

ly of the pontiff outside Rome. The three ladies live in a bright, pretty apartment of seven or eight rooms, No. 323, Corso Vittorio Emanuele, near

mission from the Vatican, or the fami-

norma Rosa, one of the sisters, when suddenly something white fluttered in at the window, like a dove, and set-tled softly in her lap. "What is it?" I cried, "A message from Mars or a love letter?" "Nothing so exciting," she replied, "I could almost tell you without opening it. It must say, 'Most Illustrious Sig-

factory in Tipperary. He is not going to run it exclusively as his own, but he is finding the money to set the machinery in motion. He has planked down \$20,000 to put up a building which will be supplied with the latest machinery and appliances for baconcuring purposes. He has financed a delegation which is now exploring Denmark for the purposes of ascertain. ing the latest methods employed in that country in creameries and bacon-curing. It is Mr. Croker's intention to work

A GIGANTIC HOAX.

Bowden-Smith, in the columns of the Times. The sum was 'realized, the statuette taken over, with several docu-ments appearently substantiating its genuineness, and for the last four years the "relic" has occupied a place of hon-or in the museum connected with the Royal United Service Institution. And now it seems that the statuette was done in 1899 by a young English sculp-tor 'named Garbe who, however, sold it

Mr. Beresford, who is something of an antiquarian himself, says he then showed the secretary where sharp edges had been smoothed off with a file to give the figure a worn appearance and also called Col. Holden's attention to the fact that instead of a solid block of silver, the statuette was nothing but a silver shell filled with some metallic

long the bearer of one of the proudest names in Germany was penniless again. Her position, however, made it com-paratively easy for her to borrow huge sums, with the aid of which she went in for betting on horse races, hoping in this way to retrieve her fortunes. On the track, however, the princess lost more heavily than ever, so she bor-rowed more money and tried her luck at Monte Carlo, but that venture turn-

ed out as badly as the others had done. There was a sensation when balliffs, acting under orders from her creditors, "held up" the princess in the streets of

the St. Angelo bridge, . five minutes walk from the Vatican. They are lodged on the ground floor, and have plenty of that sun and air which their souls love. The rooms are simply furnished with old-fashioned lace curtains, and plenty of cretonne, with chairs not very remarkable for their comfort. The tenants are not accustomed to lounging and cushions.

### IDEAL HOUSEKEEPERS.

The pope's sisters are ideal housekeepers, like most Italian women, and the little apartment is kept like a bandbox. It can scarcely be said that the management of the household is confided to anyone of the three, for tach takes a pridé in it, each orders as she likes, and, if the truth must be told, they cause the little mald-of-all-work to lead rather a life of it. She is a Roman, and although strong and will-ing, is not accustomed to the niceties of a house, and her mistresses are apt find corners neglected and dust in odd places.

The feelings of this small maid must be mixed and amusing. Benig a de-vout Catholic, the serving the sisters of the Holy father is more than her am-bition ever dreamed of, while their parficular ways are, to say the least, try-ing. So while one moment she mental-ly kisses their hands, the next she anathemizes them. Her conversation to her intimates is something on the following lines: "Oh! the dear things! To think that I live with the sisters of his holiness, they are saints!" and five minutes later it is, "Oh! Madonna mia! how noiose (what a nuisance) they are, It is Maria here, and Maria there, and Maria you dirty girl, and Maria you careless thing, until I nearly burst!" After this outbreak comes remorse, and "May the saints forgive me, lations of the holy father must do what is right, they cannot fail."

## TO ACT "THE LADY."

These simple and good folk at first led very hard, as we would say, to act the lady,' but days of sitting with ids folded, as reading has no charms them, soon palled, and it was not long before one after the other took up simple duties in a surreptitious way, until in the end they kept the maid only because Plus X insists that it shall

Italians do their marketing every morning, entruscing it to the cook, but the sisters Sarto delight in doing it personally, and driver very good bargains with the tradespeople, who are deference itself. Each has her favorite dishes, so they take turns in satisfying their tastes, each acting cook on her own day, the others meanwhile applydiversion of scolding the maid. This fills in the morning. The afternoons are devoted to driving or walking, sometimes in the Vatican gardens, but more often should be added and a state of the state o more often about the crowded streets, as having few friends they are pleased and interested in the movement and

and interested in the movement and variety of a large city. The pontiff in the beginning desired them to live in the paldzzetto (little palace) in the Vatican gardens, used by Leo XIII as his summer quarters, and which was almost rebuilt by him, but for once in their lives they opposed the will of their brother, and flatly refused to do anything of the kind. "We might much better go into a convent." said much better go into a convent." said much better go into a convent." said they, "and you know none of us ever felt that she had the vocation. We would die shut away from the world like that, so quiet and melancholy with nothing to look at but a garden." Plus X momenty gard and us them X promptly gave way and let them choose their own habitation which is on one of the busiest streets of Rome. \*

