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## Selections.

Head of my Profession.

[CONCLUDED.] -- CHAPTER II. At Brussels, the game began. There were hundreds of wealthy Englishmen will be doubtful. there, and there were the usual number of sharks of all nations assembled to prey upon them. I was well received, and was, I believe, set down in many a private memorandum as a pigeon easy to be plucked. Crannel managed his affairs with for me to lose almost constantly, day after bets depending on my play, and though he had to pay my own losses as well as his. I could not understand it, and one night, after a repetition of the enigma, begged an explanation. He then informed me that the supposed loses he had endured were to confederates-the real ones being my own small stakes-and that I should see the result of this policy very soon. He was right in his prophecy. The confederates, who scemed to have won so much, excited the cupidity of others, and they having staked large sums, the signals suddenly changed. and I had to win. By what appeared the wildest and most fatuous play, I won game after game, which the most suspicious could only attribute to accident or the most unheard of luck. The losers doubled their stakes, and lost again-and now, in lieu of feigned thousands lost, the solid thousands poured in. So artfully did n:y patron control his greed, resigning even large sums when mistrust appeared; and for several weeks he went on reaping the golden harvest.

Suddenly he announced his intention of starting for Berlin, and requested me to give | fellow Ned B--. He was overjoyed bemy valet the necessary orders, to call in my yould expression to see me, and, as it very accounts and settle them, for we should de part in twenty-four hours. I could not understand the reason, as he had certainly might have easily doubled his gain. I was unwilling to move further, for I had formed some most agreeable acquaintances, and was already beginning to feel so much at home in the character I personated as to forget the realities of my lot. I told him what were my feelings.

aloof, and formed no such close intimacies. we might have done well here for another imagine that you are something besides my tem, had led him on by first allowing him

It was true-I had forgotten, and the reproof was just; but I hated him for making last past plendered him to the tune of four it, and was profoundly indignant at seeing that, spite of the gains I had brought him. he regarded me as a mere tool. I held my peace, however, complied with his ordersand the next day was on the road to Berlin, master in the wily Austrian, and was conwhither he followed me in a few days.

At Berlin, my valet, who was a creature of Crannel's, engaged a suite of apartments under the Lindens, where we awaited his coming. He came in due course, and his place that night—engage the Austrian, the came was renewed under similar circumstances, and resulting in similar I professed my readiness to do what I gains to my proprietor. We stayed in the | could, but I doubted whether his antago-Prussian capital over two months, during nist would be willing to play with a stranwhich time I was received in the best soci- | ger for such sums as B--- had lost. ety, where, however, I could no longer feel at home, from the consciousness that I was we can lead him into it easy enough. Will .deharred from private friendships. Here you come?" my first quarter's salary became due, and I could not refuse, and therefore I de Crannel raid me the £75 in terms of the spatched a note to Crannel, informing him hotels where you knock and are let in by more than a trifle, and was seen as often to turned his back upon him. But the Irish contract, taking a receipt for the same. It that I had met an old friend, and should an invisible porter. A voice directed me to lose. This state of affairs had not continued blood was not to be so appeared. Branding duly served, and Mr. Ponsonby, took his and it's now nearly half-past one, I'll wish may seem odd to the reader, who knows not be home till late. Early in the evening the second door "au qualrieme," and on long before Crannel began to look daggers his patron as coward, and heaping on him place at the table. The mild gentleman you a good night." that a few months before I was contentedly B--- drove me across the water to an esworking for journeyman's wages, that I tablishment near the Palais du Luxembourg. Melt intensely dissatisfied with my pay; but where we were admitted to a private room walked in. He was flustered at seeing me, taxed me with treachery. I denied the and forcat; and called on the company to the who knows anything of the phenomena and commenced playing together. At the and began stuttering apologies in three lanof a gamester's mind, will readily believe hour appointed the Austrian came in and guages at once, that such was the case. In truth, I looked took a seat. He was a young fellow, about upon Crannel as a plundering secondral my own age, and not likely soon to penetrate know me vesterday Pat?" who had entrapped me in his meshes, and the artifices in which I was now such an was robbing me wholesale of the fruits of adent. Having lost a couple of games to I reckon, for I don't know you now for anymy own talents. I conceived that I had at B ...... I handed him a note in payment, and thing but the man that bate me yesterday." least an equal right with himself to my win- declined playing again, on the ground that nings, and I began daily to hate the sight of he was too strong for me, adding, that I years ago?" his long, stolid visage, and the piercing eye, would play a game or two with the stranger

