

A STRANGE STORY.

In the December number of the Atlantic is told a story from true life which has not many equals for oddity in fiction. As the tale goes, one day a man pretty well on in years came into the Police Headquarters, and asked to have the officers take down a description of his wife and children, who were away on night from their home. The man told his story in such a simple, unaffected way that he made a deep impression upon those who heard it. He lived in a small town in Connecticut, and had been married five or six years to a woman considerably younger than himself, and by whom he had two children. On returning from his daily business, he found the house empty, the wife and children had evidently gone out, dressed in their last clothes, leaving no word of explanation. It struck him as being very strange; but after a few days he was so seriously alarmed, as he concluded they must have gone to a friend's house. He got his own tea, and then smoked his pipe, expecting momentarily to see the woman and children in the evening before his anxiety drove him out to look for them among the neighbors. The next day he learned that they had been seen in the railway station on the road going East. That was all he knew about it. He and his wife, he said, had got on pretty well together. It was perhaps two or three weeks before he saw her again, and he explained, since she had gone off he remembered that she had been very melancholy and moping for some time past. He thought that the "sick" work of duty, the long hours, and the fact that she had become "sick-like," and had started off with the idea of going to see some people in New Hampshire whom she had known before she was married. The New Hampshire folks had not seen her or heard of her; and some of the neighbors said, "More like she'd gone off with a younger man." "But you see," said the man, "I don't know what she did, and she wouldn't have taken the children if she was that wicked." The police gave a good deal of attention to the case, as it was a peculiar one; they had a feeling of suspicion for the man who had started such a terrible story. The wife and children were traced to a town a short distance from Portland, Me. There a woman and two little children, answering in every particular to the description given by the police, were seen by the local station-master to leave a through train and walk off in the direction of the village. It was by accident that the station-master saw the time. The road led along the banks of a river. Passing out of the station-master's sight into the storm, they were seen no more. The inquiries of the police never led beyond the station. The man who had been at work upon the case settled down to the belief that the woman had left home during a fit of temporary insanity; that the storm she encountered on leaving the cars increased the confusion in her mind, and that she had either thrown her children and herself into the river, or had wandered out of the road and fallen in with them. One evening, however, the man, who had been reached, an officer who had worked on the case was asked by a young woman who was visiting at his house to tell an interesting story which she had heard. The story of the deserted husband, the young woman afterward married and went to live in a Western city. Some years passed, when, on meeting the officer again, she related him the story he had told her, and asked if anything had been heard of the wife and children. He said the case remained as profound a mystery as ever.

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Ayer's Cathartic Pills. For all the purposes of family hygiene. Indigestion, Puff Swelling, Headache, Constipation, Biliousness, Rheumatism, Eruptions and Skin Diseases, Dropsy, Gravel, Gout, Worms, Neuritis, as a Dinner-Pill, for purifying the blood.

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FARMER'S EARL. Much has been said and written on this subject, says a correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph. Poets have loved it and almost every artist has his cozy little farmhouse nestled among the trees, surrounded by the "necessary outbuildings."

There's a spot on the face, And there's many a trace Of a scratch or a scow on the wood; And the hands, made of brass, With an old shadow pass Over a dial that for ages has stood.

There's a problem to solve, Whether modern folks, manners and all, Are as true and as good As the folks who were in the hall. —Charles Chamberlain, Jr.

One of the greatest questions the farmer of the future will be called upon to solve is the matter of fences on their farms.

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GRAFTING GRAPEVINES.—Those who wish to graft their vines with other vines should remember, says the Germantown Telegraph, that winter, and the spring, are the best times for this the grape is dormant from most other trees.

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WORTH TRYING.—A German paper gives the following simple method, which we may have published before, but which it will do no harm to publish again.

A TERRIBLE NIGHT. The recent death of Mrs. Joseph Moser, of Moserstown, N. H., has been a very painful one to her family.

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