# NEVER WORE HATS.

In appearance the good ladies are In appearance the good ladies are comes, inclining to stoutness as be-comes their years, but with nothing of the handsome looks of their brother. There is nothing to distinguish them from hundreds of other women of their class, but still they have shown a good sense and sturdy pride which many might envy. For instance, they have never worn hats, and when the nuns with whom they stayed when they first

nora, for the love of heaven and the church come to the rescue of some poor unfortunates who through no fault of their own are dependent upon charity, etc.' Just peep out of the window and tell me what you see." This I did and there beheld a long string of men and, women, more or less well dressed, looking with anxiety to-

wards the house, and with the ap-pearance of having every intention of staying there for all time to come. There has been considerable talk of the pope's sisters going to live in the Vatican to be near him, and such a thing would not be without precedent, but there are difficulties in the way and it is a question if they would be hap-py. Here they are free to have other members of the family to visit them and to lead their own lives, while there

all would be etiquet and restriction, criticism and envy. ISABELLA COCHRANE. CROKER'S BACON FACTORY.

Planning to Drive American Bacon Out of Ireland. Special Correspondence.

the factory on the cooperative principle. He has made a thorough investigation into the possibilities of the proposed business and has satisfied himself that the native product will drive American bacon out of Ireland. He is so far convinced of what he can do that he has been able to command for the scheme the support of one or two leading English and Scotch provision

merchants. A meeting to discuss the subject will be held in London in a week or two, and it is understood that everything is in shipshape order to en. able him to put the scheme on a practical working basis at once. The peo-ple of Tipperary are delighted with the Special Correspondence. London, Feb. 10.—Richard Croker has begun his residence in Ireland by the flow of emigration. 

How the British Nation Was Hornswoggled Into Buying a Nelson "Statuette."

Special Correspondence.

ONDON, Feb. 10 .- Later details make more surprising than ever the remarkable hoax by which the British nation was fooled into purchasing, as a valuable antique, a statuette of Lord Nelson which was modelled in London only five years ago. It was, of course, under the delusion that this statuette had been presented | belled, to Lord Nelson by Ring George III that the supposed relic was bought by the Royal United Service institution, which is one of the most dignified in this country. Toward its purchase both the king and the Prince of Wales sub-scribed and an appeal for public as-sistance in raising the amount needed— \$2,500-was made by Admiral Sir N.

SOME OF THE REMAINING FIGHTING MACHINES OF THE GREAT WHITE CZAR-PORT ARTHUR LAND FORCES IN BACKGROUND.

without having any idea under what leception it would be resold, and who, n fact, has been astonished as much as anyone else at the recent revelations.

VICTIMS BIT EAGERLY.

It was about four years ago that the Royal United Service institution started a special department in its museum for Nelson relics. Several of such had been secured when this silver statuette of the great admiral with its supposed history of presentation by George III to Nelson-was offered on loan, and na-turally, accepted eagerly. The figure, which had a good many apparent marks of age, was said to have been cut from a solid block of silver. The documents with which the officials of the instituwith which the officials of the institution were supplied to prove the genuine ness, were musty, faded and rather dirty-bore, in fact, every appearance of dating back to the king against hose rule the American colonies re-

belled. On the base of the statue appears the inscrigiton "To N." set between a royal crown and Lord Nelson's coronet. A few months after the institution had placed the prize on exhibition, it was ennounced that the figure was for value. To those interested in the musale. To those interested in the mu-scum this seemed an opportunity to be taken advantage of, so after agreeing

substance to give it the necessary weight. What the photographer had said, however, did not reach Admiral Bowden-Smith or any of the institu-tion's other officials and the public subscription list remained open until not only the \$2.500 had been raised, but also an additional \$500 which was spent in an expensive pedestal and a large glass case for the relic. Whereupon the fake statuette was set

up in the United Service museumwhich, by the bye, is situated in the building in Whitehall, from which Charles I stepped out on to the scaffold -and there it has stood all this time. Perhaps the fraud never would have been discovered had not the photog-rapher Beresford's letter to Admiral Powden-Smith suddenly turned up. It has not been made public just why this letter was not delivered to the admiral or how it came to reappear so suddenly but evidently the officials of

the institution had their suspicions and they questioned Col. Holden. It is reported that the secretary admitted sup-pressing the letter, but declared that as so many experts had testified to the genuineness of the figure, he had not thought it worth while to call the (Continued on page twelve.)

