THE PLAYHOUSE.

By Nixon Waterman.

It wasn't a house at all, you see But only a big, flat stone; Yet they called it a house, did the sis- to Don Jose. ters three.

As they tarried there and sipped their

And each was as glad as a queen might

be,-A queen on a golden throne.

And one was like a lily fair, And one was like a rose; And one had stolen a happy share Of blended grace from the other pair; And all were lovely beyond compare,-My queens of the long agoes.

gate,

And under the apple trees:

late. The robin sang to his happy mate As a lithe limb, feeling his happy weight.

Swung low in the summer breeze. And many a golden afternoon

The sisters chatted there, With hearts as glad as the skies of June.

With hearts that withered and all too | swer?" soon

With a grief they could not bear.

I wandered far in the paths of men, I lingered long and late To win the golden prize and then I set my heart for the "home" again, cheerless when

I stood by the garden gate.

In woe I sat me down to weep. For my heart was sad and lone, And my gold seemed all so poor and the ball room. cheap,-

There was little left I cared to keep. And I wished I were wrapped in a dreamless sleep

And under the big flat stone. -L. A. W. Bulletin.

# THE STING OF THE VIPER.

BY H. S. KELLER.

"Maledictions upon that white-faced fool! The girl was interested, attracted by me ere he came. That interest which I had taken so much pains to foster might in time have ripened into love. I could be patient, for I am a Peruvian. Now, the lily-fingered dandy from the North has stepped between me and the object of my love. The blood of a Peruvian brooks no defeat. I will not submit tamely to Marie's coldness. I have her proud old father in my grasp; he must clear this white-faced fool from my path. If he be powerless to do this, then the viper's sting shall do the work for me."

Savagely, almost insanely, the words fell from the speaker's lips.

Don Jose Le Garde had taken Caramong its elegant high circles. Ru- six months afterwards the elite of Caracas by storm when he first appeared gay Venezuelian city the doors of the best society were opened to him-this States. fabulously rich silver king of the mines of Peru.

pletely carried off their feet by his People Who Want Postage Stamps, Ice glitter of gold, and laid many a trap, each baited by a beautiful daughter, to capture the charming Peruvian. In the partment," said a sergeant in the back wine room, the dance hall, or at the gambling table, he carried all before him. He played, not to win, so he said, but for the intoxication of the spell of the annoyances to which we are subchance. He drank, not because he jected. When I was on duty in some was a drunkard, but for the spirit of of the south side precincts people used triumph which came to him when he to come to the station and ask for the saw his boon companions drop, one queerest things. Hardly a day went after the other, while he remained by that some one didn't come around clear-headed, sober as ever.

circle of gold once or twice; tapped it droves for a drink of ice water. When with his finger tips and smiled sar- he remonstrated with them, they'd donically as he rung for his valet. He say: 'Vel, don't ve pay taxes for de was quickly dressed and ready for the ice, and shouldn't ve drink it, what?" ball which was to take place at the As a matter of fact, the ice is paid for spacious palace of the old Venezuelan by the policemen themselves, but you merchant, Marie's father,

The rooms of the grand pile were filled with the elite of Caracas. Don I was on the desk, a big, stout German Jose gritted his white teeth and smothered an oath under his inky mustache as he entered the ball room. There, at the farther side of the brilliantly lighted room, was sented Marie, more charming than ever, and leaning upon the back of her chair, bending over her beautiful shoulders and fanning her with a scarlet-feathered fan, was the object of the Peruvian's mad hatred-Leon Stevenson, of the United States, "Sir, a word with you," said Don Jose touching his aged host upon the shoul-

The old gentleman started, glanced at the pair on the other side of the room, and followed his guest into the

conservatory. to dangle at your daughter's apron-

"Don Jose, not so loud, I beg of you; some guests-"

"And unless you relieve me of the hated presence of this rival, every it was time for roll call and another guest under your roof shall know about the cloud hanging over the rich Venezulian merchant."

"For the sake of Heaven, do not speak so loudly! You will ruin me!" interrupted the old gentleman, laying his hand upon the other's arm.

