

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A telegram from Lancaster says that great jams of boom logs have formed on the Susquehanna River from Turkey Hill to McCall's Ferry, and it is feared they will present serious obstructions to the passage of the ice. The ice in the river is still solid, but that in the tributary streams has broken up.

A despatch from Springfield, Illinois, says scarlet fever is prevailing in Pana, on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, to such an extent that the public schools have been closed. There have been two deaths, and fifteen cases of the disease were reported on the 4th.

Near Hamburg, Iowa, on the evening of the 4th, a farmer named Tieson and his son concealed themselves near the hog pen to watch for thieves. At midnight two men got into the pen and slaughtered a hog, whereupon Tieson fired upon them with a shotgun, killing one instantly. The other started to run and was shot down with a revolver and killed. The dead man proved to be brothers named Rameau, neighbors of Tieson. The Tiesons were arrested. A light took place in a house of ill-repute in Wichita, Kansas, on the 5th, during which J. E. Gregg, William Sparr and Lincoln Mills were shot, the first named fatally. Adam Spear was shot and killed by James Lawrence, in Monticello, Illinois, on the evening of the 5th. The shooting was the result of a quarrel. Mathias Busch, a saloon keeper, murdered his wife in Chicago, on the afternoon of the 6th, by cutting her throat with a razor because she refused to turn over to him a small sum of money left her by a relative. Two brothers named Turner quarrelled while threshing together at Fort Murray, Warren Co., N. J., on the 6th, and fought. The younger finally killed the elder by driving the point of a pitchfork into his eye.

The heavy thaw of the 4th and the rain of the 5th caused many of the frozen creeks in all parts of Long Island to overflow, especially on the south side, and several washouts occurred. Near Bayport the water carried away several long sections of embankment, leaving in many places nothing but the bare ties and rails of the Long Island Railroad. The condition of the tracks was just discovered in time to save the East-bound train.

A passenger train going west on the afternoon of the 6th, ran into a freight train going east at Hoosic Falls, New York. Both engines were wedged together and the baggage and head freight cars were smashed. An expressman, a mail agent, and a car repairer were severely injured, and an old lady on the passenger train was severely burned by being thrown against a stove. All the other passengers were badly shaken up.

Miss Louise Royce, a school teacher at Norfolk, Nebraska, three of whose pupils died in her arms during the recent blizzard, will lose both feet and a portion of one arm, as a result of exposure. Nearly \$4000 has already been contributed to the fund for the teachers—Miss Freeman, Miss Royce and Miss Shattuck. Over \$3000 of this amount goes to Miss Shattuck, who lost both her legs. Miss Shattuck died on the 6th, and the money will probably go to her parents.

A coal train dished into the rear of a freight train on the Reading Railroad, at Port Clinton, on the morning of the 6th. The engine of the coal train was badly damaged, and about thirty cars of both trains were thrown from the track, many of them being partially wrecked.

A dynamite explosion, at the works of the Hancock Chemical Company, at Marquette, Michigan, on the 6th, destroyed two buildings and killed J. A. Arnold, John Olson and Adam Yala. William Summerville, 18 years old, was killed in Memphis, Tennessee, on the evening of the 5th, by coming in contact with an electric light wire. One of the brush lights was on the ground and a lot of boys were having fun with it by touching it and being shocked. Summerville touched it with a piece of hoopiron and was killed by the shock. Mrs. Sarah Stein, 79 years of age, was accidentally hanged in Titusville, Penna., on the 6th, while putting up a clothes line. Her neck was broken. The timbers supporting a second-story addition to Chamber's planing mill, in Allegheny City, Penna., gave way on the 6th, and five men were buried in the debris, and one, Patrick Conroy, was dangerously hurt.

Frank Rominski, aged 26 years, was killed in No. 3 slope at West Nanticoke, Penna., on the evening of the 7th, by a fall of coal.

