'undred days on that bloated beast, and now not get paid arter all wot we was promised."

"But," I says, "Disreely can't 'elp that, cos it was Gladstin's lot as done it."

"Oh! it's all the same, there's six of one and 'arf a dozen of the other," says the Prince of Wales to me in a under tone, "here I am come with my wife and family for a depitation to ask old Dizzy to take the dooty off soap, cos washin' is downright ruin."

“ Ah ! ” I says, “ it do run into n
young family, and them small thing
like socks and sich like, tho’ they tak
dozen ; and now suppose you don’t li
washin’ done at ’ome, cos of that
Duchess a-bein’ able to see the things
from ’er winders in your back gardin,
a ’ouse look well, I must say.

There was two fieldmales a-scrout
much, so I says, “ Ladies, it ain’t no g

“ Oh ! ain’t it,” says one, “ I know
that, don’t I, Mrs. Tredgitt ? ”

“ That you do, Mrs. Jury,” said t
is a ornymment to your sect, and rit
letters.”

“ You’re another,” said Mrs. Jury

“ Wotever are you a-doin’ ’ere ? ”

“ Oh ! we’re a depitation,” says M
ask Disreely to let that there barr
Millbank, as is the right man in the
and been a true friend to me ; and as
Charley, I should like to see ’im ’un
’adn’t no right to come and interfere
game, as was a-makin’ a werry nice
that there stout party, and he must c
to be let into the little game, as I alw
lettin’ ’im in, and rote with my own
Wolly and Onslar not to give ’im not

"Ah! there ain't no justiss in this world," says Mrs. Tredgitt, with a sigh, "not even the Chief Justiss, as I've rote to with my own 'ands, and never 'ad the peritiness to anser my letter, as can't be no gentleman, and means to rite to Queen Wictorier, if Disreely don't do a somethink for us."

"I say," says a voice, "you Martha Brown, you gib me back my umbreller."

I turns, and there were King Coffee and a lot of them denuded blacks of 'is all round. I says, "Go along with you, Queen Wictorier's got your umbreller, as is too much the lady to keep it now as you've come over here, cos it's a thing as you can't possibly do without in London. But," I says, "wotever made you come over 'ere with all this lot, and 'ardly no clothes on."

"Oh!" he says, "me come and see Massa Disreely, as am a depitation."

"If he don't give us Home Rule we'll be afther sayin' a word or two," says a Hirishman, close agin my ear, with a reg'lar crowd behind 'im.

I says, "Mussy on us, Doctor Cummin, surely you ain't of the Hirish persuasion?"

"Ain't I tho', jewel," he says, with a wink, as made me turn away my 'ead for he've got a werry perswadin' eye, as I'm told he uses werry free in the pulpit.

"I will never rest till I get them iniquitous liquor

laws repealed," says a loud voice as was Mannin', "and I've jest walked down from well Green with ten thousand publicans and if Disreely won't receive us in a privy shall feel very much 'urt."

"Who are you?" says a fat man with a low billycock 'at on, as I knowed were said, "I'm 'ere with all the costermongers to wait on Disreely, cos we'll 'ave total cos we never touches nothink speritua and nobody else shan't."

I says, "Don't you think to get your Queen Wictorier in 'er own royal speech as she will 'ave 'em licker laws altered course she ever wants to send for a brandy in church-time thro' suddin' illne 'ave a feelin' 'art, like a true queen; bes might be left without a drain in the 'ouse s in movin' about without 'er keys and want for a friend as dropped in promiscuous says, "mussy on us, you ain't all a-goin' poor man, Disreely, at once as will go di

For besides 'em others there wa Wolsey and all 'is sojers come from the as said as the Merrykins 'ad been and sw out of their loot. Then there was the 'i the Jews and Petticoat Lane at 'is back, agin the Riteralists; and all the Bishop

s and hrs a
ne Riteralists en

row for to 'ave the 'Stablished Church put down, and the Wesleyans and Baptists they was all for church-rates; and the publicans, they would 'ave a heavy tax on all lickens. So I says, "Mussy on us, why, Bedlam broke loose, as the sayin' is, ain't nothink to this."

"It ain't indeed," says a voice, and there set poor old Dizzy, with 'is 'air in paper and 'is feet in 'ot water, and taller on 'is nose, reg'lar bunged up with a cold.

I says, "You 'ave got a nice one, you 'ave, old boy; but," I says, "don't keep in 'ot water too long."

"Oh!" he says, "I'm tryin' to get used to it, for it's wot I never expects to be out on any more."

"Ah! I see," I says, "and that's why you've tallered your nose, cos you fully expects as you'll 'ave to take kindly to taller to please the Rooshins."

"Oh," he says, "there ain't much the matter with me, but if I was to get up and dress myself I should be killed with them depitations, as won't let me 'ave no peace, for I 'adn't 'ardly got into the hoffice, as Gladstin's lot 'ad left in a nice mess, I can tell 'you, when they come down on me like 'ale, as'll be a week's work to get the dustman to clear out the waste-paper and rubbish."

"Ah," I says, "if they comes round reg wot they never does, and then won't ta rubbish such as no doubt Gladstin 'ave lef not under sixpence sometimes, tho', if you advice, you'll stick to tuppence every tim comes, and then don't give no Christmas-b

Says Queen Wictorier to me, "Wot a you are to be sure, Mrs. Brown; I only w your 'ead for business, for I'm sure you'd a little fortin in kitchen-stuff alone." says, "Now, Benjamin, do look sharp an with that there whitewashin' of yourn."

And I looks round, and there were I white jacket and a paper-cap, a-stand box, on the top of a table, a whitewa ceilin'.

"'Ave you rote out that speech for n Queen Wictorier.