"Will you, once for all, command your daughter to dismiss this Steven-

"I-I-can only try."

ised me Marie's hand in marriage. I somewhat of a damper on charity have sworn to take her back to Peru in that particular station for quite a as my bride. Until this fair dandy came from the North my path was clear. I like not his presence. Remove him or-your house falls, and ruin stares you in the face!"

"I will do my best," uttered the old the first bout.

man, as he quivered with rage. For the sake of transient pecuniary relief he had placed himself in the man's power. The rich Peruvian held his notes, which must be met or which would be destroyed upon the marriage of Marie

"And now I desire to see Marie here; kindly tell her to come to me," utterd the Peruvian.

His imperious air of command made the blood of the old Venezuellan boil; but choking back his anger-for he was in this man's power-he returned to the ball room, leaving the other to pace up and down the conservatory, filled with rich, gaily-hued tropical plants.

A soft step caused him to turn. The beautiful form of Marie approached nearer. He reached out his hand, and the girl drew back as the thin, feverish-The house was close by the garden ly hot fingers almost crushed her soft hand. The grasp of those slender fingers felt to her touch like the clasp of In whose broad branches, early and a band of steel; the very touch sent the blood back from her heart, and her lovely face grew pale as a lily,

"Marie-for I the right to call you thus-your father has given his consent to our marriage. No, do not start. I have spoken of this before to you. It is not a new subject. Be my wife. Come with me to Peru, and I will make of you a queen among women, and surround you with the lavish adornments With hearts as soft as a mother's croon of wealth unlimited. What is your an-

"I thank you as before; but I must, as before, decline the honor," fell from the girl's lips.

"And why? Do you love the stranger

from the States? "That, sir, you have no right to ask." "And there was no need to ask it. I But the world seemed change and knew it! He stands in my way. I have never been defeated in my life. Still, I elinquish you, Marie. You see this

ring? It's sting is sudden, sure death. I go to congratulate the more favored one." And he bowed and passed into Marie's eyes dilated with horror as

they followed the tall, elegant form of Don Jose. She saw him bow to Stevenson. Horror of horrors! She saw their hands meet! She covered her face with her trembling hands and crouched down among the beautiful flowers to hide the fated scene from her sight.

And then a scream, a man's mad cry, came to her ears. She dashed the palms aside and peered into the ball room. Upon the floor, writhing as though in

the pangs of mortal agony, was Don Jose. Kneeling by his side, and trying to relieve him, was the fair faced Northerner.

One more convulsive struggle to catch his breath, to choke back the strange thing that was crushing his heart, numbing his brain and blinding his eyes, and the Peruvian rolled over upon his back and was dead.

Pressed into the flesh of the palm of his hand was the head of a tiny gold viper attached to a ring upon the second finger. The palm was livid, and the face assumed the same horrible color soon after he was taken away. Stevenson was as rich as the Peruvian, and he easily relieved Marie's father mors of his immense wealth had pre- acas gathered at the wedding of their ceded him, and when he arrived at the fairest tropical belle, who stood by the side of the fair-faced man from the

## ODD, VIEWS OF POLICE DUTY.

Water, Door Keys and Money.

"It's easy to criticise the police deroom of a station-house, "but the general public has no idea of the many different things we have to do and of and ask for postage stamps, while in He turned upon his finger the tiny the summer time they used to come in couldn't make them understand it. "One night about 10 o'clock, when

> came in and walked up to the rail. "'Sergeant, my vife is gone out mit

> der key und I am locked oudt,' he said. "'Well,' I said, 'what can I do about it?

> "'Vy, sendt a policeman und make me get in der house, dot's vhat.' I didn't spend my time arguing with him, you can bet,

"But that was not the worst case by any means. A poor tailor living on the top floor of a tenement down that way committed suicide after a quarrel with his wife. The man was dead when the ambulance came. A few hours later the widow sent her little girl around to the house to say that she had no "You still permit that white-faced fool her out the man would have to be buried in the potter's field. The police are often called on in similar cases, so the boys chipped in all around and raised \$19. I gave that to the child and sent her away. Soon after sergeant came on duty. He was busy writing up the blotter when the same

> girl returned. "'My mudder says can I get any more,' she said.

> "'What?' said the sergeant, who had been asleep and didn't know about the collection.

