THE BROCK'S LAMENT.

A brook ran seeking on its way The swift and shifting swallow-How shall I gain The magic strain That rings from hill to hollow? The swallow song, so wild and gay, That fleets before me. day by day, Though all day long, I follow?

Nay, foolish brook, a willow sighed That leaned the water over. Hast thou not guessed Thy song is best For thee, sweet meadow rover? Ah, better far thy babbling tide. By day and night to softly glide And murmur in the clover! -Kate Osgood in Youth's Companion.

A TERRIBLE ADVENTURE.

years ago, the incidents with which it if they happened but yesterday, nor do question. There was one other exit my gaze away. I suppose they will be ever be effaced to the place, as I could see, but be- Yet, although at the moment I exture of the details, their terrible vividness and reality, and the rememleft a mark on my memory that will last as long as life itself.

It was the close of a day toward the you say?" end of the London season. I had been dining from home with some friends. he leered as he spoke. Once more and returning early, dropped into a fashionable club in the neighborhood of Covent Garden, where I knew some tence of yielding, in the hope that a kindred spirits were in the habit of way out of the danger would yet pre- impact completely extinguishing the congregating. My step led me to the card room, less with the intention of playing than of whiling half an hour pleasantly away.

For a time I amused myself by watching the play at one or other of of it. One cut each; highest card effect upon my overwrought nerves the many well-filled tables, and was wins!" thus employed when I was invited to a game by an individual who was the pack and laid it face downward on was breaking into the room. With requite a stranger to me, and who, I became aware, had been eying me intently for several minutes. Despite a polite and gentlemanly bearing, the man had such an unprepossessing look about him that I did not at once accede to his request. He was pressing, however, and, after some little hesitation, I yielded.

He was a good player, handling his cards cleverly and with skill, and his performance did not in the least bear out my half-formed idea that he was a possible sharper. On the contrary, his in the slightest particular. Luck displayed it. It was the deuce of however, was entirely against him, and in less than an hour's play he left off considerably in my debt.

"Look here," he said, at the finish of a game for increased stakes. "I owe you £5. Come round to my rooms, and will pay you at once. My place is

gag that the wretch had placed over with a sorry attempt at a smile. "On the contrary, I never was more my mouth rendered breathing itself a serious in my life," he replied. "I will matter of difficulty, and made shoutgive you a proof of it." As he spoke ing an impossibility.

Big beads of perspiration broke out he drew a revolver from beneath his jacket, and levelled it at my head. "I on my forehead as, more dead than have only to pull this trigger and you alive, I watched the receding light. Bit are a dead man!" he remarked, coolly. by bit the taper dwindled away, until "But I don't want to do the thing in half an inch of wax separated me from that way, and, besides, I mean to give my doom. The events of a lifetime you a chance," he added. "Look here, crowded into those last few minutes, I am fond of cards, and you play well, and transfixed me with horror. Before We will have one more game. If you me was reflected, as in a mirror every win, you go free; lose, and I proceed scene in which I had ever played a part with my purpose. What say you to for good or ill. Each particular of my that? You hesitate. Very well; I career stood on the canvas, limned will give you one minute in which to in distinctive outline, and the record make up your mind. Unless you con- of an entire existence was re-enacted sent within that time, I will blo .. with as much fidelity as if they were your brains out straightway!" the original acts I was witnessing. En-That, sane or mad, the fellow meant grossed, enchanted, my mind seemed

what he said there was no manner of held by some magnetic spell, from doubt, for, with pistol in one hand and which there was no escaping.

Suddenly a flickering at one of the watch in the other, he began quietly to tick off the seconds. Of course, I windows arrested my attention, and, was not slow to see the danger I was like the drowning man who catches at Although the experience related in in, and looked round for a way out of a straw, I looked toward it, half hopfollowing lines occurred a great many it, but saw none. The door which I ing to get rescue from thence. But it had entered I knew was locked, so that was only a moth fretting at the windeals are as fresh in my recollection as escape by means of it was out of the dow pane, and, sick at heart, I turned

from my mind. The astounding na- tween it and myself stood this ruffian pected it not, it was from that insigwith loaded pistol. For a moment I ulficant insect that deliverance came. thought of springing at the man and There was a fracture in the glass, and brance of those awful moments spent taking my chance, but he was stronger through it the moth presently careered in the companionship of death, have built than I, and, armed as he was, I into the room. It flew aimlessly about for a few seconds, until, attracted by Thirty seconds have gone; what do luring light, it sped toward the candle. Hesitating an instant, it made a circle around the burning wick, and then, with the mad impetuosity of the prudence seemed to point out that the species, dashed headlong into the flame. The fatuous act cost the creature its own life, but it saved mine, the light at a time when it wanted but a few more moments to reach the powder and explode it!