"Why," says he, "you sent it back alter, and I've been and read it out to 'em

"Well," says she, "and wot did they

"Why, some 'on 'em says as I've copied it out of a old one as Gladstin rot

"Yah! and so you did," says Gladsti in at the winder, as were pushed down

"Yah! I wouldn't be mean."

If Disreely didn't take and shake 'is brush all in Gladstin's face, as took an

in at the winder, when up comes John Brown, and give 'em a back'ander a-piece, as made Dizzy blubber, and sent Gladstin a-'owlin' down the street with 'is eye bunged up with whitewash.

So I says to Dizzy, "I must say as it serves you both right, a-quarrelin' under Queen Wictorier's werry nose."

He says, "You ain't Queen Wictorier."

I says, "I never said I was; but," I says, "she were 'ere jest now, and is somewhere close at 'and, for she's givin' a look round the premissis, and ain't a-goin' to leave heverythink to you."

"Well, she ain't got much by leavin' things to Gladstin," says he, "and I'm blessed if I stands arf as that poor feller were obligated to put up with, as I can't 'elp a-pityin'; and as to 'Ome Rule, I won't 'ave it, nor yet no Licker Laws."

"Well," says Queen Wictorier, a-puttin' 'er 'ead in at the door, "I tell you wot it is, somethink must be done to stop this 'ere wife-murder; a nice thing it'll be for the Rooshins to read in the papers the way as Englishmen kills their wives, and jeers over their dead bodies. Why, I shall 'ave the Hemperor of Roosher a-sendin' a fleet up to 'Ungerford Wharf for to purtect 'is dorter, as will be werry illconvenient for the penny steamers."

Says Spurgin, "Then why not 'ead a whisky war, like Merryker? cos it's all owin' to drink; and

if you was to send Mrs. Brown at t
the fieldmales in England, she'd soon

I says, "Mrs. Brown wouldn't do n
sort, 'còs she ain't a fool; no more
Wictorier, as might as well make a
brutes should'nt 'ave no wives to murder
all the women off to Horsetralia; co
the world lasts parties will get drink so
I says, "'ow about hedication and C
'ave been all the go so many years?
parties myself a-talkin' about our be
people."

"So we are," says Spurgin.

"Oh yes!" says all the Bisho
Cummin, all a-settin' round a-groanin'

"Well," I says, "in my opinion yo
than your naybours, tho' you ain't got
mune yet, as'll come if you don't loo
and 'ave lots of perlice to purtect the
poor."

Says Dizzy to me, "Now, Mrs. B
been and cleaned myself, wot would
do?"

I says, "That's a puzzle, that is, as
out, tho' my good gentleman he do of
me all manner about polytics as I d
stand myself, tho' I can see as someth
somewheres, the same as there was

about Matilder Purblick's panier, thro' bein' all over 'er left 'ip, as I couldn't set it right thro' er bein' as crooked as a ram's 'orn, as the sayin' is, and only made it wuss in tryin' to do my best; for in a-goin' to pull it into the middle of 'er waist behind, if I didn't take and tear it out by the roots, as she'd bought ready made, as made 'er bust into tears, and call me a meddlin' old fool, as weren't perlite, tho' I escused 'er, cos it were aggrawatin' certingly, with 'er young man a-waitin' for 'er jest round the corner, as dursn't 'ave 'im call at 'er own 'ome, thro' 'er father bein' that wiolent over the Sabbith, as he makes the 'ouse a little 'ell upon hearth all day long, thro' keepin' it that strict."

Says Dizzy to me, "I should like to see that gal."

I says, "Well, you might, any Sunday evenin' as you was to go to Spurgin's, for she never misses 'im."

"Why," he says, "he's gone to Rome."

"Ah!" I says, "I dessay."

"And they're goin' to give 'im a 'at," says Dizzy.

"Not afore he wants one," says I, "for he'd a blackguard thing on 'is 'ead last time as I see 'im; but he looks a jolly sort, and 'im and the Pope will be fust-rate friends, no doubt, cos he's that afferble and will remind 'im of Archbishop Mannin'."

that a
Mannin'." "m

Says Dizzy, "I've got a great secret"

I says, "Wot is it?"

"Why," he says, "mum," and he goes to bed and jest then I woke up; and never did I get disappointed at it all bein' a dream, cos I rubbed my eyes and tried for to finish that dream, but it not come back, tho' I couldn't 'ardly be in them parties as I'd seen was all dreams, and 'ad, arter talkin' to Queen Wictoria, and reely, and them depitations, I was sure it's so singler' for me to be a-dreamin' and then wake up and go off agin, a-dreamin' about the same things, tho' you left off. For it were jest five when I a-tellin' Dizzy all about poor Matilder's. I 'eard the church clock strikin', and afore I were off agin, and there stood a woman dressed in 'is best, with a lovely buttoned coat, but didn't go on with 'is secret, but

"Mrs. Brown, I'm a-waitin' for you."

I says, "Wot for?"

He says, "To make you my lorful wife."

I says, "Get along with you; you're drunkin', as must 'ave been overnight, and 'ere 'e's 'ere early. Why," I says, "my good man, I'm a woman, with a reglar trump for a 'usband."

"Ah!" he says, "but he don't 'arf at me, 'cos 'e's sich a downright treasury as he've got in

"Ah!" I says, "I knows as you're fust lord on it, but you don't get me to be your lady."

"Oh!" he says, "why not? We can get a diworce; and," he says, "I wants to ask you so many questions about all manner."

"Then," I says, "if you want a treasury, why not take and marry that there Baroness Coutts, as they do say is worth millyons upon millyons, and must be, I should say, by wot she gives away; not but wot she never didn't ought to 'ave built that there Columbier Markit, and if she'd 'ave spoke to me, I'd 'ave give 'er a straight tip over it, as the sayin' is. Not as ever I'll believe as she give the money to that there Ortin."

