

THE DARKEST HOUR.

'Tis always the darkest hour,
Before the dawn doth shine,
Ever the moment of fear and gloom,

HIS FIRST OFFICIAL NIGHT.

BY W. P. CHAMBERS.

Years ago, when the ambitious city of
Weston was simply a village, there
lived on the hill beyond the creek a man

deference to the occasion a coat was also
donned. By this time a very young man
and a shrinking maiden had reached the
door-step.

'Come right in! Take chairs and sit
down," came from the hearth, where our
officer was trying to fan the smoking
embers into a flame by blowing on them
with his breath.

'Are you runaways?"
"Yes, sir."
"Your names?"

'What's your name?"
"Mine is William Wright, this young
lady's is Mary Banks."

'Are you a son of John Wright?"
"Yes, sir."

'And is that one of old Tom Banks'
girls?"
"Yes, sir."

'What did you run away for?"
"'Cause her folks were not willin' for
us to marry."

In the matter of the inquest Dr. Smith
assumed entire control. He prepared all
the necessary papers, and it was only
required of G. Bently, Esq., to set "his
hand and seal" to various documents.

It was near 10 o'clock when the
Squire and his party returned from the
inquest. They were all very drowsy
and very hungry. Our officer found a
rather unpleasant state of affairs on his
arrival at home.

Before this occurred, or even break-
fast was served, Pete Brown rode up.
He had concluded not to die, he and
Jake made friends and the case was dis-
missed.

'Where did you get 'em?"
"From the court-house, of course. If
you please, sir, will you proceed?"

'You bet I will! Hold up your right
hands!"

'Is it over?" asked the bride, with a
sigh of relief, as she lowered her hand.

'I reckon so!" was the rather doubtful
response of the groom.

REV. DR. TALMAGE.

The Eminent Brooklyn Divines' Sun-
day Sermon.

Subject: "The Morning Star."

TEXT: "I am the bright and the morning
star."—Revelation xxii, 16.

It is Christmas Eve. Our attention and
the attention of the world is drawn to the
star that pointed down to the carpenter's
where Christ was born.

It seems as if the natural world were
anxious for the dawn, as if it did our
race in furnishing the forbidden fruit.

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race in furnishing the forbidden fruit.

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"'Cause her folks were not willin' for
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churches. Her vast population shall
surrender themselves to Christ. What is that
light I see breaking over the top of the Alps?

Again, Christ heralds the dawn of heaven
upon every Christian's dying pillow. I sup-
pose you have noticed that the character-
istics of people in their healthy days are

'What's your name?"
"Mine is William Wright, this young
lady's is Mary Banks."

'Are you a son of John Wright?"
"Who else is with you?"

'I want to get my book."

stainless, making a pillar on the
other side, and you push against
the gate that swings between
the two pillars, and as the gate flashes open

She'll Soon Own the Unrivalled.
The persistence of the crank is one
of the most extraordinary attributes
of the genius. When Gen. Grant was
in the White House a woman named

Canada's Chinese Question.
Canada has an important Chinese
question. The Canadian Parliament in
1878 enacted a law imposing a duty of
\$50 on all Chinese, with certain ex-

A Misguided Inventor.
A New Jersey man has invented a
bicycle with an intricate system of
gear wheels that increases its speed

MARKETS.

Table containing market prices for various goods: FLOUR, POTATOES, EGGS, BUTTER, CHEESE, POULTRY, BEEF, etc., with prices listed in dollars and cents.