> This unexpected escape from what We don't want to make a long business looked like certain death had such an that I swooned right away, and when Replacing the revolver, he shuffled consciousness returned to me daylight

newed strength I struggled at my bonds, and at last the ring that held posed the card I had drawn. It was them gave way, and I fell exhausted the ace of diamonds! My heart beat to the ground. Somehow I managed freely, for I knew that I could not he to crawl to the window, and, after a beaten. He followed and showed his while succeeded in attracting attencard. It was the ace of spades, and tion. Soon after I was free,

A clue to the identity of the wretch At once he reshuffled the pack and who had thus diabolically designed my death was furnished by a sheet of note "My first play this time," he said, paper found in his room. It bore the impress of an address on the outskirts taking a dip at the boards. He drew of Paris, and proceeding thither in duf course, I found it to be the locale of ; faction of knowing that it was imposplay was perfectly square and above sible for me to lose. I went low down private lunatic asylum. Description board, and was not open to suspicion the pack for my venture, and eagerly and inquiries established the fact that my assailant had formerly been an in mate of that place, but had succeeded in making his escape some time premy opponent, rubbing his hands in en- viously, and was entirely lost sight of It transpired that he was an Eng oyment of my suspense. With a few dexterous twists he rearranged the lishman by birth, but had lived for a time in Paris, where he lost a large pack, and once more placed it on the fortune in gambling. This fact has caused his mind to give way. A fea ture of his madness was the belief that some one had robbed him of his "es for this supposed injury. Of course there was no foundation for his wild pounced upon me, and hurled me to the fancy. His ruin was due solely to his ground. For several seconds I strug- own acts, and no one else was in any sisted in his tale, and evidently be lieved in it implicitly. Sane in all other respects, on that point he was a to prevent it, he bound me hand and dangerous madman. Nemesis finally met his death in a railway accident in end of the room, where he fastened the Germany, whither his wandering steps seemed to have led him, and his caceer is now forever closed .- Tit-Bits.

able.

NEWS SENT TO MILLIONS.

WORK OF TELECRAPH COMPANIES DURING A POLITICAL CONVENTION.

The Elaborate Bulletin and Ticker System --- The Employes --- Providing Light for the Hall.

A question as to how many of the millions of men in these United States became aware inside of twenty-four hours after action by the two conventions that McKinley or Bryan had been nominated as candidates for the presidency is one that no human being can answer. But it is not unreasonable to assert that nine-tenths, or even a greater proportion, were informed at some minute in the period indicated who the nominees were. This marvelous marily by that elusive element electricity, plain and practical men being its masters.

from the beginning to the end of the from Chicago or any other city in the Union's comparatively youthful rival. the Postal, is said also to have exceedtotal was not as great as at Chicago.

speed with which controlled electricity electricity - and men. travels over wires, is it not likely that the curiosity of practically every man in the nation as to the important features of these political meetings was cratified in at least one day? Thirtyix years ago, when Lincoln was first nominated in the "Wigwam" at Chicago, one operator was sufficient to send from the insignificant headquarters of the telegraph company the news of the convention. During the convention at Chicago, this year, nearly 600 employees of the Western Union Company were engaged in some capacity in handling convention "matter." Col. R. C. Clowry, vice-president and general superintendent of the Western Union in whose district the two conventions were held, remembers that the employment of four operators in a proscenium box at the old Crosby Opera house, in Chicago, where, in 1868, a convention was held, was considered a great feat of telegraphic enerprise. The development from those

