Ho! reaper of life's harvest, Why stand with rusted blade Until the night draws round thee And day begins to fade? Why stand ye idle, waiting For reapers more to come! The golden morn is passing; Why stand ye idle, dumb

Thrust in your sharpened sickle, 'And gather in the grain; The noon is fast approaching, And night will come again. And shall He call in vain? Shall sheaves lie here ungathered,

And waste upon the plain? Mount up the heights of wisdom, And crush each error low; Keep back no words of knowledge That human hearts should know. Be faithful to thy mission, In service of Thy Lord, And then thy just reward.

TOM BLINKER'S SECRET.

Tom Blinker was a joval, lighthearted, commercial "gent," who, after traveling some years for a London firm, had started in business as a commission agent in Bilchester. Unfortunately he failed-or at least he did not succeed, which is nearly as bad, and at the date of this story he was pretty heavily in debt. But his creditors were disposed position to discharge his liabilities, well at her mercy. Tom appeared Lord Montarlington had a large estate | cheerfully indifferent to the circumhad started on his travels.

and ruin. Duly impressed with this unpleasant fact and also bearing in mind that two or three of his largest down the road to the right." creditors had threatened to take proceedings against him immediately, Tom evening in a very depressed condition. | the rest of the distance." On reaching the parlor of that ancient of congratulations and good wishes.

"It's all right, Tom. Cheer up, old him well, though few would lend him castle with an imposing clatter.

manded.

said Mr. Beans, the grocer.

"You don't say so!" ejaculated Tom, the way into the room. with a start.

morning."

to see you."

"A very good suggestion," returned drive alone. Did you hear the name

of the lawyer Jakes?" "Pennington, I believe," was the answer. "and he is in the blue parlor." lord. The little mare is as safe as

you'll excuse me a minute," said Tom, sex, she likes to take the bit in her lawyer, looking undecided. "If your who had completely recovered his teeth," interposed Tom, with his jovial lordship thinks Mr. Blinker would be equanimity and easy affability of laugh. manners. "Meanwhile, Mr. Chairman, if you will order glasses round at my men." laughed his lordship, glancing Tom, with alacrity. "Very well; then expense, you will do me proud."

After this Tom Blinker made a very effective exit, having succeeded in no harm done. Mr. Pennington, it at the lawyer and the lawyer glanced labor in the spring garden. But someturning the tide of public sympathy in was very good of you to come down at him, but neither raised any objechis favor. Mr. Beans and others, who from town. I ought to have called on tion, and the result was that Tom had somewhat openly intimated their you, but to-morrow I'm going North, received permission to begin his duties and finally has a boy of his own, and a squalid-looking house, there is a whole disbetief in his bona fides a moment andbefore, now looked foolish in their turn, while those who had remained neutral interposed Mr. Pennington, producing evening and announced his good forbegan to sing his praises. When Tom a bundle of papers from his side pocket tune. He found, however, that the returned after a short absence, he was like a conjurer. "I have something neighborhood were less surprised at the regarded by every one with increased important to say, so I thought I would

"It's all right," he remarked, confidentially, as he resumed his place. "I rising discreetly. introduced myself to the lawyer, and man. I never met him before."

Early next morning the neighbors, lunch." with mingled admiration and envy, witnessed the departure of Tom and trap the preceding evening, in order, off." as he said, to do the thing in style. The grocer was proud of his turnout, and was only too glad to oblige Tom, ship. now that his prospects had materially | Lord Montarlington and his lawyer | was alone the cause of Tom's misfor-

posing appearance, and it was observed | the reader's curiosity: that Mr. Pennington, the lawyer, treated him with marked courtesy.

"This is really a very civil attention, sir," remarked Mr. Pennington, who was an old-fashioned, elderly gentleman, of a nervous disposition, and they Yours ever. bowled along the hard country road toward their destination.

"Don't mention it, sir; you're welcome, I'm sure," said Tom Blinker, affably.

"I wouldn't abuse your good nature for the world. You are sure I am not taking you out of your way?" persisted the lawyer, glancing at his companion with mild curiosity.