London banker. At the end of that period ence, skilled in all the difficult refinements incarnate 'll be here in a jiffy, and he pounds with Florian in three months, and a moment for reflection, which he had wasted entered France.

commencement of our connection, have been | rant of mine almost to the close of the match. | court.

quite aware of my feelings regarding him, It was not till my friend had won back all i he had never thought fit to manifest any his money that I began to throw off my had scrupulously performed his part of the criticising his play, and so source his tem- be wid ye in a twinklin'." contract-paying my salary to the day, per that he played worse. When all was and defraying all the expenses of the expedition. On my part I had given him no and B -- and I had a thousand france some interesting revelation awaited me. In proaching to its end. cause of complaint, feeling too well that I cach of clear gain. We parted in the glim- less than ten minutes he made his appearhated and detested him, he knew as well as | card, and offering him his revenge whenever possible. Perhaps it was with some idea of he chose to claim it. appeasing my hatred that he informed me, as we were approaching the French capital, that it was his intention to double my salary this third year, if I answered his expectations.

"And what are they?" I asked curtly.

I knew what he meant, and, for my own

some ungracious reply.

At Paris, my valet, according to his in-Elysees, and hired me a handsome broughgambling-rooms, I allowed myself to be en- the gambling circles.

day, even when I knew that he had heavy ticed thither by others. I pretended to know only the English game, and for some rumor of a new star in the billiard world. time would play no other. Then I grew This was a young Russian, who was said frantic for the French game, and learned to have reaped the highest honors in St. that, and played it with all the airs of a Petersburg, and to have beaten every opponovice, losing generally, and winning by nent who had ventured to meet him. As accident when my patron gave the signal, usual, the most exagerated reports were He had now several confederates, his creaticirculated regarding him; and he must tures, who played into his hands, and shared have been a magician, working by enchanthis gains, which at times were beyond all ments, if half that was said were true. It preceden. When my salary became due was inevitable that I should be pitted he doubled it according to his promise, against him. Everybody talked of this without any expression of gratitude on my part, and the absence of which did not appear to surprise him in the least.

The position I had assumed in Paris enibled me to keep aloof from the gambling crowd, and materially helped him in carrying out his plans. An act of imprudence of mine, however, at the time, almost entirely defeated them, and altered the complexion of his schemes.

One morning, while lounging along the it was policy to do so, that no symptom of Boulevards, and peering into the shops for some new fashions-I had become an arrant fop by this time-I stumbled suddenly upon my old Bath friend and quondam school--oon appeared, not without reason. I saw, the moment our greeting was over, that he was striving with the blue-devils, and getnetted some thousands where we were, and ling the worst of the strife, and I naturally inquired what was the nature of his grievance.

He replied with a groan and an ejaculation of thankfulness at having fallen in with me. Then seizing me by the arm, he lugged me off into a private room of a neighboring estaminet, and, bolting the "That," said he, coolly, "is the reason why loor, began his tale of woe. The burden we quit. Had you kept yourself more of the whole was, that he had fallen into the hands of a cunning professor of our craft, whom he had mistaken for a pigeon, month; but you have forgotten yourself, and and, who, according to the stereotyped systo win-had turned the tables on him at the critical moment, and had on the night hundred sterling, promising him his revenue at the next meeting. B-s eyes were opened now that it was too late, and his money nearly all gone. He saw his vinced that if he played again, it would be but to increase his loses. He was at his wits' end when he met me. I was the only man who could help him. Would I take who never missed anything, had seen as and win back the money?

"There is no fear of that," said B-

from whose glance I could never be rid.