"We hardly thought," said Mr. Somerville, the other day, "that the work our company would have to do during the Chicago convention would exceed that done at the St. Louis convention, for the reason that the Chicago papers would not require our services. When conventions are held in other cities than Chicago, the papers of that city take about 25 per cent. of all the words sent out, New York another 25, and the rest is distributed all over the country. But we never did as much as at Chfcago this year." "What is the effect upon commercialbusiness during one of these conventions, so far as telegraphic companies are concerned ?" Mr. Somerville was asked. "Why," he answered, "the commercial business seems to fall off. I presume that is due to the general interest among those business men who at other times use the telegraph wires in the proceedings of the convention, and that they let what can go over for a day or two. No, I do not think the companies lose money through the conventions. Of course, their receipts damage,-Birmingham Post. from the newspapers are very large. But the companies, or at least our company, are put to great expense because of them. For ordinary business between Chicago and St. Louis we had sufficient wires, but to serve the Chimgo papers this year we had to build a number of new wires. Then there is growing up an enormous free business of the Western Union Company. In the public in over 20,000 cities, towns, than to give up their own time to them, and villages in the United States-in The mortality of the dog hospitals, fact, wherever there is a Western Un- however, is rather large as yet, for peoion office." These bulletins were posted outside and do not send their dogs for treatof all the telegraph offices, in Ex- ment until they have tried all the remechanges, in hotels, sent out on the "tickers," and passed around from dog is in such a bad shape that there hand to hand everywhere. Mr. Somerville was on the platform of the Collseum, and during the important episodes he sent them out at the closest intervals, practically posting the people in all parts of the country on what had just transpired in the convention. Probably in no previous conventions or Emilar gatherings was the telephone ever so extensively used in the that the mortality is so large."-Washdissemination not only of bulletins. ington Slar. but of regular reports of proceedings. as it was at Chicago and St. Louis this year. The Chicago Telephone Company, profiting by the experience of other years, provided for the public and the newspapers facilities not only for telephone exchange communications, but for the transmission of ver-

private line was prepared by the telephone company for its own use in transmitting bulletins to lis patrons. These bulletins were also sent by the long distance lines all over the country.

Electricity also played an important part as a light provider. The current for the convention hall was supplied from a temporary plant in the large building three blocks west of the Colfseum known as the Vendome Club, a monument of World's Fair enterprise now unoccupied. The current was taken to the Coliseum by a pole line. Two circuits supplied the 185 lamps of 2.000 candle power each used to light the hall. Ninety-six of the lamps were arranged in groups of four each, without globes, and backed by silver reflectors for the lighting of the open space under the great trusses, while the remainder were disposed of under achievement was accomplished pri- the galleries, in committee rooms, and in various parts of the building.

On the Thursday night when the convention was in session until nearly According to Mr. W. B. Somerville, 1 o'clock, the plant was run all night the veteran superintendent of the to give an opportunity for the attendpress bureau of the Western Union ants to put the hall in order for the Telegraph Company, that corpora- morning session. The effect produced tion's wires carried out of Chicago, by the side group and reflector system was especially noteworthy. The force Democratic convention, more words of the light was directed just where it and figures than were ever transmitted was needed-on the floor of the building-where it blended into even and world on any occasion. The Western general illumination. The eyes of the spectators on the sides of the hall were protected from the glare by the backs cd its previous records in the num- of the reflectors, while the lamps were ber of words sent by its operators from far enough removed from the central Chicago during the convention. Both floor space so that no annoyance was companies sent millions of words from caused by the light to those in that St. Louis regarding the doings of the portion of the building. The problem Republican convention there. But the of lighting large interiors satisfactorily has always been a perplexing one, Considering, then, the ramifications but it was solved on this occasion. It of these two corporations and the was, altogether, a great triumph for

Waterspouts of the Desert.