"Certaily not, sir. As I told you yesterdag, I had arranged to drive over," replied Tom.

"They told me at the hotel, when I happened to mention your name, that you were well acquainted with his lordship," said Mr. Pennington, who evidently did not quite know what to make of his obliging companion.

As the lawyer spoke, Tom gave the mare rather an awkward flick with the whip, which caused her to bound forward with unpleasant velocity. Mr. to deal leniently with him, partly Pennington then awoke to the fact that because he was known to be in the Tom Blinker's skill at driving was main honest, and partly because he had | hardly equal to his politeness; indeed, intimated that when Lord Montarling- it soon became evident that the mare ton returned he would soon be in a had the trap and its occupants pretty in the neighborhood, and was naturally stances, and took ditches and sign-posts very much respected and looked up to and mile-stones flying The lawyer, in the town. He had been absent from however, was far from comfortable, England three years on a foreign tour, and soon forgot his curiosity in his and Tom Blinker had not come to Bil- personal fears. He ceased to ask queschester till shortly after his lordship tions and devoted himself to holding on to the handrail, regardless of Tom's But the lordship's return was so long | conversation, which continued in a delayed that Tom's creditors began to lively vein, in spite of the most startlgrow impatient, and Tom himself ing episodes. Great and unspeakable, seemed to lose heart. There was no indeed, was the old gentleman's relief disguising the fact that he had reached | when the castle at length came in sight, the end of his tether, and nothing short | the little mare having done the distance of a miracle could avert bankruptcy probably in the shortest time on record.

"Here we are," said Tom, pointing with his whip. "The entrance lodge is

"Pray don't let me take you a yard out of your way, sir," said the lawyer, wended his way to the Blue Boar one preparing to alight; "I can easily walk

"Don't mention it. As I am so near hostelry where a convival club of which I may as well look in and pay my he was a preminet member was wont to respects to his lordship," said Tom, in bold its weekly meetings, he was sur. an off-hand manner. "The mare will prised at besng greeted with a chorus be glad of a rest; she has brought us along in grand style."

tions which greeted him in a cordial to a friend of so good a client as his to take him to the neighboring station tone, for Tom was a pleasant, good- lordship. A few minutes later Tom to catch the London train-Tom nonatured fellow, and most people wished drove up to the grand entrance of the longer felt any hesitation about pre-

The lawyer was evidently expected, "Why, what's up?" he naturally de- for they were immediately ushered along a corridor to his lordship's study. Pennington goes," he said airily. "I "What's up! Haven't you heard On the threshold Tom's modesty seem-Lord Montarlington has come back?" ed suddenly to assert itself, for he hung the post of steward to your lordship. back a little, so that his companion led As I'm on the spot I can get into har-

Lord Montarlington advanced to "His lordship's solicitor has just receive his visitors with outstretched return-I mean on approval for a arrived from London, remarked one of hand. He was a handsome, gray-hairthe company. "I heard him order ed, elderly man, with frank, genial dinner and a bedroom, and say he manners. In appearance he looked a better business man, nor one that would drive over to the castle in the like a sailor, and in fact yachting was would serve you straighter, if you were his favorite occupation. He was a to fill the Times for six months with "There's a companion for you, Tom," widower and childless, and since the advertisements. said Mr. Beans, jocosely. "You'll go death of his wife he had resided very over to the castle first thing to-morrow, little on his estates. He greeted the of course? His lordship must be dying lawyer with a friendly grasp, and also

shook hands with Tom. quart d'heure," said Mr. Pennington, said: with a humorous smile.

"Pooh! There was no danger, my "I'll go and introduce myself, pals, if ninepence, only, like the rest of her had never occurred to me," said the

"Ha! ha! Pray be seated, gentlewith good-humored surprise at Tom. that's settled."

take this oppoptunity, my lord."

we arranged to drive over to-morrow replied his lordship. "Mr. Penning- Montarlington was his long lost brother together. He is a most pleasant gentle- ton and I are not going to talk secrets. the credulity of his friends would have Besides, I hope you will both stay to borne the shock.

