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## Noetry.

### The Nest.

MAY. When oaken woods with buds are pink And new-come birds each morning sing,-When fielde May, on Summer's brink Pauses, and knows not which to fling-Whether fresh bads and bloom again. Or hear frost silvering hill and plain,-

Then from the huney-uckle gray, The Oriole, with experienced quest, Twitches the fibrous bark away, The cordage of his hammock-nest,-Cheering his labor with a note Rich as the orange of his throat.

High o'er the loud and dusty road The soft gray cup in safety swings.
To brim ere August with its load Of downy breasts and throbbing wings, O'er which the friendly elm-tree heave-An emerald roof with sculptured caves

Below the noisy world drags by In the old way, because it must.—
The bride with trouble in her eye.
The mourner following hated dust: Thy daty, winged flame of Spring, Is but to love, and fly, and surg.

Oh, happy life, to soar and sway ve the life by mortals led. Singing the merry month- away, Master, not slave of daily bread. And, when the Autumn comes, to thee Wherever sunshine beckons thee!

Like some lone abbey now, the wood Stands roofless in the bitter air; In ruins on its floor is strewed The carven tolinge quaint and rare, And homeless winds complain along The columned choir once thrilled with song And thou, dear nest, whence joy and praise The thankful Oriole used to pour.

PALINODE. - DECEMBER

Swingst empty, while the north winds chase Their snowy swarms from Labrador: But loyal to the happy past. I love thee still for what thou wast.

Ah, when the Summer graces flee From other nests more dear than thou And, where June crowded once, 1 see Only bare trunk and disleaved bough When springs of life that gleamed and gushed Run chilled, and slower, and are hushed,

I'll think, that, like the birds of spring, Our good goes not without repair, But only thes to soar and sing Far off in some diviner air, Where we shall find it in the calm-Of that fair garden 'neath the palm-

# Selections.

The Blue Beetle.

A WONDROUS TALE OF ALCHEMY. I broad over the discovery which I thought a few drops from the trough on the floor .- sounds and the strange flashing of his beadwas about to be opened up to me. I had There was a hissing sound as they fell, and like eyes made me tremble with a vague long had a belief in the progressive devel- as they touched the ground they burst into terror. However, I overcame the feeling. I found C- in bed, dying. Dying!opment of creation; I believed that it was flame. This I extinguished, and then ap- and determined to let him live for a few The first glance showed me that his days still possible to find the speck—the germ plied myself to observing closely the con- days. from which I could raise up a perfectly or- tents of the vessel, for I knew that a great ganized living being. I felt a new and change had taken place in their constitution. strange pleasure in believing that the mys- I removed the light to a distance, fearing I was unable to detect the scarabæus. Puztery of creation was now solved—that from lest it should ignite the vapors which were the first inorganic atom which had received now rising from the surface. On returning the force of life all other created beings had in the dark I found strange flashes of light slowly, gradually, regularly advanced, up circling in the interior of the fluid; these to the period in which I had lived.

was my goal. My belief was, that the force their radiance. of life might be given to this inorganic atom. Subtle fumes also were arising from the My books were those of the alchemists.— surface. On inhaling these fumes at first I With that wild delight I hailed the writings felt faint, but the sensation passed away .of Albertus Magnus, of Arnold de Ville- The perfume now was delicious-it was neuve, Heidenburg of Tritheim, Raymond heavenly: I drank it in like nectar. I gazed Lully, and Bernard of Treves. I believed upon the corruscating surface, and a deliin the alchemists. I struggled through the cious cestacy seemed to pervade my whole intricacies of their hidden language; their being; delicious streams of music fell softly experiments in search of gold I passed over, on my ears, and shadowy forms of ineffable wonderful as they were, and strangely as beauty floated in the air around me. Sudthey opened my mind to the real truth. I denly an insane desire took possession of repeated all their experiments on life force, 'me: I longed to seize the silver vessel and and substantiated every fact I read. My quaff the deep blue poison. I stretched out faboratory was perfectly furnished; my days my hands with a cry of joy-and then \* were spent there, and often entire nights .- I recovered at last from a fever which kept My mind was absorbed in the great truth I me insensible for a week. It was some was bringing to light.