I need not recount the history of our pressed his willingness, if B— would a Dutchman. That accounts for the milk I saw Meagher by wanderings and our well-timed visits to the defer their engagements for a while. This in the cocoanuts. Oh, be the Vargin, but then only at the hours before the dawn, armed, held to be defeated, and incapable various gambling centres of the European was, of course, arranged, and we began to it's meself that's glad to see ye anyhow." kingdoms. Be it enough to say that I was play. We began at eight in the evening. the tool of this Old Man of the Mountain and left off about dawn; we began playing these years?" for two years; during which time he had the silliest game imaginable on both sides, made large periodical remittances to his and left off like finished masters of the si- here, not here, my friend. Faith, the divided five thousand Meagher, to whom the delay had afforded sleeps in that room to-night—poor devil!"

there awaiting me. I saw that he was in a ble monslogue. I shall not give it in detail vociferate violently and to bet heavily on savage mood; and, to irritate him still fur- out of consideration for the reader's pather, I made a boast of what I had been tience. The gist of it may be briefly extreme, but he only bit his lips and said lit- Like myself. Pat Meagher had been picked addition to those he had already made. It "Increased caution and self-restraint," he tle. As he doubtless foresaw, my exploit up by a speculating patron, and earried off chanced that he had scarcely accepted these will gain nothing by their courtesies, you wiped his forehead, and empticd his turnssaid. "Paris is the grand field of operations. got wind, and the result was that ere long to St. Petersburg, where, according to his pledges, when one of those accidents, which I should have taken you there at once, had my assumed disguise peeled off of itself, own account, he had won a mint of money are always contingent on the board of green you been seven years older; the two years and I was known, in the gaming circles at for his owner, receiving but a miserable experience you have had elsewhere should least, for what I was. Crannel, of course. have taught you the value of reserve. If had to alter his policy, and content him elf you have learned that, we shall do well; if with the new state of things. Still, as his was one Mortier, a cashiered French officer. not, we shall soon be blown, and success fat determined every game I played his gains were very considerable. For my part him a hundred thousand rubles at St. Pe-I liked my new position far better; and for sake, I treasured the hint, though I made the first time, really enjoyed the excitebacked against the first players in Paris; and he seemed possessed with the idea that by Craunel to a very unusually large amount. Mirtier got a sentence of a year's imprist twelve. Though fatigued I felt no disposistructions, took apartments in the Champs and when the signal was to win, I did so he should be driven to murder him before The game went on, and I recovered my lost onment for the duel, one month of which he tion to sleep, so I placed my candle on the in such brilliant style that my renown soon consummate address. He gave the signal am. Instead of first frequenting the spread abroad, and I became the wonder of

About the middle of August there arose a consumation, and was cager to bring it about. Crannel did not start any objection and my admirers making up a considerable purse, the affair was settled. The match was to come off in the Palais Royal by daylight, on the Sanday. I had never seen my opponent upeto the hour of our meeting; and when, with Crannel, who had bet liberally on my side, I repaired to the spot, what was my my astonishment in recognizin the renowned Russian my once shirtless antagonist, Pat Meagher, whom, as a lad, I the Russian well in a pair of dark whiskers and the Cossack moustache; and he talked Russian most glibly with a friend who accompanied. Still, there was the unmistakable Irish face, and the undeniable brogue flavored his Slavonic speech. I was glad to see that he did not recognize me: but I was determined to see him out and have a private conference, if possible. In stripping for the match, after we had shaken hands, he dropped a card from his vestpocket; in a moment I had secreted it un-

observed, and the contest began. But for my previous knowledge of Meagher's play, and the points in which his strength lay, I might probably have been of his cwn pencil, sung us an operatic air beaten, and that summarily. As it was, to his own accompaniment, arranged our the contest was a succession of wary sparrings, in which nothing brilliant was done or attempted. Had a drawn match been po-sible in billiards, this would have been drawn. It ended in my winning, through the failure of an almost impossible stroke, which, at the last crisis, my adversary was compelled to attempt, and which left the

game in my hands. I was immensely pleased with this victory. on more accounts than one. I had not only gained reputation, but I had convinced myself that the quasi Russian, was incapable the long run, of holding his own against me I had drawn him out, and taken his measure, and felt myself his master. Crannel precision of a banker. were confident in his superior play, which,

and drove in a flacre to the address on Ivan Mearowitz, Hotel de la Paix, Rue

"Is it possible," I said, "that you did not

"Bedad," said he, "i' must be possible,

"Whew! botheration-if I hadn't a pre-

"Och! won't I tell all about it? But not his watchfulness. Our scheme answered and the duel began. had played an hour, the whole strength yander wid the green venations?" and Pat,