The staff of each mine in West Australia usually makes "a camp" on the mine, which they surround with high fences of boughs to keep out the duststorms or "willie-willies." These "willie-willies" are more or less peculiar to the goldfields, and are really worth a few lines. They are waterspouts in sand. You may be gazing idly upon the mountains of dust and sand which go to make up a goldfield's street when suddenly you observe a tremor in the dirt, two or three wisps of straw collect, a piece of paper wanders up, stays and watches the proceedings, more pieces of paper come along, the dust becomes quite excited and rises about a foot from the surface and twists round very rapidly in a spiral. The little pillar of dirt then moves slowly down the street or across the plain; is goes very slowly, but it attracts all the scraps in its way and sucks them up. imes, it can be seen, has been remark-Each yard the "willie-willie" travels it gains power and importance. It oves very deliberately, but it misses nothing in the way of small rubbish, After a few minutes it is four or five feet high, solid at the base and spreading out into a film of sand at its summit. The idlers watch it with a grit as it gathers force. It hums like a big top. By the time it has meandered a hundred yards in its zigzag it is fifty feet high and soaring merrily, and then toe betide the unwary. To be caught by a "willie-willie" means that your very marrow is saturated with sand and dirt. You go in a clean and wholesome creature: you emerge a battered. begrimed cripple. The "willie-willie" doesn't trouble; it stendily grovels about for another victim. When it is strong enough it tackles a tent-away goes the canvas, spinning in the air. The contents of the tent are covered with dust inches deep-not nice, clean dust, but filthy, putrescent dust of a camp where cleanliness is the last consideration. Then the "willie-willie" gets outside .and dies away among the trees. They are sometimes 100 feet high, and then they do a good deal of

SOUTH AFRICAN RUINS.

Buildings at Zimbabwe that May Be of King Solomon's Time.

It would seem that, at some far distant date, a people more civilized than any of the present Kafir tribes had penetrated into the region we now call Machonaland, and had maintained itself there for a considerable period. Remains of gold-workings are found in many parts of that country, and even as far as the southwestern part of Matabeleland-remains which show that mining must have been carried on, by primitive methods, no doubt, but still upon a scale larger than we can well deem within the capabilities of the Kafir tribes as we now see them. There are, moreover, in these regions, and usually not far from some old goldworking, pieces of ancient building executed with a neatness and finish, as well as with an attempt at artistic effect, which are entirely absent from the rough walls, sometimes of loose stones, sometimes plastered with mud, which the Kafirs build to-day.

These old buildings are, with one exception, bits of wall inclosing forts or residences. They are constructed of small blocks of the granite of the country, carefully trimmed to be of one size, and are usually ornamented with a simple pattern, such as the so-called "herringbone" pattern. The one exception is to be found in the ruins of Zimbabwe, in southern Mashonaland, Here a wall thirty feet high, and from six to welve or fourteen feet thick, incloses a large elliptical space, filled with other buildings, some of which apparently were intended for the purposes of worship. There are no inscriptions of any kind, and few objects, except some rudely carved heads of birds, to supply any indication as to the ethnological affinities of the people who erected this building, or as to the nature of their worship. Such indications as we have, however, suggest that it was some form of nature worship, including the worship of the sun. We know from other sources (including the Egyptian monuments and the Old Testament) that there was from very early times a trade between the Red Sea and some part of East Africa; and as we know also that the worship of natural forces and of the sun prevailed among the early Semites. the view that the builders of Zimbabwe were of Arab or some other Semitic stock, is at least highly plausible.

Two things are quite clear to every one who examines the ruins, and compares them with the smaller fragments of ancient building already mentioned. Those who built Zimbabwe were a race much superior to the Bantu tribes. whose mud huts are now to be found not far from these still strong and solid walls; and those other remains scattered through the country were either the work of that same superior race, or, at any rate, were built in imitation of their style and under the influence they had left. But whether this race was driven out or peaceably withdrew, or became by degrees absorbed and lost in the surrounding Bantu population, we have no data for conjecture. If they came from Arabia they must have come more than twelve centuries ago, before the days of Mohammed; for they were evidently not Mussulmans, and it is just as easy to suppose that they came in the days of Solomon. fifteen centuries earlier .-- Century.

not far from here.

Naturally somewhat anxious to get what was due to me, I acquiesced, and followed him out of the club. I did not take particular notice of the route we pursued, as my companion walked fast, and I experienced some difficulty in keeping up with him; but, after passing through several by-streets, he suddenly pulled up before the door of a house in what appeared to me quite a deserted neighborhood.

Taking a latch key from his pocket. he noiselessly opened the door, and led the way up a fight of stairs into a long and scantily furnished room, which had more the appearance of a workshop than a dwelling. I was not the wall. a little surprised, and somewhat alarmed to find that he locked the door immediately upon our entrance and pocketed the key.