"'My mudder says can I come around next month an' git some more money,' was the reply. She didn't "You must succeed! You have prom- get any more, and that incident was while."-Chicago Tribune.

The peace conference at The Hague may turn out to be the customary handshake before time is called for BRICKS OF MANY COLORS.

Extensive Use of the Modern Light-Colored Bricks...The Brick Industry.

The more extensive use for building purposes of the light-colored bricks now so familiar to the eye was begun about fifteen years ago. Some light colored bricks were made before that, and for a considerable period there had been in the East a limited use of the buff bricks of Milwaukee; but up to that time the bricks used here were almost exclusively red. For a long time there had been used in fine buildings, especially for dwellings, the pressed bricks of Philadelphia, Trenton and Baltimore, all red; the Philadelphia brick front was classed with that of brownstone, but the use of these has been largely superseded by the demand for the modern light-colored bricks, the use of which is still increas-

The light-colored bricks are made in yellow, buff, brown, gray, old gold, light red, salmon red and cream, and in many shades of these colors; and light-colored bricks are also made mottled, in many variations of the mottlings; and there are made, too, roughfaced. The tendency in the past few years has been toward still lighter shades in the light-colored bricks used. and there are now made many white bricks. Bricks are made to order in any color or shade that may be desired. The clays commonly found in most regions burn red. The light colors and the various shades of the modern lightcolored bricks are produced by the mixing together in suitable proportions of various clays and by the firing.

Hard red bricks cost \$6 to \$6.50 a thousand; the light-colored bricks from \$25 to \$40 a thousand. While the fine bricks are now so extensively used that they are everywhere seen, and they are made in great numbers, yet the number of common red bricks used is after all a thousand times as great. The fine bricks are used for a veneer only, for the face of the wall; it would simply be wasting money to build the wall throughout with them, and they are backed with suitable common brick. Of bricks of all kinds taken together there are used in this city every year hundreds of millions, and in

the country thousands of millions. Brickmaking is very largely a local industry. There are brickmaking establishments all over the country, and local demands are in great measure supplied from plants comparatively near at hand. The use of modern light-colored bricks are not found, and in which red remains the prevailing near at hand. The use of modern light-colored bricks is widespread, but there are regions in which clays adapted to the making of light-colored bricks are not found, and in which red remains the prevailing color of the brick structures. With the growth of the country the brickmaking business has grown to great proportions, and the output of single yards has enorvouid have been accounted a fair production for a brickyard. Now there are great establishments equipped with every sort of modern mechanical appliance that can be brought into use in the processes of brickmaking, and producing bricks in great variety for building and other uses, besides moulded and ornamental forms for architectural purposes, and turning out many millions of brick annually.

Some American bricks are exported to Canada. For many years common brick and firebric', have been articles of exports to ports on the Gulf of Mexico and to the West Indies, and some fine American bricks for fireplaces are now shipped to Germany .-New York Sun.

## England and Fire Service.

The British towns seem to have the smallest number of paid firemen of any cities in Europe and America. The London fire brigade has about 800 men, about the same number as Berlin, which has only a fourth of the population, and less than one-half the size of the Paris corps. Glasgow has but 100 men to 800,000 population; Leeds but 33 to 400,000 people, and Sheffield 22 men to a population of 350,000. Liverpool, Bristol, Cardiff, Norwich, Bromley, and other towns have no separately organized Fire Department, the work of suppressing fires being performed by the regular police force. The expenditures for fire protection are on a similarly unimportant scale. Thus Leeds spends less than \$5,000 a year, and Sheffield less than \$10,000 a year; Preston, with a population of 113,000, reports only \$1,-500 spent for its fire brigade, and Norwich, with 100,000 population, only \$750 a year. A few towns, however, show a somewhat larger range of expenditures. Glasgow and Liverpool each annually expend in the neighborhood of \$75,000-about 10 cents per money, and unless some one helped capita-and proportionate amounts are expended by Edmburgh, Dublin, Belfast, and Salford. The London brigade costs about \$950,000, or 20 cents per capita. But even these exceptional instances are below the per capita expenditures for fire protection in other European cities of the same size .-Municipal Affairs.