length affected my health: a change was my little wife attending to my every want, absolutely necessary. I struggled against her little hands ever busy, and her eyes the idea of removing for some time and beaming with love and tenderness. often left my little wife with tears standing Gradually the details of my late occupa in her deep blue eyes, after she had unsuction dawned upon my memory. I imagined l cessfully implored me to leave London for a perceived the subtle odor diffusing itself short while. Dear Annie! And yet I loved through the chamber, and shuddered as I her! Heavens to think that I-. but I lay back on my pillow. A feeling of re-

to stay with my old friend C-, who had man should fear to tread, and I felt gratififrequently asked us to come on previous oc- cation in thinking that my designs had been casions. We were received warmly; and, frustrated, as it was winter time, we had plenty of oc-

hounds almost made me forget my labora- on that fearful night, had forced open the tory. The weather at length changed, first door of the laboratory. A strange over beside her—she had been poisoned. Once rendered wretched, and through me!—

wind shricked through the leafless trees, and drove torrents of sleet splashing against the old-fashioned windows.

Tired of hoping and weary of grumbling, was driven to take refuge in C---'s library. After a long search for something interesting, I came upon a little brown volume bound with two dingy metal clasps .-On opening its dark and discolored pages, I found that it was written in French manuscript. A hurried glance showed me that the work was on alchemy, a translation from the Arabic. All my former hopes returned in an instant. I pured over the pages of my newly obtained treasure till late on in the evening-heedless of the impatience of my friends, who, after several useless attempts to draw me away, at last left me to my book

The secret, then, was not mine; here, in this old neglected book, I had found a groundwork for my exertions. All the truths I had collected, all the experiments I had made hore me out. I saw what had prevented others, in ancient times, from carrying out their designs. They knew not the life-giving power; the wonders of electricity had not been discovered. Vaguuely hinted at and darkly guessed at in their works I saw them groping their way in mist and uncertainty; but I-I was surrounded by the light of science. Wonderful, mysterious truths broke upon my mind. My whole method and plan of operations stood out clearly before me. A restless force urged me to commence my scheme instantly. I must leave for London that very night.

I found my wife and friends retiring to rest. I told them my intention of starting for town immediately. Remonstrance and entreaty were of no avail, and in less than an hour I had reached the train at the neighboring railway station, and was hastthrough the darkness, but about noon next day I arrived at my house.

Without rest I commenced my operations; late at night I had nearly completed them, and worn out in body and mind I threw myself on the floor to sleep, lulled by the subdued sound of my furnace, which meaned but imagine my surprise and horror when I and muttered like an unhappy spirit.

gan to complete the last portion of my ar- scarabæus of perfect shape and of a deep rangements. This was to prepare the liquid blue transparent color. from which the beings to whom I was to impart life were to spring. On account of had all the ingredients ready in my laboralargely into its composition.

expectation: the only change apparently "death-tick" beetle. being that the color seemed deeper and

gradually became brighter till I was enabled The power of creation—the secret of life, to see every object in the room clearly by

days before I could get any explanation of

The confined air of my laboratory at how I came to be in my own bed-room, with

must proceed with my story as it occurred. morse came over me when I thought of my We went to the north of Northumberland design. I felt as if I had intruded where

A few brisk runs with the country fox- that one of the domestics hearing a scream lying dead.

found me lying insensible on the floor.

With breathless eagerness I asked if any of the apparatus in the room had been the windows had been opened to allow the favorite soon her grief calmed down. poisonous vapors to escape, the doors had periment.

heart (why I could not tell) I turned the key and entered the laboratory alone .-Everything remained as I had left it a fortnight before.

There stood the ponderous batteries, long since worked out; there loosely hung the copper connecting wires covered with green rust. The silver trough was tarnished and dim, but everything stood as I had left it.

The interior of the trough was coated with metallic copper, while the solution had almost entirely evaporated: there was still a small quantity of liquid at the bottom, covered with thick, opal-tinted mould.

On looking closely at this mould-covered residue, I noticed a peculiar irregularity in its surface. There were five little heaps or hillocks in [regular arrangement-one at each angle of a square, and one in the centre-exactly like the five-side of a gaming die. These heaps were of such equal size and uniform shape, that I could not attribute their presence to chance. I supposed spots, arranged like the spots on the five side strange appearance. I sat apart, moody bank officers. On this ninety per cent. but after awhile she calmed down, and that electricity had so acted upon the parti- of a die. Controlling my emotions as best I cles of the solution as te make them take up their present position.

