## THE LANCASTER DAILY INTELLIGENCER, SATURDAY; MARCH 17, 1888.

## FOR HONOR'S SAKE.

## BY B. L. PARJEON.

of "Great Porter Hquare," Bright Star of Lofe," Ste. . The

## (CONTINUED.)

(CONTINUED.) Still, it was with some difficulty that be extracted from Mrs. Rutland the infor-mation that he desired to obtain. Obtain it, however, he did. Mrs. Rutland in-formed him that Mabel had gone out on the evening of the 25th of March, and did not return home until nearly 1 o'clock in the morning. Mr. Rutland was not aware of this. Mrs. Rutland had stopped up for her daughter, and had let her in quietly and genetily agitated, but she said nothing to her mother. She kissed her hurriedly, went to her bedroom, and was found the next morning in the condition Mrs. Rut-and had described.

"Being in a fover from that day," said Dr. Daincourt to the mother, "your daughter has seen no newspapers

"And she is ignorant of the peril through which her former lover, Edward Layton, has passed, and in which he still stands?

'She is ignorant of it," said Mrs. Rut land.

"Have any letters arrived for her dur ing her illness"" "Yes, two. One in the handwriting of

Mr. Layton, the other from my dear boy Eustace.

"Have you those letters?" 'Yes.'

"Have you opened them?" "No. My daughter made me give her a solemn promise that I would never open one of her letters, and I have not done

"But," said Dr. Daincourt, "this is a matter of life and death. I must ask you to give me those letters, and I will take upon myself the responsibility of opening them. I must ask you for something more. Your daughter has a desk?"

more. "Yes "The key of which is in her room?"

"Yes." Bring down the desk and the key.

Ask me no questions concerning my mo-tives. I am in hopes that I shall be able to discover the true cause of your daugh-ter's illness, and that will enable me to adopt toward her the only treat-ment by which it is possible she can recover

Mrs. Rutland brought down the desk and the key. In the mother's presence Dr. Daincourt opened the desk. There were in it no letters from Edward Layton, but it contained two of what Mrs. Rutland called the mystery letters which Eustace was in the habit of writing to his sister. These letters were in their en-velopes, the post marks upon which indi-cated their order of delivery.

Dr. Daincourt could make nothing of them, and Mrs. Rutland could not assist both Eustace and his sister Mabel were acquainted. What was this starting point? One of the letters of the alphabet. What letter? A. Starting, then, from A in the framework, I found that the figures from 1 to 9 ran thus: 6, 2, 7, 3, 9, 1, 4, 5, 8. Upon following, in this order, the course of the words which were exposed by the playing card with the nine pips cut out, I came to the conclusion that I had correctly interpreted this first mystery letter. I was very pleased, believing that the key I had discovered would lead me to a correct reading of Eustace's second and third letter to his sister. him. They were written upon small single sheets of note paper, and appeared to be a perfect jumble of incomprehensible words. Around the margin of these words were a number of figures and alphabetical letters as incomprehensible as themselves. Searching further in the desk, he made a starting discovery—three playing cards, each of them being the nine of hearts. He asked Mrs. Rutland—who appeared to be almost as startled as he was himself by the discovery-whether she could give him any explanation of the cards, and she said that she could not. Then Dr. Dain-court said that he would take the playing cards and the letters away with

"At the same time," he observed to Mrs. Rutland, "if it is any consolation to yon, I undertake your daughter's case and will do the best for her that lies within my skill and power."

He then went to see Miss Rutland in her bed, wrote out a prescription, gave certain instructions and then left the "I have come to you " said Dr Dain-

court to me, "with these letters and the playing cards; I will leave them with the nine of

sensence ? That inscanded will r. i counted, seven words on from "jour" and came to "diamond." I treated this word in a sim-ilar way to the last two and continued the process. "Got your diamond." Now for "bracelet." The next figure was 3. I counted three words from "diamond" and came to "bracelet." I was more excited than I can describe. There is scarcely anything in the world that fills a man with such exultation as success, and I was on the track of suc-