Elephant Great in Crime. mains equally amazed at the brute's surely as a foolish one insures distress derer's character. And yet, from the North American Review. psychological standpoint, an elephant never gives any other such indication of mental power as is exhibited in its don police station cost the government revenge. That patient, Tatchful, im- \$165,800.

placable hatred, often provoked simply pecause a man is in attendance upon another animal (for it is the rule with tuskers to detest their next neighbors), speaks more conclusively of a high intellectual guide than all stories, true or false, that have been told of their ability. Such concentration and fixedness of purpose, such careful, unrelaxed vigilance, such perfect and consistent pretense, and, when the time comes, such desperate, unhesitating

development. No one can deny that if this creature is great at all its greatness shows itself in its crimes. These have caused it to be worshipped in the east, where men venerate nothing but merciless, irresponsible force, and where an exhibition of those qualities and traits described fully accounts for the formula, "My lord the elephant."-Outing.

energy as homicidal animals exhibit,

are impossible without a very irregular

High Speed on French Railroads.

Of late years, a few of the French railroads, notably the Chemin de Fer du Nord, have been paying particular attention to their express train service, with the result that the last named now holds the leading place, running several of its crack trains at an average speed, including stops, of over 54.5 miles per hour.

Of the twenty-five expresses that are booked to run at a speed of over 50 miles an hour there are six, including one between Amiens and Calais Ville, 1021/2 miles, with a speed of between 50 and 50.9 miles an hour; seven between 51.1 and 51.8 miles an hour; seven between 52.0 and 52.7 miles an hour, and five having respective speeds of 54.5, 54.8, 55.3, 56.3, and 57.7 miles an hour, including stops; the last-named run is made between Paris and Amiens, 81% miles, while the average of 56.3 is maintained on a continuous run, without stop, between Paris and St. Quentin, a distance of 59% miles.

What a splendid service this is will be understood when we bear in mind the fact that the five fastest trains exceed the speed of our own Empire State Express, which is timed to run from New York to Albany at the rate of 53.58 miles an hour, taough they do not equal the Atlantic City flyer on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad .-Scientific American.

Standing Up for Oliver Cromwell.

Whether Cromwell actually suppressed the festival of Christmas is a difficult question to decide. But he is accused of doing many things he did not do, and we may perhaps judge by analogy. He did not suppress music in all of the cathedrals, nor did he dismiss the organist of Westminster Abbey, for a new organist was appointed in 1655 by order of Council to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Portman, who had held the office since the reign of Charles I. Cromwell, moreover, was a great lover of the ormously increased. In old times from gan. Nor did he, at any rate for any 200,000 to 300,000 bricks in a year so-called Puritanical reasons, suppress the drama. Theatres were cl account of the civil wars, and the prohibition was only to last "while these sad causes' do continue.

The revival commenced in 1656, when Cromwell was at the height of his power-not, as some suppose, at the Restoration. Nor can the patron of Milton, the greatest of our poets, of Walker and Cooper, the greatest nabe accused with justice of either indifference or hostility to the fine arts,-Notes and Queries.

Quick Work on the Bible.

Recent events have stirred the British and Foreign Bible Society to some prompt feats of translation, and portions of the New Testament in no less for the Philippines. The first three Gospels and the Acts in Tagalog, the lan guage of the dominant 'native race there, are actually printed; St. Luke's Gospel in Ilocopo is nearly finished: and the same book in Bicol is ready for issue. These renderings, it appears are largely due to the energy of the society's agent in Madrid, Rev. R. O. Walker, who secured the collaboration of some exiled Filipinos.

Almost the whole Testament has been translated into Pangasinan. Another notable undertaking is the printing of St. John's Gospel in Lusoga, for use in those districts east of the Nile. This version has been made by Rev. F. Rowling, of the Church Missionary Society, and is regarded for many philological reasons as an interesting addition to the 400 or so of languages and dialects in which the sacred books are circulated from Queen Victoria street, London.-Boston Transcript.

Good Sense Talk About Health.