Says Dizzy, "Well, if you won't 'ave me I can't 'elp it, and must tell Queen Wictorier so, as 'ave set 'er 'art on it; and 'owever I'm to govern the country without you I can't think, cos Martha's got 'er 'ead on, as was 'er Majesty's own words to me in partin'."

I says, "I don't believe as ever Queen Wictorier would 'old with no diworces, cos I've 'eard say as she've left strict orders, as not one on 'em is ever to be let in to see 'er drorin'-room, and tho' one or two 'ave got in on the sly, she's 'ad 'em turned out, like Mrs. Johnson the other day; not as I knows anythink agin Mrs. Johnson."

Says Dizzy, "Why were she turned out?"

I says "'Owever, should I know, as only knowed

ed out?
as only kirk yll

three parties in the name, as one were in line, as might 'ave made a fortin, and court thro' 'er money, as is the way there; and I knowed Mrs. Johnson, corn-cutter, but she's dead, or might there to look arter the royal foot, not as as Queen Wictorier would 'ave 'er corn drorin'-room; and then there were a M in the second and wardrobe line, but 'er was such to me in buyin' a velvet mant didn't suit me, that if she used 'arf on i Wictorier, she'd 'ave took and 'ad 'er like a knife, as the sayin' is, and right s opinion." I says, "'er character were as the sayin' is, and a woman as 'ave dis self, there's a end on 'er, she's jest for a as if she lost a eye or a leg, and tho' p pity 'er she must go blind one side, and all the rest of 'er life, and be a outcas 'er right, she've been and made 'er b must lay on it."

"Ah!" says a fieldmale, as Dizzy we to over the bannisters, as he called I a-lookin' at me quite savidge, "that's says of me, and that's why I've been tu

I says, "And right they are, so n and 'ook it back to Belgium."

"Yes," says a bishop, as was st

"Yes," "Yes,"

"you're right, Mrs. Brown, for she imposed upon me, as 'ave actually took 'er down to dinner and let my wife talk to 'er."

"Ah!" says a party, "but it's lovely to 'ear them fallin' parties a-goin' about a-preachin' and givin' of tracts."

"Take one, Mrs. Brown," says a fieldmale, as some spoke to in the name of Lawrer.

"No," I says, "thank you, I never were in your line, and don't want to begin; and as to preachin' I think the least said the soonest mended, as the sayin' is. Cos them as lives in glass 'ouses didn'tought to throw stones."

Says Queen Wictorier, a-callin' to me over the stairs, "Mrs. Brown, don't waste your time down there, over sich parties, as is only gammon with their tracts, and thinks as thro' givin' 'em they'll gets leave to come up and see me, but I ain't sich a green'orn; so are you ready, cos we shall be late for the boat race?"

"Well," I says, "we're a-goin' there, ain't we, in this 'ere werry bus as puts us down close agin Putney Bridge?"

Says Queen Wictorier to me, "Buses is great conweniences."

"Ah!" I says, "right you are, your Majesty, but," I says, "they might give us a little more room, and parties in general makes themselves

werry unpleasant in 'em, cos when you parties as is there aready, seems to con quite a intruder, and won't make no room neither side, and if you 'appens to be sto fools as sets a-grinnin', and some on 'em considers theirselves clever illudes to your talks about plenty of room for a little or manner like that, and then objects to set and will turn round to look out of the wi squeeze you up; and as to umbrellers, downright plague of Egyp', as the sayin' is

Says Queen Wictorier, "I've got King all right."

I says, "Why, you give it to me."

She says, "Oh! that were only moment, jest to throw dust into the He Roosher's eyes, and make 'im come down as he certingly 'ave done."

"Ah!" I says, "so I see by the pa am glad as 'is dorter is a-goin' to stic religion, tho' she don't seem to care v children goes to; nor more don't their g is wot I calls takin' liberties with conshen

Says Queen Wictorier to me, "Well Mrs. Brown, 'im and me never couldn't partickler about them things, with a lot of marry, cos it makes sich a deal of bother in

Says a stout party, as were a-settin'

"a-eatin' of a bun, as Queen Wictorier said were Dr. Pusey, "Ah!" he says, "if only I 'ad my way, I'd soon settle it, for I'd make everybody agree with me, as ain't no Riteralist myself, tho' I likes it in others, and if only they make me Pope——"

"Escuse me," says Dr. Cummin, "I'm a-goin' to be the next one, as Beastmark 'ave promised me."

"I wish as you'd move your wet umbreller, as his all a-drippin' into my Oxford shoes," says Gladstin to a party as 'ad jest got in, as were Disreely.

"Move it yourself," he says, as was soaked thro' and out of temper.

"You're no gentleman," says Pusey to the party next 'im, "to take and use my 'ankercher."

"I never said I was," says Cummin, "and only wiped my mouth with the corner on it."

"And right you are," says I, "cos self-praise ain't no recommendation, but," I says, "don't talk so loud, or you'll wake Queen Wictorier, as is nod-din' in the corner of the bus."

"Fares for Wictorier," says the conductor, and both Gladstin and Dizzy 'ollers out, "We'll pay for 'er."

"I can pay for myself," says Queen Wictorier, awakin' up.

"I says, "Don't pay 'im nothink, as 'ave brought us wrong, as ain't goin' to Putney at all."

as 'ave b
at all."

"You got in at the Marble Harch," says the feller, out of the crowd, awaitin' to see the marridge go by.

"Ah!" I says to Queen Wictorier, "be nicely sold, won't they?"

Says Gladstin, "I'm reg'lar sold."

"But," I says, "where's Queen Wictorier as were up in that corner a minit ago?"

Says a sojer a-settin' next me, "Whi nearest way to Winsor?"