An express train on the Pennsylvania Railroad struck a wagon containing two men, at Gordonville crossing, Pa., on the 7th. The wagon was knocked to pieces, and the occupants, Dr. Hoover and Jacob Brua were severely injured. A truck of one of the Pullman sleepers on an express train on the Pennsylvania Railroad jumped the track near Conestoga bridge, Penna., on the morning of the 7th. The passengers escaped with a severe shaking up. A freight train on the Reading Railroad while moving slowly near Lewisburg, Penna., on the morning of the 7th, was overtaken by another freight train the engine of which plowed through the caboose and two cars of the first train. The engine then ran off the track and was stopped by a bank of earth, into which it plunged. All the train hands escaped injury by jumping into the snow banks.

A laborer named O'Neill, living in Pittsburg, shot and killed his wife on the morning of the 7th, and then shot himself through the head. The wound is considered fatal. The cause of the tragedy was jealousy. The couple had six children. Robert Cloud, colored, waylaid his wife and a negro named Henry Phelps, in Atlanta, Georgia, on the morning of the 7th. He shot and killed Phelps and fatally wounded his wife, after which he surrendered to the police. At Jeannette, Louisiana, on the 7th, during a quarrel, George Dixon was shot and killed by "Jake" Marshall, colored, a deputy sheriff. Marshall fled and concealed himself in

a corn crib, where he was found with his brother. The pair were fired upon, and the brother and Louis Payton were almost instantly killed. Payton was a spectator, and was warned to retire for fear of being shot. The shooting was done by unknown persons. William Salone, colored, attempted to escape from the Vicksburg Jail, on the evening of the 6th, and had burrowed through the wall, and was about to drop to the ground, when he was shot and mortally wounded by the watchman.

John Benson, whose gambling house was raided in Wilmington, Delaware, last December, on the 7th pleaded guilty and was fined \$1000 and costs in each of two cases for writing lottery policies, or one year in jail; \$100 for running a poker table, and \$50 for selling liquor without license.

A natural gas explosion occurred in the house of T. M. Norton, in Anderson, Indiana, on the morning of the 7th. The house was demolished, and Fenton C. Rogers, of Cincinnati, who was sleeping in the front room was killed. Mrs. Norton was severely burned about the head and shoulders. There was a leak in the main, and when Mrs. Norton went to light the gas, the explosion occurred.

Near Stewartville, Missouri, on the morning of the 7th, William Ball, superintendent on a farm, shot and killed Miss Ella Everitt, daughter of the proprietor, and then committed suicide. She had refused to marry him.

Just as a train on the Third Avenue Elevated Railroad, in New York, was approaching Forty-second street station on the morning of the 7th, an unknown man, about 55 years old, jumped from the platform to the tracks, and placing his head on the outside rail, was instantly killed. S. S. Tattman, a prisoner in the jail in Medina county, Ohio, awaiting transportation to the penitentiary to serve a sentence of seven years for shooting with intent to kill, committed suicide on the 6th. He tore his handkerchief in two, rolled the pieces into balls and pushed them down his throat, choking himself to death.

A despatch from Olympia, Washington Territory, says fourteen bodies from the wreck of the Abercorn have been washed ashore. Among them are Pilot Clerk Johnson, of Astoria, and Captain Irving. Those saved are Andrew Akin, cabin boy, Angus McClelland and Robert Rankin, seamen.

The United States customs officials at Watertown, New York, on the evening of the 7th, captured a sleigh containing \$25,000 worth of opium, which was being smuggled across the boundary line, near Redwood, Jefferson county. The smuggler and owner of the sleigh were arrested and taken to Ogdensburg.

John Moore, John Brinton, John Conners, "Fatty" Brinton, Thomas Brinton, Mrs. Brinton and her two daughters have been arrested in Pittsburg for stealing silks, laces, watches, jewelry, umbrellas and other valuable goods from the freight cars and warehouses of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

A man, supposed to be T. C. Dayton, of Caldwell, Essex county, New Jersey, shot himself in the head on the evening of the 8th. The wound will probably result fatally.

Christian Hoelcher, a butcher was nearly killed on the evening of the 4th, by a two-year-old Newfoundland dog, which he had to guard his premises in St. Louis at night. The man's breast, arms and sides were fearfully torn by the dog, and the man's life was only saved by his wife's presence of mind. She had a butcher knife, but being unable to use it without danger to her husband, she passed it to him, and he cut the dog's throat, killing the animal. Hoelcher's recovery is doubtful.