"I see it-what then?"

was in his power; but that I thoroughly mer of the morning; B giving him his ance in an old dressing gown, and having bolted the door of the closet, which was but a receptacle for lumber, seated himself When I reached home, I found Crannel on a box and commenced a rather remarkaabout. His mortification was evidently ex- tracted, and was to the following effect:treatment into the bargain. His tyrant Meagher assured me that he had won for tersburg, and as much more at Moscowthe villain cooly bagging the whole. Pat's ments of a gambler's life. I was now hatred to the man was almost demoniac, stantly did so, and they were accepted also and we parted. their contract was expired, and which had ground so far that, as it drew towards the actually suffered. Poor Meagher was buried bed steps and began to read. I had about yet two years to run. My affection for close, I had scored as many points as my as a Russian officer, and was registered at five minutes, when suddenly I received a Crannel, as the reader knows, was some opponent, and two points more scored by Pere le Chaise under the name of Mearowitz. most violent blow in the stomach, and the

> should turn the tables upon our tyrants, and, of my life I had never known what it was garding the private signals of our patrons, sayed to make the stroke; but there were is conscious that he possesses either nergerly and at once.

"Then be here to-morrow," said Put, "by seven in the morning; by that time I shall had defeated at Bath. It is true he looked have seen the right man, and, bedad, we'll work the oracle in the future on our own account."

> Soon after seven next morning, Meagher and I were fleeing along the road to St. Cloud, to the residence of M. Florian, who had entered into the scheme, and with whom we were to concert measures for putting it into execution. M. Florian was a model dandy of that era-of graceful figure, exquisite manners, and fine accomplishments -musician, artist, linguist, and gambler, little plan on the simplest grounds and the most liberal terms, gave us his note of hand for a round sum to fall due in a few weeks, ordered up a grand dejeuner, and, that discussed, drove us as far back as Auteuil in his own carriage.

> The reader may perhaps suspect that M Florian was little to be relied on; if so, he is mistaken. The honor that exists among -ahem!-among gentlemen of certain pursuits, is as spotless as the snow, and is rarely violated? Pending the whole duration of our threefold contract, Florian behaved with the rectitude of a judge in ermine, and the

much, and would doubtless make good cap- course. The great billiard contest between have strangled him on the spot but for the bed. Bring me a broiled bone and a glass "Gur room!" said I. ital out of his discernment; while, on the the Russian and the Englishman was reother hand, the partizans of the Russian newed almost nightly in the presence of the tore him away. Frenzied beyond all contable next to the young gentleman, whilst The man who made us died in this bed, and first amateurs of the capital. Agreeably to trol of himself, he burst out with a torrent I speak to Betty." they swore, an accident only had defeated, our plan, we both of us ignored the signals of invective, abuse, and rabid curses, and The morning after the match I rose early of our patrons whenever Florian gave any leaping on the table, called heaven and earth munication to Betty was I dont mean to "Yes," I answered, "very unpleasant." signals of his own, and thus turned the Meagher's card, which bore the inscription, whole current of success into his treasury. alive without the heart's blood of the vil- was shortly afterwards seen entering No. alway serves intruders that way when we Meanwhile, Florian played his game so Richlicu." It was one of those grim old adroitly, that he was rarely seen to win responded only by a sarcastic sneer, and returning without it. sounding it with my knuckles. Pat. who at me whenever we met in private, and at the foulest charges, Meagher continued to pulled his collar more frequently and plied was in bed, bushed out "Entrez," and I length, not being able to refrain any longer, denounce him as robber, assessin, traitor, the toothpick with increased energy. charge, and insisted that he should pit me listen while he gave them the veritable hisagainst some other antagonist; I could not tory of the monster. be sure of the Russian, who was always developing some new strength. My patron cat, again winced, and turning sharply was evidently perplexed, and for a time he refrained from betting, but watched me, as "the fool shall have his way!" Springing plaining of the mortality among his horses. all attempts at forgetfulness on my part im-I was well aware, all the closer. I had rea-"Don't you recollect me at Bath five son to suspect, moreover, that he had set spies upon my path when I went abroad though what was the extent of his discov-