I examined the mould under the microscope, and found tt to be a fungus of a peculiar kind, but in removing some more of der it a small blue crystal of cubic form. found what, at first, I thought was a circu-

A feeling of terror filled my mind .-Whence had come this strange creature? the experiments made in my late studies I Whence came the powers with which he ing for that fearful "death-tick. Never lovstretched out his antenna, drew the blue tory. I poured the mixture then carefully case-covers from his back, and cleared per from loved lips than I for that hideous into a large silver trough. The liquid was the mould from his filmy wings? Could sound. But, save the husbed murmur of turned face of my little wife. She slumbered limpid and of a heautiful blue color, probathis be the result of my researches—my the mighty city, and the clang of the slow bly on account of a salt of copper entering days of toil, my nights of unrest? A beetle! I strove to laugh, but the attempt failed. And now I prepared my batteries, and and my heart sank within me with a strange that night, and the next, but no vestige of soon afterwards the electric agent was ap- foreboding. At this moment, from the in- the loathsome creature could I find. On the plied. To my astonishment no decomposi- terior of the trough arose a peculiar sound fourth day came a letter from my wife. My tion took place—the liquid remained clear | -like the rapid ticking of a clock, although | friend C--- was ill; he was sinking fast, and beautifully blue. Thus it remained for louder, and with a metallic tinkle in it-it and wished to see me. some hours. I hung over it in breathless was the same sound as that produced by the

quietly streamed into the liquid. By acci- fly. The prominent desire in my mind was

Early the next morning I visited the labroom, when I suddenly heard the ominous "death-tick." and after a few preliminary flights round the room, the beetle alighted upon the rim of the trough. A ray of sunlight glancing in fell upon him, his color was exquisite-arich deep cerulwan blue, he seemed a living sapphire, and would have been beautiful but for his loathsome form.

I had brought a piece of sugar with me. upon it: but, as if dissatisfied, a moment afterwards he flew back to the rim of the trough. I heard a low whine at my feet, "Lalette." I threw the rejected sugar towards her, and soon heard her crunching it "death-tick."

I was engaged out of doors during the been in the laboratory with me in the mornentering the laboratory I could neither see flections. nor hear anything of the beetle; but in the middle of the floor, exactly where I had this remote place; how, I knew not, nor did

o severe frost with snow, and then to at powering perfume, he said, at first drove more before leaving I sought diligently for Through this cursed creature of mine. amount, and they were promptly delivered, against an unusually large stock of goods, nance and attitude of a tragedienne.

wife was inconsolable. I told her the dog ver trough. must have picked up some poison in my touched? No, nothing had been touched; room; and with promises of a new canino

then been locked and had never been opened possession of me. When I thought of that even steps through the trees. I threw mysince. A weight seemed removed from my living sapphire being at large in the house, mind-I would instantly go down and de- a firm belief possessed me that "Lalette" stroy all that remained of my strange ex- had been killed by that poisonous insect.— broke out into full radiance, and bathed the forty per cent. Wiggins was getting rich All that night he haunted my dreams; sev-I was still too weak: three or four days eral times I started from slumber, thinking The gentleness of the scene after a time im- the sudden height he had obtained. Twenpassed over, and then I was able to go down I heard that unearthly death-tick. I deter- pressed me. I became calmer and reflected ty-five per cent. clear profit annually! that stairs. With trembling hands and beating mined in my feverish sleeplessness to search morrow. I felt at times that my existence, my destiny, was bound up in the life of this hideous insect.

> words seemed burnt upon my brain. Could turned again to the house. Lever forcet them? Listen!