There is, it is true, as great an inequality in the inheritance of health as in the heirship of wealth or brains. Some are born with a fortune of vigor and soundness so large that not a life time of eager squandering will leave them poor, and others enter the world paupers of need so dire that no charity from medicine can ever raise them to comfort, but most of us have just that mediocre legacy of vitality which renders us undistinguishable units in the mass. It lies in the hands of each to improve or waste that property as he Few more impressive confidences chooses, for there are self-made men can be imparted than one in which a physically as well as financially; those Hindoo describes how he knows his who, because of ancestral wastefulelephant intends to destroy him. It ness, have only a sixpence of health, is all so seemingly trivial, and yet in and turn it into a fortune; and there reality of such deadly significance. His are spendthrifts of health who come story is so full of details that prove to as sorrowful case as spendthrifts of the man's profound understanding of gold. The body is a realm where a wise what he is talking about that one re- and frugal ruler brings happiness as power to dissemble and its intended and wisdom here, as elsewhere, lies in victim's insight into the would-be mur- learning and obeying natural laws .-

A site recently acquired for a Lon-

## OUR FASHION COLUMN.

Ladies' Waist.

This artistic conception of waist for a street dress is developed in diagonal bayadere poplin, stylish terra cotta and black. The draped vest and stock, the graceful fronts, symetrically curving toward the vest and over the shoul-



der forming a deep collar in the back. together with the popular Medici collar make it one of the most delightful to the eyes. A fitted lining forms the foundation on which is adjusted the seamless back, plain, but for a little fulness at the bottom of the waist. The lining closes in the center front and the draped vest is so adjusted as to be freely fastened at the right and hook, in place on the left. The slight fulness at the bottom of the waist is arranged in one backward turning plait at either side the centre with a slight pouch effect. The sleeves are two-seamed close fitting according to the latest mode.

Ladies' Eton Jacket.

Never was the popularity of the Eton more clearly demonstrated than by the part of the accident is that the skiff capsized various forms it takes this season. in smooth water during a light breeze. This one is made of fawn colored broad cloth, decorated with four rows of machine stitching. The vest and belt being of a rich golden brown mirror velvet. The popular and pic-



tive-born painters of the century, and | turesque medici coliar with a plain of Simon, the prince of coin engravers, stock inside it finishes the neck. The revers, wide at the shoulder folded to a point at the waist line. The portion of the fronts from the centre to the dart are seamless and plain with a circular portion added below the waist line. The sleeves are dart fitted and have a deep circular cuff flaring slightly over the hand and open at the outside seam of the sleeve. One-quarter than four tongues are in preparation of a yard of velvet cut on the bias is sufficient for the vest and belt.

'Ladies' Shirt Waist.

This waist is designed to be trimmed with insertion put on as illustrated, it is understood, make the same advance at one on the box plait and two at each side at equal intervals, and three in the back so arranged as to meet at the waist line giving a V effect, in the back. The insertion should be fast-



ened on the cloth, and the material afterward cut out and turned back beneath it. The shirt waist has no yoke, the back being seamless and plain, save at the waist line, in the centre back there is a little fulness arranged in gathers. The fronts are slightly full at the neck band and shoulder line and also gathered at the waist line, the gathers being arranged near the centre. A band for the attachment of a stock collar is provided for the neck. The sleeve is one-seamed, gathered at the arm's eye and cuff. A sleeve lap finishes the opening of the cuff. The pattern provides for a standing collar.

The loss of life every day by fire is not far from 3.000. Sixty-five dwellings are burned every day, fourteen hotels are burned every week and forty warehouses are consumed every nonth. Ninety per cent. of fires are discovered soon after the start.

# THE KEYSTONE STATE

Latest News Gleaned from Various Parts.

AGED JOCKEY'S CRIME.

After Killing Maud Reeser, at Brockwayville, Fred Walker Attempts Suicide-Allentown Tinemith Attempts to End His Life-West Chester Pastor Nearly Crushed-Other Live News.