"Law," I says, "why, you must be C Wolsey, as 'ave come over from A shanty in But wotever did you bring them nasty black beasts with you for, as nearly frighte Mrs. Bewley to death, as 'll come round a-lookin' in a shop winder in the Strand la day night."

He says, "In course they're all black decent mornin' for their friends as 'ave be in battle."

I says, "I won't stop in the bus with ain't got no proper clothes on. Let me out, "let me out," and I were a-fightin' like ma get past all them blacks, as was a-settin' parties' knees, and 'adn't nothink 'ardly on shells and feathers, as is very well for birds, but ain't proper for Christshuns to in, tho' they are black by natur'.

Well, jest then a voice says, "It's time you was a-gettin' up, mum, I think," and who should it be but Mrs. Challin', as 'ad come with a tap, for I told 'er to call for me 'twixt eight and nine, and Mrs. Padwick 'ad made 'er 'ave a cup of tea along with 'er gal; so up I jumps, and when I'd got down, on we went to my new place, as is jest four streets off; and when we got into the street, the fust thing as met my eye were the outside of the 'ouse, a skelinton, reg'lar gutted, with two firemen at the door.

I did not drop cos I felt it were a dooty to 'old up, and if they didn't say as that place 'adn't took fire jest arter ten o'clock, and was down by eleven o'clock, thro' the ingins not a-comin' till it were nearly out, as burnt fast thro' its bein' a old dried-up house.

But whoever set it alight, I can't think; and it's a mussy as we wasn't all burnt in it, as we should 'ave been but for the things not a-comin' in, as shows 'ow little we knows wot's best for us in this world; so I did feel that thankful, partickler as Brown 'ad been and transferred the insurance afore he left town, so we got all the money, and tho' there was things as I valued more than money's worth, yet arter all, to 'ave everythink new and clean ain't so bad, so you see as one move were as good as a fire to me, as the sayin' is, but am

sure as that fire were foretold in my dream. Queen Wictoria in a bus must 'ave meant to think out of the way, cos tho' too much to look down on a bus, yet no call to get in not but wot she'd enjoy it, for I will say 'eard conversations in them public conveniences is quite equal to Parlyment, and a deal better; and that's where I fust 'eard about Mr. Gitt and Mrs. Jury, as is ladies anyone must and a pleasure to know, as shows if Orthodoxy a family of barrernites, they did ought to 'ave their rights; and as to that their fellow bank bein' ashamed of 'is name, and not ashamed to it, why, I'd keep 'im on bread and water did; as did ought to be proud on it, and proud 'avin' sich a brother and sisters, as would give fire and water for 'im, and will do so yet, now.

But we ain't a-goin' to furnish agin jests and Brown, so am a-stayin' along with Mrs. Wick, for he's backards and forards constant and she's got a werry nice bed-room with a poster, as is wot I wouldn't trust myself in where, but ain't afeard through knowin' 'er as is took down every spring and every year looked into, besides a room as I can set in a bird's-eye view of the underground railway too far off to shake the house, tho' I can't tremblin' when in bed sometimes as remind

a earthquake a-rumblin', as is 'ow I come to dream as Disreely were Guy Fox, and a-goin' to blow up Parlyment cos they wouldn't listen to Gladstin, as he let me into the secret over a cup of tea, as we was takin' quite friendly, that real as I could 'ave swore as I might 'ave pinched 'im, so in course told Queen Wictorier, as stopped 'im, as I must 'ave dremt, cos I'd been down to Parlyment for to see them members all a-comin' to 'ear wot Queen Wictorier 'ad got to say for 'erself, tho' in course she didn't come 'erself, and she only says wot they puts in 'er mouth, dear creature, as wouldn't 'arm a fly. So me and Mrs. Padwick 'ad went down arter a early cup of tea and stood about for to see them members a-goin' in, tho' we only saw a few, as was werry disappointin', and 'ad gone 'ome by the bus a-readin' of the Queen's speech in a hevenin' paper, as was jest the same as 'earin' it from 'er own lips, and I must say as I were pleased at 'er illudin' to them licker laws, as shows she've got a feelin' 'art, as can look with a eye of pity on any one as is famishin' for 'arf a pint, and tho' the Archbishop of Canterbury is a-goin' to give up intoxicatin' drinks cos of 'is 'ealth sufferin' thro' em, that ain't no reason as others shouldn't 'ave a friendly glass like Archbishop Mannin' as is the cup that cheers but don't inebriate, as the sayin' is, and can smile and look that cheerful over a cup of tea jest the same as a bowl of

punch, as shows a light 'art, and not on look on is enuf to freeze a pump, or turn all in a dairy, as is jest the way with some, and were Mrs. Ockley's looks, as 'ad a milk were ugly enough, goodness knows, with forrin aid of horniment, as I'm sure that bro of 'ern didn't take a year off, but rather pu on, not as ever she 'ad any cause to be j me, goodness knows, tho' Ockley 'ad a way with 'im over the new-laid eg did use to 'ave once on a time a good many a-sendin' 'em to Lady Wittles's dorter as we a-layin' on a deal board thro' 'er spine a out, but I'm sure while she were above g don't think as Ockley 'ad made up 'is mi minit about 'is second, tho' bein' a decent n ways, as no one couldn't call a man or a either, as had agreed to marry agin afore th was out of 'er body, as was, Jane Selfort's d ways, as were engaged three months afore ried 'im, but always thinks it was 'er old fi 'er mother as put 'er up to it; tho' not one fere with my neighbours' affairs myself, tho' sometimes to give any one a 'int in the rig tion as might save the innercent, and m guilty tremble, as the sayin' is; like I c Sinful, and that's 'ow it were as I knowe that there Jem Slaney's tricks, as nothink

escuse, cos in course tho' Mrs. Alders were a fool, as I always considered 'er, and a deal too much chapel-goin' for me, with a bundle of wood short; and as to light weights, she were known by it all over the place, and fined three times, as is 'ow she was able to dress that smart, as don't look well at 'er time of life, not as that's any business of mine, but will never stand by and see willany, not done by my greatest enemy, tho' I don't consider 'er as such, but never dealt with 'er no more arter that duffin five-shillin' piece as she passed on me, and then denied to on 'er oath.