Stuttgart and took from her what valu-ables she was carrying, and another when the noble woman opened a board-ing house on the shores of Lake Constance, and every one supposed that the princess's career was about at an end when she was arrested not long ago at the instance of moneylenders in Munich, Frankfort, Kassel, Stuttgart, Constance and other cities, from whom she had borrowed, and ordered to be tried for fraud before the Frankfort court. But the trial has resulted in the court. But the trial has resulted in the remarkable decision that though the princess' methods of gaining funds un-dcubtedly were shady, she did noth-ing absolutely illegal. On this ground she was acquitted, and now German society folk are asking each other what the next chapter will be in her amazing life story.

### ONLY DESCENDANT.

The princess, now a woman of 48, 18 the only living descendant of the former electors of Hesse Nassau, South Germany, who lorded it in the ancient cas-tles of Falkenberg and Waechtersbach 800 years ago, and upon whom wealth, titles and all sorts of distinctions were titles and all sorts of distinctions were conferred. Princess Alexandra inherit-ed a fortune of \$5,000,000. Her first husband was her kinsman, Prince Adal-bert of Isenberg, who also was im-mensely rich. She married him at 20. They went to live in Stuttgart, and all the signs seemed to indicate that their life mould he a harny one. They both life would be a happy one. They both had youth, their social position was distinguished, and their homes and es-tates numbered po less than nine.

#### STRANGE INFATUATION.

Trouble, however, came almost im-Trouble, however, came almost im-mediately, in the shape of an infatua-tion formed by the princess for a mill-tary officer named Pagenhardt, who was stationed at Stuttgart. What the at-traction was it is hard to tell, for Lieu-tenant Pagenhardt was not good to look at, and, moreover, was poor and a nobody. However, the Princess Alex-andra sacrificed everything for his sake, left her home to live with him, and did not defend the suit which her husband promptly brought against her husband promptly brought against her for divorce. This was granted him, just two years after his mairlage with the princess. The noblewoman received back her dowry of \$5,000,000, and im-mediately married Pagenhardt, after which she exerted all her fuffuence to get him ennobled-finally succeeding in gaining for him the title of baron.

#### WENT A DIZZY PACE.

Then this couple started on such a life of ostentation and extravagance as would have beggared a Crossus or a Rockefellar. They took a palace in Stuttgart—in spite of the fact that the princess' former husband still was livprincess' former husband still was liv-ing in the town-which they made their chief home, but they had also a country house in Bavaria, a shooting lodge in the Tyrol, a villa in the Riviera, and a town residence in Berlin. The staff which was required to run all these es-tablishments consisted of some thous-ands of servants, and the couple kept over 300 horses. They had a private wacht more magnificent than that yacht more magnificent than that owned by the emperor, and all their traveling was done in their special train, which was fitted up throughout with a huxury equalled by few drawing rooms in the fatherland. Princess Al-exandra scorned to wear an evening gown that had cost less than \$500, and when she appeared in a playhouse or there there on entertainment the disother place of entertainment, she dis-played lewels worth at least \$250,000. The baron was as lavish. No eigar was good enough for him that had not good enough for him that had not cort a dollar or more, and he would buy no cheaper ones for his guests. Per-hans this couple's extravagence reached its climax, however, when, one whiter, they baneneted the most on 150 eve-nings in succession, the vlands and wines at each of these feasts being lit-erally the choicest that money could have

#### MONEY RUN LIKE WATER.

At first the princess and her baron tried to live this Midas-like existence on the interest of the former's money, but it soon became evident that this could not be done, so they commenced upon the principal. Within three years the original \$5,000,000 were practically dissipated, but, just in the nick of time, the princess came into three more



of the collossal northern power, since the war vessels on which the sea-supremacy of the Russian empire depends in the great conflict with Japan, illustrates graphically the remaining resources of the colossa northern power, since the destruction of so many of her best ships by the mikado's fleet in the various engagements at sea,