A terrible murder and attempt at suicide occurred at Brockwayville, a little village in Jefferson County, twelve miles north of Dubols. The perpetrator of the crime was Fred Walker, a jockey, aged 64, who made his home at Brockwayville. He lies in a dying condition from the effects of poison, seif-inflicted. The victim was a woman known as Maud Reeser, with whom, it is said, Walker had been living for some time, until within a few weeks preceding the tragedy. The Reeser woman finally refused to live longer with Walker and his efforts to make her return to him proved futile. Walker drank heavily all of Saturday and in the evening he purchased some laudanum and waiked four miles from Brockwayville to the home of a family named Silvis, with whom the Reeser woman was living. A rap on the door brought Slivis down and Walker asked for the woman, who appeared. Silvis retired, but was awakened a few moments ater by two pistol shote, and, rushing downstairs, he met the ghastly sight of Mrs. Reeser lying dead with two bullets in her body. Near her lay Walker, clutching the empty laudanum bottle. His explanation of the crime was that the woman had tried poison him. He will die.

Fisherman's Awfut Plight. A singular accident, accompanied by al most fatal results, occurred on the river near Chester. While bringing 157 abad to he Chester market in a skiff Valentine Linderman, of Marcus Hook, and a colored man was thrown into the river by the skiff capsizing. Linderman got entangled in the net and was helpless. He would have drowned but for his companion, who heroically struggled to save him. A boat put off from shore and brought in the men and skiff and net. The shad were lost. The singular

Clergyman's Escape. Rev. W. R. Patton, pastor of the First Baptist Church, of Media, had a narrow escape from being crushed to death under the wheels of a trolley car. He was about to board a car on the corner of Jackson and Washington Streets when the iron plate on the street cuivert was tipped up by the car wheels crossing it, tripping Mr. Patton and throwing him against the car and almost under the wheels. He was caught and held is the iron culvert until released by the motorman. His injuries consist of bruises about the head and shoulders and contusions

Horses Perish in Barn Fire.

of the lower limbs.

The large frame barn of George M. Derbammer, near Chestant Hill, in Forks Township, was discovered to be on fire. The structure was burned to the ground. Three borses perished, and several wagons, a lot of harness, grain, bay and various farm implements were burned. The loss will reach \$3,000. The origin of the fire is not definitely known. It is thought that an intoxicated man crept into the barn to sleep, and accidentally set the bay on fire while lighting his pipe.

Injured by Suicidal Leap. Withelm Koons, aged about 62 years, a tinsmits by trade, attempted to commit suicide by jumping out of a third-story window of the Peters House, Alientown, Koons was badly injured. One of his legs was fractured in three places and his thigh was broken. Koons had confided to an acquaistance that he had trouble. He has several married children living in Philadel

Wages Advanced One-Third. Potts Brothers' Iron Company, at Pottstown, has announced a further increase of 25 cents per ton on puddlers wages, to take effect May 1, which will raise the rate \$3 per ton. This increase makes an advance of 33% per cept, within one month. The Glasgow Iron Company, which is also the lessee of the Pottstown Iron Company milis will,

Unknown Man Killed. An unknown man met a horrible death on the Lebigh Valley Railroad, near Furnace Bridge Station, Allentown. He was walking on the tracks, and in stepping out of the way of a freight train, stepped in front of the milk train. The man's head was mutilated beyond recognition, and his body was cut up. He was well dressed. Coroner

not be identified. Collision Caused Death. Daniel Werley died near Greenawald's Station as the result of a collision. Teams driven by Morgan Leven and Mr. Werley collided at the Albany Bridge, and Mr. Werley was run over, bursting a blood vessel.

Yost held an inquest, but the remains could

He was 65 years old. Up Go Their Wages. The Bessemer Association of Mahoning and Shenango Valleys have decided to grant an increase in wages to blast furnace employees of 10 per cent., to take effect May 1. The advance was made voluntarily and is the second within thirty days. Between 4,000 and 5,000 men are affected in the two

Suicide Because of Grief. George Jones, of Harrisville, aged 40 years, a butcher, committed suicide by severing his throat with a knife. A note was found on which was written these words: 'I cannot longer endure the grief over the oss of my wife, and I go to join her." Mrs. Jones died about two months ago.

valleys.

A Stickler for Facts. Tired Treadwell-Ah, dat was too bad! You asked fer bread and dev gives you a stone. Sauntering Sim--Naw; git it right. Git it right! 1 sked dem fer bread and dey gives me hunk of coal in de neck .- Chicago

A Mere Compliment. "What's an empty title, pa?" "An empty title is your mother's way of

calling me the head of the house."