I always 'ad my suspicions as she were a-goin' to marry agin, thro' a-suspectin' at one time as there were a somethin' on the trapeze, as the French says, atween 'er and Mr. Ockley, the cow-keeper, as soon as he were a widerer, tho' no mourner, and not even pretendin' to as 'ow ever he should be, I can't think, for of all the women to go on, it were 'is late wife, and better late than never, as the sayin' is, for she was years older than 'im, and might 'ave lived to see 'im under the sod; but the cramps was too many for 'er, a-settlin' in the 'art, so didn't lay many weeks from the time as she took cold at the back-door a-watchin' 'im a-givin' out the milk, as was all 'er jealous ways without no foundation, but a strong easterly wind a-blowin' with a drivin' rain, as settled 'er 'ash under a month, as the sayin' is.

But never did I think as Mrs. Alder w
and marry 'er own prentiss, a mere boy in
of Slaney, not out of 'is time, and a poor
whipper-snapper with weak eyes, as did
come round with a pair of sleeves on, and
and candles, thro' 'er bein' in the chandler
was a fine business, tho' a poky shop i
time, but soon come to ducks and drak
sayin' is, with a boy of eighteen for the
it, as weren't fit for a prentiss.

Nicely she paid for 'er foolishness, as v
'im tho' 'is own father forbid the banns t
dragged 'im forcible out of the church in
wheel cab, but managed to give 'im the slip
married at the Register arter all.

She 'adn't been 'is wife not three w
he begun for to show 'is clover foot, as
is, as was drink and late 'ours, and never
to 'is chapel, as he were that reg'lar at, th
a day Sunday and twice a week afore ma
was what made 'er fancy 'im—leastway
said; and then to find 'im a mask of de
'ad been a-keepin' company with two yo
and deceived both, as was their own fa
little did they think as me a-livin' over
Lambeth should know all about Mrs. Alder
close agin the London 'Orspital, and com
the gaff, as the sayin' is.

But 'ow I come to find it out, were thro' a-walkin' in the Boro' one evenin', and askin' the price of some bits of floor-cloth at a broker's, as said he'd some smaller bits inside, thro' what was at the door bein' too large for what I wanted.

So I steps inside, with my back to the door, a-waitin' for 'im to reach 'em down when I 'ears a voice as I thought I knowed, ask the price of a chest of drawers.

The man asked me to escuse 'im a instant, and goes to answer the party as was in a 'urry.

I was a-standin' by a shower-bath as 'ad curtings round it, and a-lookin' thro' 'em who should I see but that Jem Slaney along with Ann Sanders. I stood and watched 'em, and that broker kep' on a-talkin' and a-chaffin' on 'em over gettin' married, as I 'eard 'er say, with my own ears, as their banns was a-goin' to be put up the next Sunday arter.

Well, I was a-thinkin' what I should do, but let 'em walk on, merely a-remarkin' to that broker when they was gone as, "A many got 'married as was sorry for it arterwards."

He said as, "That were true, but," he says, "they're the right sort, for I knows the chapel as he attends werry reg'lar, and 'er too, for that matter."

oo, for

“Ah!” I says, “indeed!” and ’avin’ two little bits of oil-cloth as I wanted washin’-stands, I walks myself off.

I must say as I were sorry for the knowed were in a shop in Newington come ’ome every other Saturday to ’er our street; and as to that waggerbone, like to ’ave rung ’is neck tho’ I didn’t pi of a wife, not a bit, as were old enough grandmother, so a-thinkin’ as she didn’t warnin’ I made up my mind as I’d only Mrs. Sanders, as I’d know’d from gal’o might say, tho’ not one as ever I’d made a thro’ bein’ full of ’er lies and braggindosh sayin’ is; for when she were a-goin’ Sanders, as was only a workin’ brazier out as he were quite the gentleman and v in his carriage some day, and so he did su and the Queen’s too, tho’ only the perlic he was in with a lot of bank-note forgers penal servitude for five years over it.

I ’adn’t set eyes on ’er for years, when a-standin’ at the door of a ’ouse close to spoke friendly, as told me she was a-li ’avin’ took ’arf the ’ouse; not as I wan be intimate like with ’er agin, a well kno a tongue she’d got for abusin’ anyone, as myself, so give ’er a wide berth, as the

she’eda er
if, so givg oa, l

ever arter, not a-likin' any one as will fly out at you like ravin' bulls for nothink; leastways only a slip of the tongue as mine were quite unintentional.

For me and 'er, tho' neighbours near Stepney Church, 'adn't spoke for over two years thro' 'er a-takin' offence over me a-makin' a joke about a five-pound note as I were a-gettin' change for when 'er and me was out a-shoppin' together one day, and says to the young man as took it, and asked me to put my name on the back, "Oh, it's all right!" I says, "for we ain't no smashers, are we, Mrs. Sanders?" never givin' a thought about 'er 'usban'.

She didn't say nothink till we got into the street and then give it me 'ot, and bounced 'erself into a bus as were a-passin', a-leavin' me 'arf putrified on the pavement, and never know'd as she'd been and moved to over the water thro' a-losin' sight of 'er, till that day.