not at that time in her possession. Here, then, was a clew, but here I stopped. No ingenuity that I could bring to bear en-abled me to connect other words with "diamond bracelet." I cadgelled my brains for at least half an hour. Then all at once it occurred to me (what in the ex-citement of my pursuit I may very well be excused for not having thought of be-fore) that the playing card, the nine of hearts, must bear some relation to the missive. I placed it upon the paper. Every word was hidden by the surface of the card; only the figures and the alpha-betical letters were visible. "Doubless," thought I, "if I cut out the pips of a nine of hearts, and place it upon the paper. Entities and place it upon the saper, I shall see certain words which will form the subject matter upon which Eustaces Entitland wrote to his sister." In that case the mystery was confined to nine words, which, whatever their arrange-ment, would not be too difficult to intel-ligibily arrange. I would not mutilate Miss Rutland's playing cards. I had packs of my own in the house, and from thess I selected the nine of hearts and cut out the pips. It was not an easy matter, and in my esergences I wrothy directed by that fills a man with such exultation as success, and I was on the track of suc-cess: "Got your diamond bracelet." The following figure was 9. I counted on nine and came to the word "hack." "Got your diamond bracelet back." I continued. The next figure was 1. This was repre-sented by the word "L." The next figure was 4, represented by the word "won." The next figure was 5, represented by the word "four." The next figure was 8, rep-resented by the word "hundred." I con-tinued the same process and came back to the figure 6, represented by the word "on." The next figure was 2, repre-sented by the word "cherry." I stopped here for a reason and I read these I selected the nine of hearts and cut out the pips. It was not an easy matter, and in my eagerness I pretty effectually destroyed the surface of my table; but that did not trouble me. My interest was now thoroughly aroused, and grew keener when, placing the nine of hearts upon Eustace Rutland's mystery letter, I found these words disclosed: Face-stares-in-send-money-death -me-instantly-the.

I stopped here for a reason and I read the words I had crossed out and written on a separate sheet of paper. They ran thus: "Got your diamond bracelet back. 1

won 400 on Cherry." It was not without a distinct reason that I paused here. Mixing with the world and moving in all shades and classes of society, I must confess—as I have no doubt other men would confess if they doubt other men would confess if they were thoroughly ingenuous—to certain weaknesses, one of which is to put a sov-creign or two (seldom more) upon every classic horse race, and upon every im-portant handicap during the year. I nearly always lose—and serve me right. But it happened, strangely enough, that in this very month of September, during which Eustace Rutland sent his mysteri-ous communication to his sister Mabel, one of the most celebrated handicaps of

ous communication to his sister Mabel, one of the most celebrated handleaps of the year was won by a horse named Cherry, and that I had two sovereigns on that very horse. It started at long odds. I remembered that the bet I made was two sovereigns to a hundred, and that I had won what is often called a century upon the race. I was convinced that I had come to the legitimate end of Eastace Rutland's letter: "Got your diamond bracelet back. I won 400 on Cherry." "This young venychate, then, was in

ity. Curiosity led me to the task of en-deavoring to discover whether the alpha-betical letters and the figures in the frame-work hore any relation to this communi-cation. With only the nine words ex-posed through the pips of the nine of hearts which I had cut away, I saw that the first word, "death," was the sixth, and the second word, "stares," was the second, and the third word, "me," was the second, and the third word, "the figures, therefore, was 6, 2, 7. Now, how were these three figures arranged in the frame-work? The figure 6 came after the letter M, the figure 7 came after the letter H. Satbracelet back. I won 400 on Cherry." This young reprobate, then, was in-dulging in horse racing. His sister Mabel had written to him an account of the scene between herself and her father at the dinner party. She had given him her diamond bracelet to extricate him from some scrape, and he had been luckily ena-blad her his treastment on the horse bled, by his investment on the l Cherry, to redeem it-most likely from the pawnbroker-in time for his sister to exhibit it to her father. So as to be cer-tain that I had got the proper clew, and had arrived at the gist of Eustace's com-munication, I wrote down the words that the figure 7 came after the letter H. Sat-isfied that I had found the key, I began to study how these figures from 1 to 9, rep-resonting the nine words in the com-munication and the nine of hearts in the remained, which were: "Birds - the-the-in-are-the- trees

-runs-rivers-gayly-singing." It was an easy task now for me to ap-

ply the same test to these remaining words, and I found that they formulated themselves in this fashion:

"The river runs gayly. The birds are singing in the trees." I was curious to ascertain whether there

were any special sign in the framework of Eustace Rutland's communication by which the person engaged with him in the mystery letter could be guided. I counted the words in each sentence. The vords in the first sentence were ninenine of hearts. The number of words in the second sentence was eleven. The number of words in the third sentence was eleven. After the alphabetical letter

A in the framework I saw the figure 11, and I was satisfied, the last eleven words being meaningless, that it was the see sentence of eleven words, referring to the sentence of eleven words, referring to the diamond bracelet and to his winning on Cherry, that Eustace wished his sister Mabel to understand. At the same time I was satisfied in my own mind that, without the nine of hearts to guide him, a man might spend days over the cryptowithout arriving at the co lution

