

THE SUEZ CANAL PURCHASE—Mr. Richard Jefferies, an able novelist and a graceful essayist, has recently proved himself to be by no means an indifferent satirist, as the author of a brochure called "Suez-cide ! ! or how Miss Britannia bought a dirty puddle and lost her sugar plums." The pamphlet is "Dedicated with much respect to those who have put their foot in it," and the quotation which heads the opening paragraph runs thus :—

"Ex nihilo—nihil fit ;

The Nile ? nothing ever came of it."

"Suez-cide" is not likely to become as popular as "Dame Europa's School." It contains a clever and amusing skit on Mr. Disraeli. Mr. and Mrs. Bull, with their daughter, Miss Britannia, and their nephew, Master Benny, pay a visit to Egypt. There are a number of rude boys who play on the sands with them, among them Master Fritz and Mrs. Tolemy's boy, the "kid," and Master Fez, and a bigger boy called the Teasar, because his own name Isar was hard to pronounce, besides a nice young lady called Miss Frances. This young lady was a bit of a tom boy, and one day got a black eye from Master Fritz, and then coaxed the "kid" to play with her, and the boy took a spade and dug a hole,

and the next day the hole was full of water, and Frances and Fez and Fritz and Teasar all took off their shoes and socks and paddled about in it, and stirred up the mud. In the meantime Cousin Benny had been amusing Miss Britannia by blowing the most wonderful bubbles, and Miss Brit's mamma gave her a brand new fourpenny piece because she was good, but she was a wee bit curious when she saw the other girls and boys splashing each other, and grow fidgetty, and slapped Ben's face when he asked her to play being married for ever. So Ben offered to get the puddle for Brit all to herself if she gave him the fourpenny bit, and being a knowing young rascal he cajoled the "kid" into selling it. the story goes on.—*Saunders' Correspondent*

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