John Weisser, a farmer, of O'Hara township, Penna., committed suicide on the 7th by hanging. He was said to be worth at least \$100,000, and the verdict of the coroner's jury was that "his mind became impaired on account of his having too much money."

An accommodation train on the Jacksonville and Southwestern Railroad was derailed near Athens, Illinois, on the evening of the 7th, and the eight passengers were injured, one of them, Herman Hornbeck, dangerously.

Amos J. Snell, one of the largest real estate owners in Chicago, heard burglars in his residence on the evening of the 7th, and, taking a revolver, went down stairs, and, it is supposed, fired a shot through the door. The burglars opened the door and returned the fire. The bullet striking the wood-work and rebounding, hit Mr. Snell in the breast. He then ran toward the rear of the hall. The burglars must have followed him and shot him again, for the murdered man was found at the head of the basement stairs, with a bullet-hole just behind the ear. John Currie, a farmer, shot and killed Henry Main, a private banker, in Galt, Ontario, on the morning of the 8th, and then committed suicide. Mrs. George W. Miller, wife of a wealthy farmer living in Shelby county, Indiana, made four attempts to kill her husband on the evening of the 7th. First she struck at him with a butcher knife, and the blade passed through his coat; then she stabbed him with a pair of shears; then tried to kill him with an axe, and last tried to shoot him. Jealousy was the cause of her deed. Miller has left the woman, and he fears she will kill the children.

Miss Louise M. Royce, the school teacher who lay on the prairie, in Nebraska, all night, during the recent blizzard, with three of her pupils, all of whom died in her arms, had both feet amputated at Plain View, on the 8th. The physicians think it will be necessary to amputate her left arm.

An express train on the New York, Boston and Providence Railroad on the 8th ran over and killed two men who were walking on the track at West Mystic. The body of one was identified as that of Captain Thomas Carland.

At Broadland, on the 7th, the burrstone of a corn mill exploded, kil-

ling two men and fatally injuring two others. Stinson's Hotel, in Belle Ewart, Ontario, was burned on the evening of the 7th. Mrs. Nesbitt and her youngest child were burned to death. While blasting near South attacks, Tennessee, on the 8th, a premature explosion of dynamite killed James and Ludwig Williams, brothers, the contractors, and severely injured five workmen.

The thermometer in Chicago, at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 9th, registered 16 below zero, or within 8-10 of a degree as cold as it was January 16th last, the coldest day experienced there so far this winter.

A land slide occurred on the Columbus and Port Deposit Railroad near Fite's Eddy, Penna., on the morning of the 9th. Over 500 tons of earth and rock covered the track.

An epidemic of typhoid fever has broken out in the State Industrial Home for Girls in Adrian, Michigan, and thirteen cases are reported. The attacks, so far, are comparatively mild, and is believed defective sewerage caused the fever.

Five cases of trichinosis have occurred in the family of William Mau, of Toledo, Ohio, embracing himself, his wife, two children and his wife's brother. The disease was contracted from eating the flesh of young hog purchased January 8th. All five are in a dangerous condition.

A despatch from St. Ignace, Michigan, says a serious snow blockade occurred on the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic Railway on the 8th, and the express, accommodation and some freight trains are still stuck west of Seney. The thermometer registered 20 below at Alpena on the morning of the 9th. At Ishpeming it was 35 below, Marquette 26 and Mackinaw City 22.

John Janaschek, a farmer living near New France, Minnesota, on the evening of the 8th, shot and killed his wife, fatally wounding his 10-year-old daughter and then committed suicide. He and his wife quarrelled about a piece of property, which the wife owned, and she had begun a suit for divorce. Clement Arthur Day was hanged at Utica, New York, on the 9th. He murdered Johanna Rosa Cross in June last. The woman lived with him, though married to another man. A jury in the Circuit Court in Ottawa, Illinois, on the 9th, returned a verdict of guilty and imprisonment for life against George Bolzer, who murdered his cousin, Nicholas Han, at Streator, in July last. Seven Indian Territory murderers were sentenced to be hanged on the 9th, by Judge Parker, in the United States Court at Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Japan's foreign trade last year was greater than ever before, and that with the United States and Canada was greater than with any other country. But the balance was all against us; for while we exported to that country about \$3,900,000 worth of goods, we imported from there no less than \$16,000,000. Great Britain's trade with China was just the reverse of this. We bought their tea, rice and silks, and paid cash, and the cash drifted finally into English products to pay for cotton and woolen.