So tho' perlite, we didn't say nothink much to one another for she's a 'aughty spirit, so I 'ave myself for that matter, and wouldn't stoop for to poke my nose into any one's door not wanted, and that's why as she'd never let me know as she lived there, as 'ow she could do it I can't think, as 'arf the 'ouse would run into money, as I'm sure she couldn't never afford with 'im 'avin' deserted 'er afore he took to forgin', not as ever she was one to

complain, and 'eld 'er 'ead that 'igh a-marketin' with only a redicule, and in passin' our door, tho' next door but

So I was a-askin' Brown what he th me a-tellin' Mrs. Sanders, as only sa yourself, as 'ill get no thanks for your p

I says, "And don't espect none dooty, as I considers it to try and s gal."

"Well," he says, "that's right, tha sure as you can't save 'er if she wont but any'ow, you'd better let the mother

And so I did, a-'ritin' 'er a note tha were word for word only this—

"Mrs. Brown begs for to inform Mr it's my opinion as your daughter Ann company with a married man in the nar So no more at present, from yours obed

I sent the note in by the gal on thro' bein' so near, and it wasn't no 'arf-past nine Monday as Mrs. Sande a-flamin' like a turkey-cock, as the sa says, "Did you send me this scrawl?" my note.

I were a-standin' at the door when a-speakin' to the butterman, as 'ad downright cart-grease, so I says to inside, mum, if you've got anythink to

akn
wnright
side, m m, m m m, ebiside
side, m m, m m m, episide

nt case in
mum, ii, m m m

not 'old with brawls as disturbs the street, and should be peace at 'ome."

She says, "I don't want to come into your place."

"Well then," I says, "stop out," and I takes and shets the door in 'er face, as in course I knows ain't actin' like a lady, in the reg'lar way, but I couldn't 'ave 'er standin' there a-'ollerin' at me.

She called me all the old fish-fags as she could lay 'er tongue to thro' the key 'ole, and made that butterman's boy shout with larfture all down the street.

It couldn't 'ave been more than eleven, when bein' werry busy with starchin' a few fine things in the front kitchen, the gal come and said as there were a lady as wanted me immediate.

So I didn't wait for to do more than dry my 'ands, and up I goes, and there set Mrs. Alder, leastways Mrs. Slaney I should say, with a wail down, a-sobbin' like mad.

I says, "Whatever is the matter?"

She says, "You knows all about it, Mrs. Brown, so don't deceive me."

I says, "About what?" a-guessin' as she were willudin' to that scamp of 'ern.

"Oh," she says, "my James, my beloved 'usban', my own dear."

I says, "What's to do with him?"

?"

"Why," she says, "he's dead and drowned hisself, or wuss."

"Law," I says, "you don't say so."

"Yes," she says, "and all thro' you."

I says, "Thro' me, why I ain't seen since last Friday, when I see 'im in the street with Ann Sanders a-buyin' furnitur."

She give a shriek and says, "It's false as steel, and doated on the ground on."

I couldn't 'ardly 'elp a-bustin' out my face, but in course kep' my feelin's went on for to tell me as he 'adn't been three days nor nights, and 'ad sent a-sayin' as 'is days was numbered, Brown 'ad been and pisoned 'is esistence with base false'oods.

I says, "Me pison 'is esistence, and give 'im bit nor sup, as the sayin' is, nor of bread and treacle over nine year ago, could I do it, my good soul."

"Well," she says, "he means as you 'ave 'is mind miserable."

"Made 'is mind miserable, indeed, but he means, thro' a-tellin' that poor gal that he were a married man, tho' nothink of a boy."

Well, that put the old fool out,

“I thank you to speak respectful of my ’usban’; for I won’t set and ’ear ’im run down not dead nor alive.”

I says, “I don’t want to run ’im down, tho’ I’m pretty sure he’s not dead.”

While we was a-talkin’, in bounces Mrs. Sanders, without, with your leaf, or by your leaf, as the sayin’ is, and says “Mrs. Brown, where’s my gal?”

I says, “Bother your gal and you too. ’Ow should I know, as ’aven’t see nor ’eard nothink of ’er, as I were a-tellin’ Mrs. Slaney ’ere since Friday last.”

“Then,” she says, “what does she mean by ritin’ on a bit of paper, ‘Mother, I’m gone, and Mrs. Brown will tell you all about it.’”

I says, “Mrs. Brown only knows what she’s told you, and ’ere sets that feller’s good lady to speak for ’erself; but,” I says, “when did you miss her?”

She says, “Not ’arf a ’our ago, as left this bit of paper with old Mrs. Chaldrin, as lives jest round the corner, and comes in for ’arf a day’s charin’, a-tellin’ ’er not to give it me till to-morrer, as did ’er dooty in a-comin’ with it right straight off.”

“Well then,” I says, “she can’t be got far, and,” I says to Mrs. Slaney, “when did you see your beauty last?” as kep’ on a-weepin’ and a-wailin’ as I couldn’t ’ardly understand ’er, as only ’eld out

and a-
, as only ’o’ vli

the note as she'd got from 'im accusin' me of 'is esistence.

I looks at the antelope and sees as London post-mark, and posted the v afore; so I says, "Well, he ain't gone do it."

Then I asks Mrs. Chaldrin, as for Sanders in, when Ann Sanders 'ad gi note, as was a-standin' on the mat all o as said as it were not a 'our ago.

"Well then," I says, "it's my opinio agreed for to meet somewheres this mo do believe as the Boro' is their 'aunts, a "that's where you'll ketch 'em, and," I go with you and show you the spot, as a-walkin' together, and 'eard 'em ask some things at a broker's shop."

Says Mrs. Sanders, as 'er pride 'ad "No doubt as you're right, for yesterd Sunday 'ome, and I told 'er about you first thing yesterday mornin', as I got i evenin', and wouldn't say nothink on the

I says, "Did she go to chapel last ni "Oh!" she says, "yes, and would were it ever so."