Next morning I heard that one of the dolied. The doctors said it was heart disease. mark upon the girl's breast. A pang shot the cold white skin. through my whole frame. A mark! What! mark? What was it like? By a mysterious perception I knew that this mark concerned me. But how? I soon knew. On the cold white breast of the corpse were fire blue friends below. They were shocked at my private money lenders and unscrupulous lowed. Mrs. Wiggins was at first indignant; could, I locked myself in my own room, and, presentiment overpowered me—I felt that and a half per cent. a month, according to indulged in a fit of hysterics, from which she burying my face in my hands, cried, in agony-"Accursed beast! this is thy work; the blood of an innocent being is on my neighboring ranway station, and was hast-cubar kind, but in removing some more of nance. Any order seemed winting around, and was hast-cubar kind, but in removing some more of nance. Any order seemed winting around, my head on the pillow than I fell asleep— "hand over fist," as he sometimes elegantly startling announcement of the failure of the hands!" My brain seemed whirling around, London. The train seemed to drag slowly touch one of the little heaps, and found un- was in vain. The infernal creature-my and under each of the other three angular and how knew I where he would stop? One do not know how long I had slept, when I hillocks I found a similar crystal. On re- thing was plain; my wife and the whole awoke suddenly with an unaccountable feelmoving the mould from the centre hillock I household must be removed immediately .-Seizing a pen, I hurriedly wrote to Clar mass of the same crystaline substance; and explaining, as best I could, the unexpected visit of my wife, I went up to the speaking loud-but I must tell you all. saw the mass begin to struggle among the station and saw her start by the first train Early in the morning after a feverish liquid, and, clearing away the silky needles to the North. The corpse of the young girl sleep, I rose tired and unrefreshed, and be- of the mould, disclose to my view a large was removed by her friends in the afternoon, and the other servants were despatched to their respective homes.

I was left alone in the house all that long, lonely night. I waited in each room listener waited more anxiously for a loving whishours as they passed, and the beating of my own heart, all was silence. I searched all

Locking up my house-not without some dread-I journeyed northward to C---'s As soon as the sound died away I looked house. As I drove up the long avenue in once more at the creature; he was half out the afternoon, I thought the old mansion in the moonlight night. Night came on, and the electric fluid still of the liquid, and evidently as yet unable to quietly streamed into the liquid. By acci-fly. The prominent desire in my mind was Day after day, and night after night did dent, in adjusting one of the wires, I dashed to destroy the insect for his unearthly will hung about me. I could not east it off. The tearful face of the servant who admitted me added to my mournful forebodings.

> were numbered. A sickly smile of welcome played over his features as I approached him ratory, but on looking into the silver vessel, but it almost instantly changed for a look of intense suffering. I asked what the parzled and annoyed, I began to inspect the ticular symptoms of his illness were. The medical man in attendance tried to explain the malady, but left me painfully impressed with the idea that he was entirely ignorant of the disease. I had turned to speak to some of the family who were in the room, when I was startled by a piercing cry of agony from the bed.

> C- was sitting up in hed, his wan face was distorted with pain; he was grasping which I thought might please the taste of his neck with his white nervous hands. my new favorite. I placed it on the bench "My throat is on fire." he shricked .- "It near-he flew directly towards it and settled burns, it burns! Water! for the love of heaven! a drop of water." Trembiling, I held a tumbler of water to his lips; he had scarcely tasted it when he dashed the glass and looking down, saw my wife's little dog, from my hands to the floor, exclaiming. "Devil! I did not ask for vitriol-give me water-water!" As he said this he tore up in her little jaws. Shortly afterwards I open the neck of his dressing gown .left the room, and as I closed the door. Merciful heavens! could I belive my eyelouder than ever I heard the sound of the sight? There was the fatal mark. There -even among the purple distended veins which interlaced like strong cords around his neck-I could see it. Fire blue spots arquestion was, whether I had seen "Lalette" ranged like the five-side of a die.' The room that day? I then remembered that she had swam before my eyes, and the word "Murderer!', seemed ringing in my cars. \*

> ing, and fancying that she must be locked \* \* \* \* When I recovered, in, I went to the door, and on opening it C- was dead. My agitation had been called her by name. There was no move- attributed to grief at my friend's death; no ment or response; but as I called again, one had noticed the cursed mark but myself. something whirred past me in the air and The members of the family were absorbed dashed out into the hall. I felt certain that in grief: my wife strove to soothe and my beetle had escaped. Shutting the door solace them: but such work was not for me. hastily, I rushed back for a light. On re- I gave myself up to my own frightful re-

The creature had then found his way to that he was there. My oldest, truest friend