some certain knowledge of our secret con- forward in a half-circle, with his rapier-"Cross the court, mount the tother stairs; federacy, he had at least so far verified his point quivering above his head. Some ed chambers in the nineteenth century;" consciousness that such was the case. He disguise. I then piqued my adversary, by and go into No. 15 on the third floor. 1'll suspicious at to feel conscious that the con-rapid passes took place, and Mortier was and Ponsonby paused. tract by which he nominally retained my I did as he requested, feeling assured, services was no longer of any advantage to but he was cool and wary in proportion to couragingly. over he was cleaned out to the last franc, from his eagerness and excitement, that him. But this double game was fast ap-

> One night, Meagher's patron, Mortier, who came to the cafe where we played with the scowl of a fiend on his brow, and in a state of furious excitement, as was always the case when he drank freely, began to his protege. M. Florian, who was present, immediately indicated that I was to win, and accepted all Mortier's proffered bets, in cloth, and which the most experienced circumstances, have secured his winning it.

which his encounter with me would enable there was a winning hazard on the balls reader to know. Poverty, the ultimate lot cure my assailant. No; there was no onel him to carry out; he proposed at once, and which at any other time I could have made with an almost savage vehemence, that we with case and certainty. Up to this motiont many a weary year. With mature age came as they had so long done by us, enrich our- to be nervous; but now a panic fit seized selves at their expense. The thing could me; the cue trembled in my hand; if I did be easily done; we had only to get a clever not win, I knew that Florian would lose one that requires the most perfect condition confederate of our own, and then, disre | more than all three of us could pay. I es- of the physical faculties, and no man who winning or losing to suit our own interests. upon it; I felt the eye of Crannel upon me, to excel in it. The scheme struck me as excellent, as well and every sinew in my frame vibrated .from its simplicity as from the retributive Calling for a glass of iced water, I drank it justice it involved, and I agreed to it ea. off, and then, endeavoring to think of some. thing else, hastily struck the stroke. The red ball, instead of dropping into the pocket. struck the small angle of the cushion, rebounded, and kissed my own, the two then stopping, one on each side of the pocket, enough for a ball to pass through. There were a hundred eyes looking on, but not a lip moved, only a suppressed groan arose

for an instant among my partisans. it was almost impossible for him to strike for love or money." either ball without winning the game, in which case we were rained. He did not seem at all disturbed, but lowered his cue the idol of the sex, and the most careless, to play. I thought he would take the only it for you till the last train; now as that 'liancy." agreeable, and good humored rattlepate in course open to him, and make a foul stroke: has been in an hour, I gave you up, sir. the world. He received us in an elegant instead of that he drove his ball sheer be- What will you do?" losing the game. Affecting the utmost horror at what he

had done he dashed down his one, and be- waiter. gan tearing his hair and blaspheming. I not suspect foul-play-none of them, with Forty-two." the exception of Mortier, who having al ready his suspicions aroused, was now convinced of the justice of them, as well as en- by into the coffee-roomraged to madness at the heavy losses he had incurred. With a countenance livid with fury, he rushed towards Meagher, and yell-

blow on the face. A horrid scene ensued. The Ir shman toothpick. Affairs now began to take a different flew at the aggressor's throat, and would interference of a dozen strong arms, which of brandy and water, and put them on the "Yes; mine and the rest of the works .to witness that he would not move thence

Morties, who had started at the word foron the table, he folded his arms, and awaited Take it away." the issue with a suppressed eagerness which showed how deep should be his revenge.

Rapiers were brought; it was notified to collar. both the combatants that if either of them I saw Meagher but rarely in private, and quitted the table be would be instantly diswhen I could steal away from the observa- of resuming the strife. Then M. Plorian get in anywhere." "Well, and what have you been doing tion of my prying valet, whose grog I had drew a chalk-line across the centre of the to dose more than once in order to prevent cloth-the weapons were delivered to each,

we sailed from Naples for Marseilles, and of which it is susceptible. I knew before I must'nt see you. Do ye see that windy vastly to the delight of Pat, most of it had in fuming and stamping, advanced boldly come out of Mortier's pocket-and we were to the encounter. Mortier, who was the Though Crannel must, almost from the of my adversary, while he remained igno- rising from his bed, pointed across the at last on the road to fortune. I am of shorter by nearly a head, instead of oppos- should doubt my veracity." oginion that if Crannel had not by this time ing him in the usual attitude, stood bent "Oh! sir-"

seen to be bleeding from two slight wounds; the peril-parried the deadly lunges of his instantly shortened his weapon, and thrust it." t sheer through the breast of the poor Irishman, who leaped with a wild cry into the iir, and fell on the table a corpse.