Noticing that I was watching his movements, he smiled reassuringly, and drawing forward a couple of chairs, which he placed one on each side of a table that stood in the centre come of the room, he bade me be seated. Mechanically I dropped into one of the chairs, while he went to a drawer, and opening it, produced a pack of cards.

"We will play double or quits," said the stranger, in a polite but commanding tone.

To this I demurred, as the idea did not at all commend itself to my judgment.

"Indeed, I would rather not." I replied, at once, "I do not care for that kind of play."

"Oh, but I am sure you will oblige me," he said, insinuatingly, shuffling the cards as he spoke.

I do not know what it was, but something in the man's manner seemed to warn me that I had better humor him. so, after a little protestation, I gave way, and permitted him to deal out the cards. We played, and he won.

"The game is yours, and we are quits," I said, somewhat chagrined. getting up from my chair at the conclusion of the game and moving toward the door. "If you will kindly undo this lock. I will now go about my business."

"Ha! ba!" laughed the fellow, dropping his polite bearing, and assuming a threatening attitude, "you're not going to get off so easily as that. I assure you! What do you suppose I have brought you here for?"

replied, thrusting my hands into my pockets as the thought occurred to me that robbery was his game.

close to me and speaking in my car, "I he was in the street, and I was left run is 648,000, while in those of the am going to take your life."

I gave a start, and looked at the man amazedly, wondering whether he was time that followed. Slowly, but sure- changes. mad or a fool. A strange look about ly, the candle burned away, each his eyes that I had not before noticed flicker of its flame bringing me closer case,

"You are joking," I accordingly said, avail. Call for help I could not, for the energy.

'Your play," he said to me, and I reached out my hand hesitatingly, I drew the queen of clubs this time; he capped it with the king of spades, and tates," and his one cry was for revenge -I had lost!

felt I should be no match for him.

His words sounded mockingly, and

better course would be to make a pre-

"Ha! I thought you would," he re-

joined. "Now for an interesting game.

the table, offering me first play. I re-

moved a portion of the pack, and ex-

the deuce of clubs, and I had the satis-

"The third time will settle it!" said

hearts, and again we had tied.

sent itself.

we had tied!

laid it on the table.

"I consent," I said.

With a yell of triumph the fellow gled violently in his grasp, but, as I way responsible. But the fellow per had anticipated, he proved more than a match for me, taken by surprise as I was. Notwithstanding my efforts foot with a rope he drew from his overtook him, for some time later he pocket, and then dragged me to the cord to an iron ring projecting from

"Villain!" I gasped, breathlessly, "if you intend to murder me, at least tell me your motive for the atrocious act."

said, fiercely. "You cheated me out change. The interest of the average of my estates, and so worked my ruin! newspaper render in Nansen, Jackson.

of what I said, and when, in despair, I of the pole would increase the .- Jucatually silenced my cries. Helpless, useless information. So the Arctic exonly watch the preparations for my esting but foolhardy persons, who purmurder.

than I desire," said my self-appointed now and then by returning with horriexecutioner, pointing to the revolver, ble tales of privation or by leaving which he again produced, "and I their bones in some frozen waste to your prayers before you die!" room, and dragged from it a keg, the popular imagination in such a which, by dint of much exertion, he blaze that Mr. Cook's clients will gird managed to get onto the table. Stand- on their sealskins and collect their ing it on end, he speedily knocked off potted meats. Then a fickle populace the top and exposed its contents.

cupboard and produced a candle, his veracious narrative to a bottle. which he buried half its length in the ombre grains, and, striking a match,

deliberately set light to the wick.

"Not a bad idea, is it?" he said, ex- proven that in a patent lock having six ultingly, addressing me, "The taper "steps," each capable of being reduced will burn for about half an hour, and in height twenty times, the number of you can amuse yourself in the mean- changes or combinations will be SG. time by watching the flame as it gets 400. Further, that as the drill pin and "For no improper purpose, I trust," I nearer and nearer the powder. When the pipes of the keys may be made of it touches, goodby to you. Ha! Ha! three different sizes, the total number of the room, and the banging of the of the smallest size the total number of "I will tell you," said he, coming outer door a few seconds later told me changes through which they can be face to face with certain death.

strongly impelled me to the former and closer to the fate I was powerless cognition in China. Twenty years ago conclusion, though I endeavored to per- to avert. I writhed and twisted at the one could buy a pretty good sort of a suade myself that the latter was the cords which bound me, until my veins wife for \$25. Now the price is \$250, were nigh to bursting, but without and the market has an upward tend-

No Money in the Pole.