I wandered out into the night; my mind was all in desolate confusion. It was a lovely night-the sky glimmered with stars, near. All that night an indefinable horror took and the full moon rose as I walked with unself on the wet grass and wept like a child Soon the soft shimmer of the moonlight the household: there was guilt and blood on tance he saw himself a merchant prince. my conscience. They would deem me mad. I thought. Then, again, I thought the ex- all very well, if the selling time is shorter Reproaches seemed spoken to me, in one citement of the last few days, together with than the buying. The reverse is generally living too fast," was answered, bluntly, dream of that long night, that I had created my late illness, might have produced the the case. It was so with Joel Wiggins .a living poison, and sent it out into the effect of an optical illusion-that there was He bought at four, six, and eight months, with a country house yet awhile." world. I shuddered and awoke. The no mark. This conviction strengthened, I and sold at six, eight, nine, and twelve

when he saw my altered appearance, mat- The two banks in which he kept his ac- dread of that extreme measure, but rather mestics, a young and pretty girl of nineteen ted hair, and wet disorderly dress. But I counts—checking from one and depositing intending her words as a cutting rebuke. years, was ill. Three days afterwards she asked calmly to be shown to the room where in the other a great many times in a day. the body of C-was lying. I went in alone, to indicate active business, just as a doctor that the ice was broken at the edge of the One of them, a scutentious old empiric, said Need I tell the result?—the fearful mark with limited practice rides hurriedly about stream, felt his courage rise into a desperate the only peculiarity of the case was a strange was there, and stood out brightly against the streets to indicate the existence of nu- resolution to go through. "Just so, my

no trace of the fiendish beast was there .- cents on the dollar of his wants. The nine- walk, or take sixpenny rides in the omnibus. After some time spent in this vain search I ty per cent, was raised "on the street," that Necessity knows no law. left the room, and gained my wife and her is, through bill brokers who represented and silent. A heavy sufficienting cloud of Wiggins paid at the rate of from one to two-hearkened a little to reason. Araminta Jane drink it to its bitter-bitter dregs. We which he had to offer. separated to retire to rest; but though few ing of terror.

How dark the room is getting-put your ear closer to my mouth-I feel faint with

I awoke, and, seemingly, close by my ear -loud and distinct-I heard the death tick! My hands clenched till the nails penetrated the flesh when I knew he was within my street, at three hundred and fifty dollars a if I do not crush the creature now.

The moonbeams poured in through the windows and filled the room with a mysterithrough the glass of the window, disappeared

My story is well nigh told. You know-But listen! you did not see the blue mark upon her white brow.

How dark the room is -- and how slowly my heart is benting. Look at this arm. here!-above the elbow, there is the death spots on a die. I have but an hour to live. port last summer, bent on making a sensa- house and carriage part of the business; but You know my secret. \* Let me rest.

## The Wigginses.

small tin sign, with red letters on a white ground. If I mistake not, the word "Notions" is just under the name.

"What is your husband's business?" asked prying inquisitive of Mrs. Wiggins, at Newport, last summer.

"He is a Philadelphia merchant." answered the lady, with dignity. That of course settled the matter. If a

husband, in the name of wonder who should know? Yes, Mr. Wiggins is a merchant. "And occupies that handsome store with the brown stone front?"

closer, you will see that Dick & Dickson

importers, are the occupants of that elegant establishment. You must ascend to the three o'clock hours, came a letter from Mrs. down like the stick." scond floor to find our "Notion" merchant. gins; there he is, in his curiosity shop, sur- muttering. "Five hundred devils!" It was "I know you will, for necessity knows no ounded by things grotesque and arabesque, unamiable and unconjugal; but he was in law," was the answer. symmetrical and deformed, useful and orna- trouble, and excited. nental, gathered originally from all parts of yourself. Wiggins' store is a perfect mu- season. But Mr. Wiggins was in carnest, smaller house," said Mrs. Wiggins.

Wiggins was good for anything he wished boat for New York. to purchase. So he bought freely in New that I was able to bear the news, I was told left her in the morning, poor "Lalette" was I ever know. It was enough for me to know | York and Boston, as well as from importers | The banks threw him out altogether, and he style of living, and—my honorable purposes." in Philadelphia. He sold as freely, on the was at the mercy of the shavers. But few

· granden den regeneration de company de combination de combinatio

whole country in a flood of beautiful light, so fast that his head swam as he looked from on my position. "If the creature is here, was the flattering unction which he laid to Buying on time and selling on time are

months. Of course, when his own notes be-The servant who opened the door started came due he had to meet them by discounts. not really meaning to be understood as in merous pressing calls -- the two banks gave dear; the carriage will have to be put down, Every corner of the room I searched, but him a certain "line" of discount, about ten and Mrs. Wiggins and Araminta Jane must

So affairs went on swimmingly with Mr. of us expected to sleep, no sooner had I laid Joel Wiggins. He was getting rich fastas dreamless and almost as breathless as expressed it. His bills receivable and stock creature?—had murdered this young girl, that of the corpse in the next chambar. I of goods showed always a large surplusage over bills payable.