"Ah!" I says, "then that's it; no "let's go to the Boro;" and off we starte to that broker's shop, leastways, I did

to the edit of
broker's record

Slaney and Mrs. Sanders a-waitin' round the corner.

I asks the price of a clothes-'orse as were at the door, as were a thing I were a-lookin' out for, as that broker said would not suit me, thro' a-wantin' new 'inges, as he would put for a trifle.

So I says to 'im quite casual-like, "'Ave them young parties got married yet, as was 'ere last week about the drawers."

"Well," he says, "it's my opinion as they was to be this werry mornin', for he was in the westry of our chapel last night, and said as he were a-goin' abroad for a time, and was a-goin' to take tracts for to convert the natives."

"Law," I says, "wherever can he be a-goin', among wild savages like that?"

"Oh, no," he says, "it's the Catholics as he's a-goin' to convert, as is full of their superstishuns over there."

I says, "Where about, I wonders?"

Jest then he says, "Why, there they both are in a cab, a-goin' to chapel, no doubt." And sure enuf there they both was.

I says, "Take a cab, and go along with this lady," for Mrs. Slaney 'ad came up to the door, "and foller 'em up, for," I says, "it's life and death; and will be somethink 'andsome in your pocket."

andsome

He were off like a shot, and me Sanders got another cab and follered, and was in chapel just in time to see sich a scrimmag was Slaney as pale as death, with 'is face a and 'is 'air upset, and there was the minis Mrs. Slaney's arms, as 'ad been a-p 'im ; and as to poor Mary Ann, she were floor a-kickin', with the broker a-tryin' 'er with 'is knee, so me and Mrs. Sande picked 'er up, and 'er mother give 'er a and pulled 'er out of the place and into took 'er 'ome. I wouldn't go along with I says, "Now I've done my dooty, I'n more from me, as may settle it your own no doubt they will, thro' bein' all together, as 'ave got their own notions and wrong, and is licensed for to marry pleases, and can get divorced when they some, now-a-days, gets diworced, and it up, and marries one another over plenty of work for the lawyers and pars so that's why I never interferences with tho' I've got a name for it.

But as to politics, I feels quite out of as the sayin' is, tho' I'm sure I read enu as is why they runs in my 'ead that nights. And see Disrcely reglar 'a a-sayin' three nights a-runnin': "M

these 'ere depitations will be the death on me, do see some on 'em for me," and there he were standin' with 'is back agin the room door, as parties was a-tryin' to shove open. He says, "I won't let 'em in. Oh! pray come, Mrs. Brown, and throw your weight agin it; for it's the Fenians a-tryin' to get out of prisin."

"Wot," I says, "them wretches as blowed up the wall in Clerkenwell, and killed and injured innercent people in their own 'omes, let alone the furnitur as were blowed to bits." So I puts my back agin the door, a-runnin' at it backard with all my force, and then some one give a yell, as said "Oh! my fingers."

I says, "Who's got 'is fingers there?" And if it weren't Gladstin, as said he were a-goin' to advise three courses; but, law! he were cut short by Queen Wictorier, who said, "Am I Queen, or am I not, Mrs. Brown?"

I says, "In course you are, your Majesty."

Then she says, "I won't 'ave the publics all shet up in this way, for 'owever is parties as 'ave been a-standin' in the snow for 'ours a-seein' me and my new dorter-in-law, as I'm proud on, go by, to stop out arterwards and see the 'luminations, if they can't get a drop of supper beer when they gets 'ome, tired as dogs, as the sayin' is?"

I says, "Bless your royal 'art, as is a true-born

Britten to your backbone, and won't st
see us done out of our beer, as 'ave
millyons as is ready to shed their last dr
and a nice thing if them troops as lande
mouth couldn't 'ave got a cool pint
the werry least, the moment as they got
to drink your Majesty's 'ealth; and no
Cardinal Wolsey 'isself and 'is good la
their shoulders over a pot with a 'ead
must 'ave injoyed arter that 'ot Afriks
sand and fevers, I've eard; but," I says
can't stop a-gossipin' 'ere, for I've prom
into Parlyment along with Mrs. Padwick

Says Dizzy, "Look sharp, old gal,
elect you Speaker."

I says, "Young man, don't you mak
a-callin' me old gal, cos," I says, "tho' y
curl that lovely, you needn't look down
'ave been drove to fronts thro' fevers, or a
poor Mrs. Whistin, as went to 'ave 'er
and if the willin' didn't take and cut la
off behind, and then say as it were a-falli
weakness, and persuaded 'er to 'ave 'er 'e
for to strengthen it, as never growed a
arf a inch, and there she were landed, as
is, with a bald 'ead to 'er dyin' day, a
lovely back 'air as she could set on it, le
she did used to say, tho' I never see a we

it. But, law bless me!" I says to Dizzy, "I never 'ad sich a turn as in goin' down Parlyment Street, for who should I see but a milingtary party as were sweepin' a crossin' in full uniforms and all 'is medals; so I says, 'Who is he?' 'Oh!' says a Bobby, 'that's the Dook of Cambridge, as can't get no justiss out of the 'Orse Guards, so 'ave been and punched the Bishop of London's 'ead as he walked by, and then took to 'is broom, and is a-waitin' for Queen Wictorier to pass, as will, no doubt, throw 'im some coppers, poor fellow, as must feel 'urt, arter all as he've done for 'is country, not to get 'arf pay even, and see others put over 'is ead.'" So I turns round, and if there wasn't Disreely on 'is legs, a-speakin' beautiful, with Gladstin a-settin' oppersite 'im, a-jeerin', and sayin' "'Ear, 'Ear!"

So Disreely says to me, "Jest you take notice, Mrs. Brown, cos Queen Wictorier will believe you."

"Yes," I says, "but 'ow about the Prince of Wales' 'avin' more money? Now, as that there Hemperor of Roosher 'ave come down so 'andsome with 'is dorter, let's up and show as we ain't beggars; and if we've got a royal family, and a fine one, we means to keep 'em as such."