I had taken no count of the passing time. Engrossed and absorbed in my oc-cupation, I was surprised, when it had reached what I believed to be a successful rmination, to find that it was nearly six 19-5

IV.

of her ungloved hand." "Yes, yes," I cried, "I remember! And the waiter answered that she wore a ring of torquoises and diamonds. Of course-of course. That explains my dream." "Yes," said Dr. Daincourt, "that ex-

"Yes," said Dr. Daincourt, "that ex-plains it." "I need no further assurance," I said, "to prove that 16 was Miss Rutland who was in Edward Layton's company on the night of the 25th of March, but I wish to ask her mother whether the young lady possesses such a ring, and is in the habit of wearing it. Your face is clouded again, doctor. You fear that I am really about to bring trouble upon Miss Rutland. You are mistaken; I am working in the cause of justice. If I prove Edward Layton to be innocent, no shadow of suspicion can rest upon Miss Rutland. You must trust entirely to me. Can you not now underentirely to me. Can you not now under-stand why Edward Layton refused to be defended by a shrewd legal mind? He

detended by a shrewd legal mind? He would not permit a cross examination of any of the witnesses which would bring the name of Mabel Rutland before the public. To save her honor, to protect her from scandal and calumny, he is ready to sacrifice himself. He shall not do so. I will preventit. Your patient is in a state of delirium, you tell me. She knows nothing of what passes around her, she recognizes no one, she has not heard of the peril in which Edward Layton stands. Say that ahe remains in this state of ignorance until Edward Layton is sen-tenced and hanged for a crime which he ignorance until Edward Layton is sen-tenced and hanged for a crime which he did not commit—say, then, that she re-covers and hears of it—reads of it—why, she will go mad! It would be impossible for her to preserve her reason in circum-stances so terrible. There is a clear duty before us, Dr. Daincourt, and we must not shrink from it. I need not urge upon you to use your utmost skill to restore you to use your utmost skill to restore Mabel Rutland to health, and to the conactousness of what is passing around her. If before Edward Layton is put again upon his trial I do not clear him, I shall not hesitate to make some kind of appeal to Miss Rutland which, even should she remain delirious, shall result in favor of he man who is so nobly and rashly protecting her good name." "Remember," said Dr. Daincon gravely, "that she is in great danger." "You mean that she may die soon"

"Yes," "But not suddenly"' I asked, in alarm. "I think not suddenly." "Still," I said, "there is a chance of her being restored to health?" "Yes, there is a chance of it." "If the worse happens," I said, "is it "If the worse happens," I said, "is it likely that she would recover conscious-pess before her death?" "It is almost certain that she would." "Then it would be necessary," I said, "to take her dying deposition. Doctor, it is my firm conviction that the man and the woman who entered Edward Layton's house after midnight on the 25th of March were not Edward Layton and Ma-bel Rutland." 2

"But the coachman drove them home!" exclaimed Dr. Daincourt. "So he said."