With the comfortable feeling consequent upon the fact that money was being so rapidly accumulated, Mr. Wiggins, and Mrs. Wiggins, and Araminta Jane Wiggins, the wife and oldest daughter, naturally enough concluded that it was time to live in a style better agreeing with their position. So the modest, comfortable house in Buttonwood reach-close by my car! Heaven help me year, was given up, and a stylish affair be-

per annum. up wonderfully fast! No. a thousand dol- specimen; for Mr. Wiggins really r be fashionable!

Next, a carriage, and next a country house. They came naturally. A cottage hard on him. They agreed to accept forty and garden, overlooking the Delaware .- cents on the dollar, taking his own notes at

tion, and Mr. Wiggins was in Philadelphia, the majority pitied poor Wiggins, who was taking care of his payments, which were deeply humiliated, and almost ready to shoot heavy. Money all at once grew a little himself in despair. tight; banks were unaccommodating, and "We must give up this house!" said Mr. Joel Wiggins is a "merchant." You will Mr. Wiggins found himself obliged to sub- Wiggins, on returning home from the meetsee his sign at No.— Second street. It is a mit to sundry terrible hard shaves in order ing of his creditors. He spoke like a man in to "raise the wind." One day his bill earnest. Mrs. Wiggins started and flushed, broker could get nothing on the paper he Araminta Jane turned pale. had to offer. So he was forced into Third, "Your creditors have not been so exactstreet, where, on "undoubted" collateral he ing: so cruel!" raised two thousand dollars for two days, at "Are you nothing but selfish fools!" exone per cent. a day!

On the next day money was a little tighter. over all barriers. "Hard! cruel! They have He had five thousand to pay. He got been kinder than I had dared to hope for." through, but only at a "terrible sacrifice." "Oh, then we will not be forced to move voman doesn't know how to designate her On the day following he raised three thou- from here!" sobbed Araminta Jane. "It sand more to lift maturing notes, but not would kill me. I could never survive the enough to meet the two thousand covered humiliation! You must not think of it, by collaterals, on which he was paying one Pa." per cent. a day. That arrangement was "It is thought of and decided," said the No, not exactly. If you look a little continued for two days longer.

Wiggins asking for five hundred dollars .- : Bustling, active, self-important Joel Wig- Mr. Wiggins crushed the letter passionately, gins.

the earth. Fire crackers, crying babies, his wife one hundred and fifty dollars, with "The cook can attend to the door, and ed and white tape, fans, marbles, toys, directions to pay off her bills and return we'll wait on curselves at table. It won't games masks, puzzles, hobby horses, porce- with Araminta Jane immediately. Both he the first time in our lives! I, for one. lain, bisque and Parian figures, motto cups she and Araminta Jane demurred, and feel relieved. It always annoys me to have and motto wafers, but—the inventory is scalded him soundly for his niggardly re- a waiter gaping at me while I eat." hopeless! If your curiosity is excited on sponse to their demand for money. They Poor Araminta Jane was in despair. the subject, reader, call at No .- and satisfy did not mean to leave until the close of the "We can't get all our furniture into a and he made them comprehend it in another "Very true," replied Mr. Wiggins. "I've Times were prosperous, and the credit of letter. That brought them off by the next thought of that. We'll have a sale, and get

complete thaw. The dismal north-east him back, but rushing in a second time, he the beetle, but no trace was to be found; Why had I not obeyed the first impulse, and the invoice rendered, and a note at four or which could not be forced on the market "Lalette" was a great favorite, and my poor killed him as he lay in the mould in the sil- six months taken in payment. And as he and sold at even half their value. His was treated, so he treated his customers, country house cost him ten thousand dollars. and they found their way to his "Notion" He mortgaged it for five. Tried a second room from all parts of the country far and mortgage for three thousand more, but no one bid. It must be sold, then-matters What a splendid business he was doing! were pressing. Mr. Wiggins announced Sales mounted upward at the rate of seventy, the fact at home, like one who expected a eighty, and one hundred thousand dollars a strife. It came. Mrs. Wiggins and Arayear, and his profits ranged from ten to minta Jane were astounded and indignant.