Says the Hemperor of Roosher, a-leanin' over my chair, "Martha, my dear, I can give wot I likes,

for I ain't got no tinkers and tailors a selves Parlyment to bully me; and if stin and Disreely a-darin' to come an' 'arf a word of wot they says to Queen I'd order 'em a round dozen a-piece, a to Siberier, as is where the pickled crab jest to cool their backs."

I see Dizzy turn pale and Gladstin at 'is words. So I says, "You two be afeard; he don't touch a 'air of you

Says Dizzy, "I think you might as a curl, and not 'ave mixed up my 'air grizzly rat's tails of old winegar wisage

I says, "Don't be personal, as did self, and ain't got time to put 'is 'air in night the same as parties as shall be n' 'eard a noise and looks round, and Queen Wictorier in all 'er robes a-set waxwork for loveliness, as says, "Mr Gentlemen,—I'm 'appy to meet you a ment, as is only a mere matter of for says a farce, as is a expression as did 'ave been put in my royal mouth, cos plays now-a-days, any more than Mr tells me she once 'ad a buster over it." pleased at bein' illuded to in the Queen made me say 'ear and 'ear, and 'it the my umbreller.

Disreely give sich a shriek, and says, "Oh! 'ang it," tho' that weren't esactually the word, "my bunion," as made Gladstin bust out a-larfin'.

I says, "Do be quiet, for I can't 'ear the Queen's Speech."

"Why, you've got it in the papers," says Dizzy.

"Law," I says, "'ow can they 'ave it there when it ain't all spoke yet."

"Why," says Gladstin, "he sent it afore'and to the papers as is on 'is side."

"Well, then," I says, "if I was Queen Wictorier I'd say quite different to wot was put down, and sell the lot on you."

Says Queen Wictorier to me in a whisper, "So I do, Martha; for bless you, not one on 'em can rite English, leastways, not Queen's English."

"Ah!" I says, "and mark my words if they ain't all in the swim with that old Beastmark, as wants to turn us all into Germans, as is a 'ard lot, and won't let the children be taught no prayers, leastways so I were a-readin' in the papers last year, as they'd been and stopped one of their ministers as said as prayers was good things for children. I've 'eard as a many over there is like that, and must make you feel werry un'appy about your grand-children, not that both your dorters 'as been that well brought up as no Germans can't do them any 'arm." So Queen Wictorier didn't make no anser,

but walked off quite strong and 'art Coffee's umbreller under 'er arm, as were a-goin' to leave at South Kens King Cole to 'ave a look at it; for sh jolly old soul.

"Ah!" I says, "and looks it too, a deal of good too, any'ow for 'is frie I likes in a man, for as to sayin' as th no jobbery, nor bribery in the worl all foolishness, as always was and al but if you 'ave got anythink to give av it your friends if they wants it, an work as well as anybody else."

"Ah!" says Queen Wictorier, "you could persuade somebody for t more to give away, for I've got such almost a insult to offer it."

"Yes," I says, "so I've 'eard say gets it werry often ain't them as war says, "no doubt Dizzy will see to al don't pester 'im to death with them is I considers downright cruelty to an

He says, with a sigh, "I tell you Brown, my life ain't worth 'avin' at t don't want to worret poor Queen Wict I can 'elp, but really if I'm to be bo long with the butchers and bakers a makers, I might as well be Lord Mar

I might gim

"You don't dine with me," says the Lord Mare, a-poppin' up 'is 'ead.

"You needn't be so savidge with 'im," says Gladstin, "he ain't a Oxford man."

"Oh! ain't he," says the Lord Mare, "that makes a difference, for I considers them Oxford men a low-lived crew." I turns round and see one or two of them young fellers in their dark blues a-standin' by, and I says, "My dear boys, whyever not 'ave sent a perlite note to say as you couldn't send a reglar anser, cos in course, them others a-anserin' that ready, put you to a non plush, as the sayin' is; cos in course they was all agreed about goin' and you wasn't, but you did ought to remember as he meant well, did that Lord Mare, and tho' in course arter that wiolent hexercise as you've been a-takin', you likes to be quiet all the hevenin', and don't want no dinner but a mutton chop or hegg with your teas together, jest to show as there ain't no mallis atween you when the fight is over, like true Hinglishmen."

Says a voice close to me, "I wonder which will win the day; three to one on Dizzy; pull away old flick." "Go it, sweet Willyim," says another; and there I see Dizzy in one boat, and Gladstin in another boat, with nothink on but their jerseys and bare arms, a-pullin' like wild, and parties a-'oorayin' on land, then all of a suddin Gladstin's oar took

and snapt right in 'arf, and over
backards.

I says, "He's a dead man, 'elp," I
he's a-drownin'."

"Why, mussy on us, wot's the m
Queen Wictorier, a-givin' me a violen
a-sayin' "wake up, Martha," and so
there was Mrs. Padwick, as 'ad broug
of tea, thro' me 'avin' gone to bed with
ache, as were all thro' me a-standin' a
the day afore, a-seein' of Parlyment a
weren't much of a sight, cos Queen Wi
go, as I 'eard a party say in the crowd
abear them Tories about 'er.

I says to 'im, "My good man, Qu
is too much the lady, not to bear them
dooty to come about 'er, and," I
Tories, why, they've been and berri
their wigs many a long day ago."

So he begins a-sayin' as he were fo

"Ah!" I says, "so I've 'eard a
means live in idleness and let others s

"Ah!" he says, "insult povert
Mrs. Brown, all over."

I says, "'Ow do you know my nar

"Why," he says, "I've seen
friend, Mrs. Wrabbles."

"Oh!" I says, "I remember, yo