The lord mayor elect of London is a foreigner by birth, and a curious Britisher has looked through the records and found that in 1713 the lord mayor was of Italian birth; in 1716, a Fleming; in 1724, a Frankforter; in 1754, a Swede; in 1762, a Jamaican, and in 1793, a son of the governor of the island of Alderney was lord mayor.

Very cold weather prevails in Ontario and Quebec. At several points in the Ottawa Valley the mercury has touched 46 degrees below zero. Three inches of snow fell at Staunton, Virginia, on the night of the 9th.

The packing house of the Dupont Powder Works, at Wapwallopen, twenty miles from Wilkesbarre, Penna., blew up on the morning of the 10th, killing four men and injuring about forty others. The shock was felt in Wilkesbarre; at Nanticoke and Wanaquo chimneys were thrown down; at Shickohiny almost every window was smashed, and in Wapwallopen nearly every building was damaged or wrecked. Two men were killed on the 10th at Bellevue, Ohio, by an explosion of nitro-glycerine while they were digging it out of a hole where it had been buried for safe keeping.

Shortly after the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Express had passed Unionville, Iowa, on the 9th, the Pullman sleeper struck a broken rail and plunged down a 40-foot embankment, turning over twice. No person was killed, but several of the passengers were injured.

The regular Manitoba passenger train, going north, was wrecked at Clontarf, Minnesota, on the 9th, owing to a broken flange on an engine wheel. Mrs. Bemis, of Crookston, and Henry Gast, of Milwaukee, were fatally, and a dozen others severely injured. The mercury was 40 below, and the passengers suffered severely. Thomas Muldany, a switchman in the employ of Pittsburg, Chicago and Fort Wayne Railroad in Chicago, was run over by a freight car on the evening of the 9th. The car was derailed but kept on its course, plunging into another, and killing John Bell, a switchman. A train on the New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio Railroad ran into an open switch near Salamanca, New York, on the morning of the 10th, derailling the train and setting fire to an oil tank car. The engineer, a brakeman and one passenger were injured. While an express train was approaching Vriesland, Michigan, on the morning of the 9th, the connecting rod between the drivers on the left hand side broke, and the rod flew through the cab window and killed the fireman.

William Nowell was shot dead by Charles Pinkley in a quarrel about the possession of a watch, at Bessemer, Alabama, on the evening of the 9th. At Mechanicsburg, Indiana, on the evening of the 9th, John Buttery shot and killed Francis Moore, wounded his step-son, Etta McMullen, and then committed suicide. Jealousy was the

cause. Moore and Miss McMullen were to have been married within a month.

A despatch from Sheboygan, Michigan, says Louis Gerard, a young man employed as a steamer, attempted to cross the Straits on the evening of the 9th, and, when part way across, his team broke through the ice and disappeared. Gerard reached a fishing hut on the ice with both feet and hands badly frozen.

W. H. Less and his wife were injured, the latter fatally, by the explosion of the water pipes in their kitchen, at Uniontown, Ohio, on the morning of the 10th.

50th CONGRESS.—First Session.

In the U. S. Senate on the 6th, Mr. Hoar, from the Committee on the Celebration of the Centennial of the Constitution, reported a joint resolution providing a programme for such celebration, and it was adopted, after debate. In the course of the discussion, quite a scene was created by Mr. Riddieberger, of Virginia, who tried to discuss the subject of the British Extradition treaty, and was finally declared out of order by the Chair. The Senate went into executive session and afterwards adjourned.