readily. "That is, if your lordship will rashly undertaken. When a man has the lawyer from the door of the inn. allow me to send a messenger with a plenty of assurance, backed by natural Tom handled the ribbons, having note or two to Bilchester. I had some ability, shrewdness and a firm deterborrowed Mr. Bean's little mare and appointments which I can easily put mination to succeed, he cannot very

> "By all means. There are writing ed ominous predictions based upon his materials by your side," said his lord- unsuccessful career in Bilchester over-

improved. Tom Blinker looked very soon became immersed in business, tunes, and it turned out that he had a spruce indeed when he drove to the inn while Tom wrote half a dozen short powerful incentive to make him do his to pick up the lawyer. He was a good- notes on paper bearing the earl's coronet best in his new position, for shortly looking man, with white teeth, a florid and crest, with the address of the afterward he became engaged to be complexion and a genial expression, castle. The tenor of each of these married to the pretty daughter of mine Dressed in his best, with a flower in his epistles was precisely the same, so that host of the Blue Boar.

buttonhole, he presented quite an im- a single specimen will suffice to satisfy

DEAR MCVITTIE-I quite intended ponies I owe you, but his lordship won't hear of my leaving. Please let the matter stand over a bit, and spare yourself the trouble of issuing a writ. T. BLINKER.

While engaged on those important compositions Tom could not resist giving an ear to the conversation which was going on on the other side of the fireplace. He gathered that the principal object of the lawyer's visit was to consult his lordship about appointing a new steward. The post was at present vacant, the late occupant having resigned in a huff, and Mr. Pennington was in favor of giving it to a practical, business-like man, who would not be above his work. His lordship cordially acquiesced in this view, and left the matter in the lawyer's hands, and, having affixed his signature to a few documents, the conference ended.

"Now, gentlemen, let us come and have a look round," said the lordship, with an air of relief. "Mr. Blinker, Pennington followed his example. the butler will hand your letters to a groom, who is now going into Bilchester, and who will deliver them im-

mediately. Tom Blinker was trembling with his lordship for the vacant stewardship. let his inpudence carry him too far." He was almost startled by his own boldness, and though not wanting in cool assurance he could not at the moment suinmon up courage to apply for the post. He resolved to wait until after luncheon, by which time he hoped to have created a favorable impression.

and assumed a more sedate and busientirely original, and he never confessed ignorance on any subject whatever. Fortunately for him, neither Lord Montarlington nor Mr. Pennington knew anything of country life except in its frivolous aspects, so that during their mitting himself. At luncheon he was still more successful, for there was no denying that he was capital company. He made his lordship roar with laughter at his jokes and witticisms, and even the lawyer became quite A remark of a mildly sarcastic nature hilarious and cheerful. The result was

ferring his request. "My lord, there is a little matter I should like to mention before Mr. wish to offer myself as a candidate for ness at once, which will be an advantage. I'm willing to come on sale or month. That is an advantage also. And I flatter myself you wouldn't find

Tom's tone and manner were hardly those of a person asking a favor. He seemed honestly conscious of his own worth, and Lord Montarlington, "Now I'm safe on terra firma, my though somewhat taken aback, was Tom, rising from his seat with rather a lord, I do not mind confessing that Mr. evidently struck with the suggestion. desperate air. "It's a plaguey long Blinker has made me pass a mauais He looked across at the lawyer and

> "Eh, Mr. Pennington? What do you say to that?"

> "Well, really, my lord, such a thing likely to suit-"

'A month's trial, eh?" interspersed

"So long as no bones are broken there's And so it was. His lordship glanced on the morrow. He was a proud man "And goodness knows where beside!" when he drove into Bilchester that news than might have been expected, for every one had heard of the letters "I don't wish to intrude," said Tom, which he had written from the castle on paper bearing his lordship's crest. I "My dear sir, pray don't move," he had come back and said that Lord

Tom proved himself quite competent "Delighted, I'm sure," said Tom, to discharge the duties which he had so well prove a failure. Those who utterlooked the fact that want of capital

Lord Montarlington left for the North on the day Tom entered upon his new duties, and three months afterward, on to call and see you about those two passing through London, he bad an interview with Mr. Pennington.