Paralysed at the sight, I was gazing horcor-struck at the lifeless body, when I felt said a word for the world." hand grasping my shoulder; it was Crannel. "We must to cover," he said; "the sir. I'm not superstitious, neither am I police will be here in a minute, and you foolishly incredulous," and the mild one may depend upon it."

stipend for himself, and ungentlemanly players cannot always guard against, gave at my request, paid me off the same night, three years ago this very day, that I and Meagher such a decided avantage in the giving me to understand that he knew I had my luggage found ourselves in No. Fortygame as should, and would, under ordinary played him fulse, but that having taken two, the last room, (so the chambermaid his measures accordingly, I had not injured | told me) unlet in the house." Mortier now redoubled his clamor, and of him; though I had intended to do so. I re- "Exactly what she told me-a cocka fered very heavy odds, challenging the proached him in my turn with his systematic 'trice' interrupted the mild one. whole room to accept them. Florian in- and cold-blooded rascality and selfishness -- "I was tired by my day's journey, and

what of the same stamp; and by way of either of us would win the game. It was M. Florian and I divided his effects between clock struck a quarter. I started up; there consoling each other, we mutually anothema- Meagher's turn to play, and his ball being us, and I had seven thousand france for my was no one-nothing to account for the tised the villains who had them in their under the cushion, he gave a miss, which, chare of Mortier's losses, all of which were phenomenon. At last I concluded it must while it was the right play, was also good ultimately paid. How this sum and much have been a fancy. I read on for another But Meagher was not content with curs- policy for us, since, had any accident sent more which I had gained over the devil's quarter of an hour, when I received two ing his enemy; he had a plan which he one of the balls into the pocket, all would back was subsequently dissipated under blows of greater violence than the former had long been revolving in his mind, and have been over. It was now my turn, and another part of his person, it boots not the one. I jumped out of bed, resolved to seof nearly all gamblers, has been mine for dyspepsia and nervousness, and then all reliance on my skill as a billiard-player vanished. Of all accomplishments this is the

My confessions may well end here.

From Dicken's Household Words. The Haunted Bed.

BY MARK LEMON. at the door with his baggage. I'll be whip- on the crewn of my head. The clock ped!" cried the head waiter at the \_\_\_\_ struck the three quarters. I was now conwith a space between them barely wide hotel on the evening preceding the regatta. vinced that there was something wrong.-I'd given him up, and just put that weak- and told this story, I should be laughed at minded gent as come at ten o'clock in and set down as drunk or dreaming. I re-Forty-two-Mr. Ponsonby's room as I call solved to brave the worst. I got out of bed It was now Meagher's turn to play, and it: and there's not a bed to be had in Cowes and, gently opening the clock case, stopped

"What's that's you say, Betty? said the

but I must sleep on a sofa."

"Not one disengaged, sir," said the

rently impossible, that the spectators did We let everything before we would let full upon me, said-

in pulling up his shirt collar and using his answer, into hed it get."

What the nature of Mr. Ponsonby's com- rather unpleasant, didn't you?"

this thing away."

"Capital bone, sir," said John, somewhat astonished. "Dan't tell me a capital bone!" exclaimed

The mild gentleman looked alarmed, and paused in the act of pulling up his left cried the mild one.

"Wretched house, this, sir," said Ponsonby, confidentially; "never come here if and go to bed." I can avoid it, but at regatta time glad to "Go to bed in No. Forty-two!" exclaimed

"Yes, sir," said the mild one, and I shall never forget it. I wonder who of. Go to your room, and if anything oc-

"May I inquire what the trick was sir?" "Ohl certainly," said Ponsonby, though candles, the pair preceded to No. Forty-

I hardly like to tell the story, in case you two.