"Never!" said Mrs. Wiggins.

"Never!" cried Araminta Jane. ,'What will people say at this coming down?" queried Mrs Wiggins.

"It will kill me!" sobbed Araminta Jane. every nook and corner of the house on the he must be hunted down," I dare not tell his soul, and not very far in the golden dis- who had caught a beautiful beau at Newport, and was expecting an offer of marriage by every mail.

"They'll say that Joe Wiggins has been "and they'll say the truth; I'd no business

"You'll put down the carriage next. I suppose!" said Araminta Jane, indignantly,

"Just so," replied Mr. Wiggins, who, now

We will not describe the scene that folmy cap was not yet filled, I should have to the estimated value of paper or collateral did not recover for some hours. But Mr. Joel Wiggins was inexorable.

On the next day the country house was advertised for sale. On the next came the Ohio Life and Trust Company. And then -but the disastrous events that followed are of too recent occurrence to require a word of detail. Joel Wiggins was borne down in the general crash, a fact that will in no way surprise the reader. Mrs. Wiggins was inconsolable for a time: Araminta Jane in despair. Oh, the disgrace of coming down! It seemed as if it would kill them. The carriage went, of course, and with it the caped and banded coachman. The folly had gone that far.

The broken "Notion" merchant, who had yond Broad street rented at eight hundred kept his carriage, and boasted a country house, called together his creditors, and Now, the mere increase of rent from three made an exhibit of his affairs. Alas! the ous light. The rays struck across the pil- hundred and fifty to eight hundred a year column of assets did not foot up as large as lows of the bed and fell softly on the up would not have been so very serious a mat- the column of liabilities by many thousands ter, if the affair could have stopped at the of dollars. The discount and interest acsimple removal from Buttonwood street to count showed a fearful balance on the wrong ing as blue as heaven itself, was the loath- the West End. But that was out of the side. Thirty thousand dollars had been some beetle. With one blow I struck him question. The single item of new furniture paid for the use of money in less than four from her face, and then leaped from the was twenty-five hundred dollars, and the years! Mr. Wiggins owed eighty-three bed. I saw his glittering jewel-like form annual increase of expenditure, exclusive of thousand dollars, and his nominal assets upon the ground-I seized it and crushed it of rent, one thousand. Mrs. Wiggins and were sixty-four! So much for the rich merin my hands-a fierce pain shot up my arm Araminta Jane, moreover, attempted the chant, who had set up his carriage, and sent -my blood seemed changed to molten lead. fashionable, and this cost something-not a his wife and daughter to see high life and The agony was exeruciating, I dropped the dime less than another thousand dollars; for spend money at Saratoga and Newport! He vile abortion; he flew from me, and dashing Shawls. Silk, lace, and jewelry bills mount represents a class, and is rather a favorable lars is below the mark. It costs a trifle to be honest, but the inflation of the times led bim into error.

> The creditors of Mr. Wiggins were not six, twelve, eighteen and twenty-four months Everything went on charmingly. Mrs. in settlement. A few wanted to shut him Wiggins and Araminta Jane were at New- up. They were outraged at the country

claimed Mr. Wiggins, his wrath leaning

resolute Mr. Wiggins. "The bubble has Mr. Wiggins began to feel a little uneasy. burst, and I am now a bankrupt. We went Plump on to one of his desponding after- up like a rocket, and now we are coming

"But we will economize," said Mrs. Wig-

"We'll send away the waiter and let the On the following day Mr. Wiggins sent chamber-maid attend the door and table."

rid of the costly lumber that surrounds us. Joel Wiggins was getting frightened .- Plainer furniture will suit better our reduced

"A sale! Ob, disgrace, disgrace! Would Some portions of the sugar were still lying was dead, and a happy home had been principle, we suppose, of "come casy, go country merchants had been in and few of you kill me, sir?" And Araminta Jane concasy." He had but to select goods, to any them brought money. Sales were light fronted her resolute papa with the counte-