"By-the-by," he said at the close of their conversation, "I suppose the new steward is a success, as I havn't heard to the contrary?"

energetic and trustworthy man," said Mr. Pennington, warmly. "May I ask home. how you came to know him?"

"Why, you introduced him, of "I never saw him before that day." "Nor did I," returned the lawyer, opening his eyes. "He offered to drive me over, and I was certainly under the ing Zulu swinging an assegai.

impression your lordship was acquainted with him."

Lord Montarlington and the lawyer stared at one another for a moment in in imminent peril. Then his lordship from the sky. suddenly burst out laughing, and Mr.

"I never heard of such bare-faced impudence in my life!" exclaimed Montarlington as soon as he could speak. 'Pon my word he deserves his good luck. As he appears to suit, we had suppressed excitement, for it had better say nothing about the matter, suddenly occurred to him to apply to only keep your eyes on him, and don't

"I will pull him up sharply on the smallest provocation," returned Mr. Pennington, gravely.

Tom continued to be an exemplary agent. His substantial salary soon enabled him to pay off his Bilchester swimming-all caused by such a little Meanwhile he pulled himself together debts, for which we may be sure he was things as a collar button, is indeed a not pressed, and within a year he ness-like air. Tom was a shrewd married. He is now a much-respected fellow, and was very well posted as to and very influential personage in the agricultural topics generally. He had neighborhood, and to this day people in the man who wants to know "If you a knack of repeating information gain- Bilchester continue to speculate on the ed at second-hand as though it were nature of his mysterous influence with Lord Montarlington.

A Honolulu Sandwich.

A waiter in a Fulton street dining saloon placed a sirloin steak in front of ramble through the grounds and over a gentleman. "That's the toughest the stables Tom contrived to impress piece of meat I ever tackled," exclaimed them both considerably without com- the man as he put the icewater pitcher out of the reach of his right elbow, "and Gen. Grant made me eat mule meat off the hind legs in Vicksburg in 163.11

The man, seeing that it was useless to try make an impression on the steak with the knife, sat back in his chair boy. Keep your courage up, Tom!" came to the lawyer's lips, but he did that when Mr. Pennington rose to exhausted. After musing a few mowere some of the reassuring exclama- not utter it, for fear of giving offense depart-for his lordship's carriage was ments he called the waiter and asked if there was another steak in the place like the one he had before him. He

received an answer in the affirmative. "Bring it right here and two brick bats with it; reckon I'll try a Honolulu sandwich."

"What's dat, sah?"

"Go along and get me another steak." The waiter obeyed and the man took newpaper from his pocket, wrapped the steak up in it and went to the cashier's desk with a check for sixty cents."

here, eh?" "No," replied the man, "not exactly. You see, I arrived in New York from New Orleans last week and the baggage smashers knocked the hinges from my trunk, I am going to replace them with these steaks, and I'll bet \$50 that when my trunk gets back to New Orleans there won't be a fiber of my new patent

lose a square meal." Twill Ever be so.

hinges stretched. I'll get square with

those baggage-smashers even if I do

Nearly all the great statesmen of the present day can look back to the time fish for bulls-heads than help plant potatoes in the best garden in the country. Even the best kind of a boy, who will utes after he sets the boy to work he finds him in the street playing marbles, boy himself, and he argues with his boy with his hoe-handle. 'Twas ever thus.

Fisheries in France.

The herring, mussel and sardine fisheries in France are of more inportance than is generally, taken into consideration. For instance the money value of the herring harvests of the four years ending 1882 was 37,771,000f. The sardine fishery ranks at half the value of the herring and has fallen off very sensibly of late years. Comparing the published statistics we find that, whereas in 1820 the munber of fish taken was 628,478,248, in the last report, viz for 1881, it had come down to 372,940,031. The cultivation of mussels has been a notable feature in French

He who cares only for himself in

A new brand of soap is wanted that won't get into your eyes and cause you to grope wildly about to find the towel, swearing the while like the army in Flanders.