In the U. S. Senate on the 7th, Mr. Platt concluded his speech in criticism of the President's message. A bill granting an American register to the foreign built bark Nordstesser, now at San Francisco, was passed. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the U. S. Senate on the 8th, Mr. Frye's resolution of inquiry in regard to the political and economical status of Canada and her provinces was agreed to. The bill to authorize the sale of certain mineral lands to aliens was discussed. A bill was passed appropriating \$1,200,000 for a public building in Kansas City. The bill for the relief of importers of animals for breeding purposes was also passed. Mr. Riddieberger made another scene in reference to the British Treaty, and was declared out of order. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the U. S. Senate on the 9th, Mr. Manderson, from the Committee on Printing, reported a joint resolution, which was passed, for the disposition of undistributed copies of the R-Bulletin Reports, Census Reports and Public Land Reports. A joint resolution was passed appointing Andrew D. White, of New York, a regent of the Smithsonian Institution, in place of A. A. Gray, deceased. The Blair bill came up, but was laid aside, and the bill authorizing the sale of certain mineral lands to aliens was taken up. After discussion the bill was recommitted. Bills were passed appropriating \$15,000 for a statue to the late Spencer F. Baird, and allowing patents to be signed by one of the Assistant Secretaries of the Interior. The consideration of a bill appropriating \$50,000 additional for a public building at Pensacola gave rise to an interesting discussion on the subject of the erection of public buildings generally. The bill was passed. Mr. Quay introduced a bill to amend the act prohibiting the importation of aliens under contract. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the U. S. House of Representatives on the 10th, Mr. Anderson, from the Committee on Post-offices, reported favorably Mr. Perkins' resolution directing the Postmaster General to inquire into alleged unsatisfactory mail service in the West, and it was adopted, with amendment directing that official to report whether any improvements and extensions have been made in the Western mail service during the last two years. The Senate bill for the appointment of Andrew D. White as a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution was concurred in. Pending consideration of the bill for the relief Nathaniel McKay, the House adjourned until Monday.

HOUSE

In the U. S. House of Representatives on the 4th, the consideration of the Lowry-White contested election case was resumed. Messrs. Moore, of Texas and O'Ferrall, of Virginia, spoke in support of the majority resolution declaring the seat vacant. Mr. Crocker, of New York, spoke in support of the contestee, as did Messrs. Rowell, Wilson and Nutting. Messrs. Outhwaite and Mash spoke in advocacy of the claims of the sitting member. Pending discussion the House adjourned.

In the House on the 6th, a number of bills and resolutions were introduced in the call of States. After the call had been concluded Speaker Carlisle entered the chamber and resumed his official duties. The consideration of the Lowry-White contested case was resumed, and the House, by a vote of 187 to 105, declared Mr. White the sitting member entitled to the seat. Forty-seven Democrats voted with the Republicans in the affirmative. Adjourned.

In the House on the 7th, adverse reports were made on the joint resolutions amending the Constitution so as to give Congress the power to regulate the hours of labor in factories, and to prohibit the manufacture, importation, exportation and sale of alcoholic liquors. The later, at the request of a New York member, was placed on the calendar. A number of bills and resolutions were reported, among them the Diplomatic and Military Academy Appropriation bills, and the bill to limit the hours of labor of letter carriers. Mr. Weaver's resolution asking the Secretary of the Treasury for information relative to the Department's policy of purchasing bonds and depositing public funds in a large number of national banks was reported and adopted. Adjourned.

In the House, on the 8th, the bill making bills of lading conclusive evidence in certain cases was passed. The Dingley bank bill was discussed. The Speaker announced the Reading Railroad investigation Committee as follows: Messrs. Tillman, of South Carolina; Stone, of Missouri; Chipman, of Michigan; Anderson, of Kansas, and Parker, of New York. Adjourned.

In the House, on the 9th, a number of bills were reported, among them a supplementary Urgent Deficiency bill. The bill to discontinue the coinage of the three-cent piece was passed. A joint resolution was reported and placed on the calendar to arrange for a commercial conference between the United States and other American republics and Brazil. The bill requiring the subsidized railroads to maintain and operate separate telegraph lines was discussed. Adjourned.

Punctitious. A gentleman in a suburban town went to call upon a lady whose family occupied one-half of a double house. The front door of the two parts opened upon the same stoop. At one of the doors the gentleman pulled the bell. The door was opened by a servant, who answered the inquiry for Mrs. S.—by directing the caller to the other door. The visitor then turned to the bell pull on the adjacent door post, and in a few moments that door was opened by the same servant, who solemnly replied to the second inquiry regarding Mrs. S.—by saying that the lady was not at home.