"Well, it seems absurd to speak of haunt-

"Not at all, sir," said the mild one, en

"But that there is one in the house I am tall foe with unvarying certainty, and at ready to swear;" exclaimed Ponsonby; "a length springing forward within his guard, room with a large, old fashioned clock in

> "No. Forty-twol" gasped the mild one; "that's my room!"

> "Hush, for Heaven's sake!" said Ponsonby; "had I known that, I wouldn't have

> "My dear sir, don't say that; pray go on, ler at a guln.

That was the last game of billiards I over Weil, as you desire it, I will narrate my played to the profit of Louis Crannel, who, story," said Ponsonby. "It was exactly

went to hed exactly as the clock struck -the clock chimed the half-hour."

"Another glass of brandy and water!" cried the mild one.

It was brought, and Ponsonby proceed-

ing:
"I seized the bell-rope, but a sense of shame would not let me proceed. I therefore resolved to keep watch for a short time sell them at the best price we could, by two hundred thousand francs depending vous system or ventral organs need expect As I sat up in the bed my eyes fell upon the face of the old clock in the corner. I could not help thinking that was in some way connected with the annoyance I had suffered. As I looked, the minute-hand gradually approached the IX on the disl. and the moment it arrived there. I received "Why, Betty, if there isn't Mr. Ponsonby three distinct and particularly sharp raps "Mr. Ponsonby, you don't say so! and What was I to do? If I disturbed the house

the vibration of the pendulum. "'Come, that must prevent the striking,' new comer, "not another bed but mine, eh?" thought I, and laid myself down with "That's it, sir," replied Betty: "I kept something like a chuckle at my own bril-

> "A chuckle!" murmured the mild one. "I had not been in bed above five min-

the world. He received us in an elegant tween the other two, without touching either "Awkward," exclaimed Ponsonly; "the utes," resumed Ponsonly, when I heard them, and ran a "coo" in the pocket; thus old clock in the room will break its heart; the door of the clock-case open slowly. I felt, I confess, a tremor-"I should think so!"

"And I saw the nendulum throw a somer-"No, sir," added Betty, "not one, sir, sault on the floor, and deliberately hop-hop of course knew that he had done it on pur. There are four small children put to hed in hop-towards the bed. It paused for a poso; but the thing was so difficult, so appula chest of drawers now in Twenty-four. moment audiending its round, brazen face

"Spoke?" garped the mild one.

"That's the gent that's got your room," "Said, (continued Pensonby; not heeding whispered John, as he ushered Mr. Ponson- the interruption,) 'Sir, I am very much obliged to you for stopping my labors. Peo-The person alluded to was a very mild, ple think I never want any rest, but that I milky-looking young gentleman of twenty- can stand being perpeually wound up and one. His present position was evidently kept on the go. With your permission, I'll ing a desperate oath, dealt him a savage a new one, for he was constantly employed get into bed;' and without waiting for an

"I suppose," continued the pendulum, "John," said Ponsonby, "I must have a "you are not aware that this is our room."

left it to us a legacy. You found something

reveal; but she "laughed consumedly," and "Ah! that was the striking weight; he lain that had struck him. Mortier at first Forty-two with a warming pan, and then are going. When we are not, and I come to bed, he is quiet enough. But as I am The bone and brandy and water were like to be set going again in the morning.

"Good night, sir," I replied, quaking from head to foot. So, thought I, whoever sleepe "Waiter," cried Possonby, "Here-take in this bed must either submit to be thumped black and blue, by the striking weight, or accept of this horrible monster for a bedfellow. At this moment the pendulum, I suppose, fell asleep, for it commenced an round, "Let us have weapons," he said; Ponsonby. "The 'bus driver was com- innocent tick-tick,' tick-tick,' that rendered possible."

"Another glass of brandy and water!"

"No, no," said Ponsonby, "I would adviss you not. Have your chamber candle

the mild one. "Mever"

"My dear fellow, matters may have "They served me a rascally trick once, changed since the period I have been talking curs it is easy to ring the bell. Come, I'll see you to the door." And taking their

> "Here we are," said Ponsonby; "good nicht."