You cannot get a quotation for the "Have you so soon forgotten?" he Aurora Borealis on the Stock Ex-Is not that enough? I have sworn to and the balloon is mingled with the be avenged, and now the hour is suspicion that their renown is foreign to practical affairs There may even It was in vain to protest that he was be a misgiving lurking at the back of mistaken. The fellow heeded nothing this citizen's mind that the discovery raised my voice to shout for help, he tion rate by stimulating the illicit zeal put a gag over my mouth and effec- of the teachers for the imparting of breathless, and almost stifled. I could plorers are regarded by many as intersue a chimera into uncomfortable re-"This would do the thing quicker gions, and provide a little excitement

want to give you a chance of saying serve as milestones to their successors. On the other hand, the man who Grinning hideously as he spoke, he reaches this pole will be the most prowent to a cupboard at one end of the digious lion of his time, and will set

will weary of the north pole, and will "Gunpowder," he said, explanatorily, pine for its neglected opposite in the dipping his hand into the barrel and south, where the mariner in Poe's tale allowing the material to run through was carried by the current into the his fingers. He then went back to the bowels of the earth, after committing

Curiosities in Keys.

The Yale lock manufacturers have With a fiendish laugh he glided out of changes will be 2,592,600. In keys large size the number can be increased My brain reels as I recall the awful to not less than 7,776,000 different

Women are gradually winning re-

Hospital for Dogs.

"Dog physicians and dog hospitals are rather numerous in this city now." remarked a prominent dog fancier and kennel owner, "and they are doing a good business. Persons who own fine dogs are their customers, and they find during these conventions on the part it to be better and cheaper to send their sick or injured dogs to a hospital. Chicago i sent bulletins from the con- where they can be treated and nursed vention hall which gave information to by intelligent and educated physicians. ple generally are not educated up to it, dies known to them. By that time the is little hope of his recovery. The dog hospital, therefore, comes in for the blame, which is undeserving. It is the same way with surgical cases resulting from accidents, bites from other dogs and the like. The hospital is the last resort, and in the majority of cases blood poisoning has set in before the dog is sent for treatment. It is not surprising under the circumstances

Power of Insects and Horses.

Few people have any idea of the wonderful amount of strength possessed by members of the beetle family. Felix Plateau has made experiments which show that a common bal business, which gave to distant door beetle can draw 500 times its points instantaneous knowledge of own weight and a stag beetle has been what was going on within the conven- known to escape from under a box tion hall. Private wires for newspa- weighted with a book 1.700 times pers in cities far away, as well as in greater in weight than the insects Chicago, were provided. In the hall body. If a horse's strength was as convenient desk telephones were great comparatively as that of a complaced upon tables for the representa- mon fiea he could draw a dead weight tives of these newspapers. A special of SCU.CCC pounds!

Our Diplomatic Service.

The diplomatic service has sometimes been assailed in Congress as a purely ornamental one; and while the evident necessity of maintaining the service is such as ought to save it from the destructionists it is quite true that our diplomatic relations with some of the powers are more ceremonious than practical. But we must be equipped and prepared for emergencies, and every now and then, even at the smallest and most remote courts, there is a critical need of an American representative to protect American citizens or American interests .-- Ladies' Home Journal

Magnets as Harbor Defenses

A well-known scientific expert has conceived the idea of magnetizing large bodies of iren, such as worn-out cannon, by means of a powerful electric current and using them to protect seaports from belligerent battleships. A wire leading from the shore to the cannon would communicate that current when it was needed, and as soon as an enemy's ironclad attempted to cross the harbor bar the current would be turned on. As the ship steamed over the invisible magnets the two nearest cannon would rise and cling to the vessel with such force as to stop her et tireir.



it is simply a clear, pure, honest soap for laundry and household use, made by the most approved processes, and being the best, it as the largest sale in the world. It is made in a twin ber for convenience sake,