This incident is matched by another that took place in Vienna; rather more than matched, in fact, for the person who played two parts in the comedy had a special mood and temper for each part. "My friend was in Vienna," said a traveler. "He had taken from here a letter of credit on one of the best known banks and he wanted to draw on it. So he sought the agency of the bank in Vienna. He walked into an office which had a big barricade in front of a long desk and two small holes cut for the convenience of customers. He walked up to the first of them. A man came up. He handed the letter of credit to him. The man looked at it and said very gruffly: "Next window."

"My friend went to the next window. A man came up, took his letter of credit, looked at it, smiled pleasantly and said: "That's all right! How much do you wish to draw, sir?" "It was the same man?"

Mistook His Guest. A judicial joke is out and will start the rounds on the United States circuit. Everyone knows how expert and almost unerring the proverbial hotel clerk is when he takes in and sizes up a strange guest, as he writes his name, for the first time upon the book before him, and how accurately he fits him and his pocketbook to a room. It was about three years ago, when, having successfully steered his canoe between Scylla and Charybdis in the United States Congress, Judge Speer, ascended the bench of the United States Court in Macon. He arrived in the city at night, and, going direct to the Hotel Lanier, registered "Emory Speer" in a business like hand. When he had finished his autograph the alert clerk was already studying his keyboard, evidently a little perplexed as to details. But presently he turned and asked: "Mr. Speer, what line do you carry?" "Mr. Speer" looked at him and repeated the question in evident astonishment: "What line do I carry? I don't understand you, sir. Do you allude to my politics?" "No, sir, but I wanted to know whether you required a large or small sample room." Explanations followed, and that hotel clerk always keeps mighty quiet when he goes into the United States Court room.

In Receipt of \$10 a Week. Now, it stands to reason that if a stenographer or type writer is worth \$5 a week this year she ought to be worth \$10 a week next year, and it seems to me that any considerate employer would recognize the enormous improvement in the work done, and on the general principle of equity and honesty see that the compensation was also increased.

The moment a girl finds herself in the regular receipt of \$10 a week, where does she stand? She has a certain income of \$520 a year, which is at least \$150 more than the average clergyman, in this country or any other country, receives. She has as big pay as three-fifths of the bookkeepers in the big commercial houses of New York. Her income is quite as large as thousands of salaried clerks upon whom are dependent families, and if, as many of them do, she becomes so expert, and therefore so useful, I might also say so necessary to her employer's success, and assuredly to his comfort, as to earn \$15 a week, she has it in her power to defy the world, to dress well, to staid herself in nothing that one in her position should desire.

Fighting With Bare Knuckles. You will hear a number of so-called fighters nowadays talking of their ability to fight with bare knuckles, but the truth is that but few fighters have the courage to fight with the raw 'uns. It requires great pluck to face a determined fighter and look at the hard, uncovered knuckles playing carefully in front of you, and ready at the owner's will to be driven into your face or stomach. Thus men who will fight with the greatest determination with even as small as two ounce gloves, will quail when brought face to face with a pair of uncovered fists. No amount of coaching or training will cure them, either. The fear of a bare fist seems innate with some men and they can never conquer this fear, although their pluck has never been questioned when engaged in a glove contest, no matter how wicked. This peculiarity is noticeable mostly among the Germans, who have a holy horror of being hit with a naked fist. There have been plucky Germans, who have fought like tigers with gloves, but put them up with nothing on their hands and they are too nervous to do themselves justice.

One of the best ways to cure sore throat is as follows: Wring a cloth out of salt and cold water, and keeping it quite wet bind tightly about the neck. Cover this with a dry cloth. It is best to use this remedy in the night.

THE LOCKED BRACELETS.

Or, After Many Years, I was quite a big girl of twelve when we came to Milton to live. Papa had left the village a young man and returned old and broken down, but possessed of a large fortune. There was any number of servants in the house, and I had my governess, Miss Colton, but I felt very lonely without a companion of my own age.