Also an umbrella that will not be at home when you are about to leave the "He is the best agent your lordship office in a pouring rain, and will not has ever had; a prompt business-like, grin at you from its place in the office when you come in wet through from

A long felt want would be filled by a boot-jack that will not let go of your wages. course," returned his lordship, staring. boot at a critcal time, causing it to give you a dig in the shin that momentarily makes you forget you are a muneration they receive is incredibly decent Christian man and not a howl- small. It is no unusual thing- on the

A new sort of ice should be discovered mer and in the winter not so desopen-mouthed astonishment, and during on their shoulderblades and endeavor

A laurel wreath is waiting for the other trousers when returning home

gathering, you know." in that miserable little sneak the collar button-some sure way of effectually preventing it from dropping on the floor and rolling under the bureau when a fellow is dressing in a hurry. To be obliged to lie prone upon your stomach But the provocation never arose, for and perhaps break your watch crystal, know if you are practicing lessons in sad commentary on the dullness of our inventors.

A kind of lightning that will strike ever heard a wheel spoke; a telephone that won't spit whiz and hum when you want to talk to a pretty girl at the exchange; a professsional beauty who is at least good looking, and a cheap and easy way of disposing of ones poor relations are all matters requiring the inventor's attention, to which might also be added an improvement in barber's breath and the brogue of New York policemen.

Many ready purchasers could be found for a reasonably certain plan to ascertain as the form of an impecunious acquaintance looms up in the distance, whether he intends to pay you the last \$10 he borrowed or buttonhole you for a further loan.

A safe and portable anesthetic would just now meet with a ready sale to take while attending a modern lecture when the speaker gets to discoursing on the different!ation of a molecule or the whatness of the somewhat.

A new form of excuse to replace the venerable and threadbare story that you got your black eye while choppingwood might, perhaps, bring its author renown; but for the man who constructs a patent front door that will fall on and kill the first man who tries to sell "Got to catch a train, eh?" exclaimed | the family a sewing machine, nothing the cashier; "and haven't time to eat short of a marble monument will suffice.

Nail-Makers in the Black Country.

About 24,000 people are engaged in

this dismal part of Great Britain in

making nails and rivets. It would not be so much a matter for surprise, for the lowness of the wages that they earn, if they were all men and youths who the very worst paid in any part of the country. But it so happens-and here traffic-that there are at least 10,000 females engaged day after day in the occupation. They are not mature women either; daughters work by the when they would rather stand in the side of mothers—daughters who, in mud and water up to their knees and their tender years, ought to be either at home, if they have any home, or in in hydrant water, not a cold foot bath. gladly work like a major at any other the morning, molten iron into the form taking cold from the hot applications season of the year, seems to have a of nails for the benefit of what are call- over night. fearful falling out with all manner of ed the "foggers." Here is a picture of how the spring garden is made each trict-except, perhaps, Saturday nights. what may be seen any night in this disyear, and the boy grows up to manhood, In the middle of a shed which adjoins garden that demands attention; then it family at work in the production of seems that when he wants his own boy these nails; father, mother, sons and to help in the garden, and fifteen min- daughters-daughters, too, very young in years, but with the sad look of premature age which is always to be nohe forgets how it was when he was a ticed in the faces of child-workers. The and by the expenditure of vitality and gayety of youth, i's freshness and its health, and have realized the growth of gentleness, seemed to be crushed out of prosperity amid the sufferings of later them. In the centre of the shed, with years. Palpably, however, it is best to its raftered ceiling-a bleak and wretched building, through the walls of which the wind readily finds its way-there is tions are early regarded, and a sound a "hearth," fed by "gledes" or breezes. Probably there is a girl or woman blow- no doubt health can can be maintained ing at the bellows, while the strips of amid the most exacting duties. But iron from which the nails are made become molten. Or, to take an actual cuperation of wasted energy; and this case witnessed by the writer a few not in a month of summer, but all nights since, close upon midnight; In along the year from day to day. one of these forges were a mother and several children. The woman was probably forty years of age; her youngest years it appears that there are on an daughter-a flaxen-haired girl, with a sweet and winsome face-was certainly days of rain and snow, and 22.8 days of not more than twelve years of age. By industry. Its total value comes up no the side of the hearth there was what in his possession the ivory head of a is technically called the "Oliver"-a youth, will be very niggard in man-hood, and a wretched miser in old age. which is fixed the stamp of the nail re-at West Point just before the exposure of his treason.