One day while out walking in search of interest, I fell in coming down a hill and sprained my ankle. As I lay there groaning I suddenly heard a voice say, "Have you hurt yourself, dear?" An old woman was standing over me. I shuddered at the sight of her face, which was seamed with livid scars and puckered with horrible lines. Her kindly voice reassured me as she helped me into a tiny little cottage near by and sent for a doctor.

"What is your name?" she asked, as she bathed the sprain. "I must let your mamma know where you are." I told her it was Myrtle Cresson, and that my mother was dead. She seemed interested to know all about my family, and I told her freely. So began my friendship with Miss Smith, who proved, in spite of her terrible face, the dearest woman in the world. One day I heard her story. She had fallen in love at eighteen with a young man in her own village. Being ambitious, he went to London to find a situation and often wrote home to his betrothed.

One night the cottage where she lived took fire, and in attempting to save her step-father, who was an invalid, her face was terribly burnt. She wrote to her lover releasing him, and before she had time to receive an answer, was on her way to her grandmother's where she lived twenty years.

"And your lover?" I asked. "I have seen him since. He married and became a rich man." I went home saddened. Not only did I feel all the romance of youth stirred by the pitiful story, but I knew that my dear old friend was gradually failing in health, and would probably soon be called away from earth.

She was not confined to the house, but she had some pulmonary disease and every change of atmosphere took something from her strength. It was in October that the quiet, happy routine of my life was broken. My dear father, who had never dropped his active habits, was thrown from his horse and dangerously injured. Day after day he lay upon his bed suffering intensely and I would not leave him. It was in one of the long night watches, when he was free from pain, but wakeful, that I noticed in some restless movement a narrow way of gold upon his arm, about half way between the wrist and the elbow.

"Why, papa," I said, "what a pretty bracelet! You ought to have given it to me years ago." He smiled as he said, "it will not come off, dear. You must bury it with me."

I shuddered at the idea suggested, but he spoke again presently: "It is forty-five years, Myrtle, since this bracelet and its companion were locked and the key thrown into the river. It was put upon my arm by your namesake, my little Myrtle, with vows of eternal constancy. I had bought the two for a gift of betrothal, and when mine was clasped and locked I took the tiny key to fasten the one clasped upon Myrtle's arm. My dear little love! How sweet her face was as she looked up at me, promising to wear my gift till death."

"Did she die, papa?" "No, darling. Circumstances separated us and I never saw her after that day. I lived a lonely life for her sake for many long years, but I loved your mother and she knew the story of the bracelet when she married me. Yet, after she died I tried once again to find Myrtle Carpenter, but in vain. She must be old, perhaps she has been dead for years. I know nothing of her."

I examined the bracelet with all a girl's interest. It was a band of gold, chased in a pretty design, with the word "constancy" upon a scroll surrounded by leaves and flowers. The tiny key hole was delicately chased, and held the clasp firmly.

It was the eighth day of such watching, when every hope was gone, and when we only looked for the end, when Miss Smith came into the room just before the night watch. "I have been here every day," she said in a low voice, "but I would not have called you down stairs. To-night you must let me share your watch."

"You—you know"—I said. "I know, dear, that probably before morning there will be a released spirit, and the peaceful end of all suffering for your dear father. The doctor tells me there will be no more pain."

"Will he be conscious? Oh," I cried, he has not known me for a week!" "Will he speak to me to-night?" "Darling, we cannot tell. But you must rest now, and let me watch." "I cannot rest," I said, "and you ought to be nursed yourself."

For looking into her face I was shocked to see how dreadfully she had changed in the trying time that I had been shut up in my father's room. "To-morrow I will rest," she said, gently. "But you will need your strength. If you will lie down here upon the sofa, I promise to call you if your father awakens or moves."

"You promise?" "Yes, dear, if there is any change." So, conscious of how unwell I was to bear added sorrow, I lay down and slept soundly in sheer exhaustion. When I awakened it was dawn, and the gray light was creeping into the room. Frightened at my long sleep, I hastened to the bedside. My father was dead, and upon his lips rested the sweetest smile I had ever seen there. Close beside him, her head a little thrown back upon an easy chair, was my dear old friend kneeling that last long sleep that knows no waking, while thrown across my father's breast was her arm, bared to the elbow, and gleaming upon it the companion to his locked bracelet.