workingmen, by means of a wooden treadle-an industrial treadmill it ought strictly to be called—shoot out the nails from the slot in which they are fixed. They have previously hammered the top of the incandescent metal, with masculine firmness, so as to form the head of the nail. The women and girls seem to work with more vigor than the men-very often indeed, they support their husbands and their fathers, who have fallen into drunken habits; in other cases, this nail making is the means of supplementing the husband's

But what do the nail-makers earn a week, may naturally be asked? The recontrary, it is rather the usual custom -for a family of three or four persons that will be plentiful and cheap in sum- after working something like fourteen hours a day, to earn £1 in a week. But perately set on making pedestrians stand out of this money there has to be deducted 1s. 3d. for carriage to convey that brief period Tom's prospects were to kick the glittering constellations the nails to the "gaffers," as they are termed in the district; then there is allowance to be made for fuel and the reman who invents a latch key that pairing of the machinery, which reduces won't be safe in the pocket of one's the £1 to about 16s. 9d. for three people -for three people who have commenced about 3 A. M. from "a little social to work every morning at half-past seven or eight o'clock, and who have Some improvement is surely required | worked on through all the weary day, with no substantial food, until late at night. Who is it that reaps the benefit of all this terribly hard work? Certainly not the laborers; for it is a wellknown fact that they rarely taste meat from one week's end to the other. In the expressive but simple language of the while your wife sarcastically wishes to poor workman, this is how they fare: "When the bread comes hot from the bakehouse oven on Saturday we eat like ravening wolves." The "foggers," or "Tommy-shop" men live lives, of contentment, profit, and rest at the expense of the poor nail-workers. The "fogger" is an intermediate agent between the worker of the nails and the buyer. Out of the bone and sinew of these poor people he makes a very fine living-and he does not work. He has a huckster's shop attached to his dwelling; he supplies, at the beginning of the week, the nail-workers with their sixty pound bundles of iron, and when they return the bundles of iron in the markctable shape of nails-out of which he makes at least twenty per cent profitif they do not buy his high-priced provisions, they get no more work from him. These are the men who, by cutting down the workmen's wages to starvation point, are at the root of the evil.

Cold Weather Dangers.

Sudden deaths in cold weather, show some of the sharp trials of biting winds and low temperature on feeble constitutions, young or old. It is well to avoid sudden changes, or any tax or exposure when greatly fatigued. If a car or carriage-ride will save a spell of sickness, there is always economy in spending six cents or a dollar, as the case may be, or can be afforded, in escaping either the chill of pneumonia or the snap of a weakened heart. Car fare is cheaper than medical prescriptions. Those who feel a strain about the region of the heart should avoid hearty meals; eat sparingly and often (but not towards evening) and rest after eating, not starting out too suddenly to work. They should not sit in cold rooms, or go from hot rooms into the outer air, without ample protection. They should avoid either working or sleeping with cold feet. Warming the feet thoroughly on retirare engaged in the industry- one of ing, with a hot bottle or brick, saves much strain on the nervous strength. One's feet may not feel cold by sensaarises the social degradation of the tion, but the true way is to apply the hand and if they feel cold to a warm hand then it is time to induce circulation. Young children especially should never be put to bed unless their feet are thoroughly warm. Next morning a brisk rubbing with a wet towel, dipped bed, instead of working their weary arms for delicate folks will restore the in shaping, in the still small hours of necessary elasticity and prevent any

Health-Giving Exercise.

The value of health to success in life cannot be overestimated. It is, in many cases, the absolute condition of success. In some relations of life, men have succeeded though in almost continual ill health. But these are exceptions to a general rule. Some men have laid the foundations for success in early life, have both success and health. Are both attainable? Where right condiconstitution is from the first enjoyed, this involves enough leisure for the re-

-By statistical accounts of the weather in Berlin for the past thirty average annually 135 rainy days, 7.6

cane broken over the head of a soldier barrel-like construction, on the top of by Benedict Arnold in a fit of passion