"And took them from Prevost's Restau-

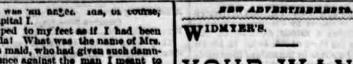
"So he said. Recall that part of the coachman's evidence bearing upon it. He mays that Edward Layton, accompanied by a lady, issued from the restaurant at 11:55; that Layton appeared excited. address." "An awful charge may be laid against VERY CHEAP. me. I am not guilty." "Do not desert me. I swear that I am which he, the coachman, attributed to the act of his having taken too much wine; innocent. I decided that the whole of this was intended to be conveyed to Mabel Rut-land's understanding, and that in the last Williamson & Foster, To rebut this we have the evidence of the waiter, who declared that Layton simply of Eustace's communications to his sister there was not one idle word. "An awful charge may be laid against me." That charge, undoubtedly, was the murder of Mrs. Layton. "I am not guilty. I swear that I am innocent." But all guilty men are ready to swear that they are innocent. Not a moment was to be lost in setting my agents to work to discover Eustace Rutland's address, as well as the address of Ida White. I quickly opened the letter which Edward Layton had written in prison to Mabel Rutland, and which I had posted. It was very short, to the follow-ing effect: tasted the wine that was ordered. He could not have drunk half a glass. The of Eustace's communications to his sister man and the woman came from the restau-rant, jumped quickly into the carringe, 32. 34, 36 & 38 E. KING ST., and but one word, 'Home!' was uttered in a thick voice. Now, Layton, in his ridicu-LANCASTER, PA. lously weak cross examination, put two questions to the witness. 'Did it occur BOSTON STORE. to you,' he asked, 'or does it occur to you now, that the voice which uttered that now, that the voice which uttered that word was not my voice? The witness re-plied that it had not occured to him. Then Layton said, 'You are certain that it was my voice?' And the witness re-plied, 'Yes, sir.' To me, these two quesing effect; tions put by Layton are convincing proof that it was not he who entered the caras put by Layton are convinc "DEAR MISS BUTLAND .- All is well. riage from Prevost's restaurant." Have no fear. Do not write to me until "But he wore his ulster," said Dr. you hear from me again. Believe me, faithfully yours, EDWARD LAYTON." Daincourt. "Here, again," I said, "we have evi-Nos. 26 & 28 N. Oueen St. Thus it was that he endeavored to keep dence which, to my mind, is favorable. The waiter testifies that when Layton enfrom the woman he loved the true knowl-edge of the peril in which he stood. To save her good name he was ready to go cheerfully to his death. tered the room in which the supper was ordered he took off his ulster and hung it. WILL MOVE TO THEIR on a peg in the wall, at some distance from the table at which he sat. More-(TO BE CONTINUED.) over, he sat with his back to the coat K ssing Goes by Pavor. Layton, in his cross examination, asked But Hop Ointment goes for chapped hands, soro Loses, cold cracks, etc., without fear or faver Never fails. All druggists soil it at 25 **NEWSTORE** the waiter, 'Did I put the overcoat on be-fere I left the room?' The waiter replied, cents a box. "How divines things woman may be made," then her coud is cured by Dr. Bull's Cough IN ABOUT when her coid is cured by Dr. Bull's Gouga Syrup. "Mother, can I go ont to fish ?" No, no. my little sonny, You anow you've got a swellen fcot. My precious little honry." But they got a bottle of Salvation Oil, and he went and caugut an eel, and ate it like a man. TEN DAYS. he overcoat?'. And the witness answered, Doctor, I see light. Bring me 'No.' news of the ring set with turquoises and diamonds. I shall be at home the whole Life is a joy forever when you keep stomach and bowels in order by taking Vinegar Bit of the evening." After Dr. Daincourt's departure I made tors. FROM NOW TILL a hurried breakfast, went through my ARVARMENTS. correspondence and resumed my task of FULTON OPERA HOUSE, examining Eustace Rutland's letters to his sister. The second opened communi WE MOVE, cation was exactly of the same shape and form as the first which I had deciphered. MONDAY, MARCH 19th, 1988. THE REMARKABLE SUCCESSOF give here an exact copy of it: 10 N 17 D 6 L 13 C 1 WE WILL SELL FIVE THOUSAND YARIS MR. J. K. EMMETT of to distraction street ۲. Goods, awfully yours an till I FRITZ, love hard night OUR COUSIN GERMAN. up angel chester power my With Entirely New Fongs and Dances com-posed by bimself, and the Original Costames from Germany. -FORcorner her ida all o'clock LESS THAN COST. death will -2 FULTON OPERA HOUSE. nine 1 do Tuesday NFR . Tuesday Evening. March 20, 1888. L 18 D 4 L' 10 9 8 Grand Spectacolar Production of the Best American Play ever written. A beau jun home drama in jour acts and five tableaux THIS IS NO FAIRY TALE. The notation of the nine figures, representing the nine pips in the playing card. entitled in Eustace's first communication, was 6, 2, 7, 3, 9, 1, 4, 5, 8. Taking as my guide "RANCH 101 BUT IT IS the alphabetical letter A, I found that the notation in Eustace Rutland's second com-New and Flaborate Scenery. Starting Me-hanical and stage Fflects, and a strong Cast of Characters. The Popular actors, munication was 3, 6, 1, 5, 2, 9, 4, 8, 7. I placed the playing card, with its pips cut A SOLID FACT. out, over the paper, and the following was J. OLINTON HALL revealed: "Of-street-at-night-chester-cor--AND ---HORACE MILLER. ner-o'clock-nine-Tuesday." THIS EFFORT IS ONLY TO LAST FOR Arranging these words according to the And their Strong Company of Comedian The Greatest + freecone Ever Produced. Act longs, New Dances, New Music. new notation of figures, they formed this entence: "At corner of Chester street Tuesday TEN DAYS. night nine o'clock." "Now," thought I, "this may have been an appointment." COLUMN TRACTOR POITICAL. If so-and nothing was more likely-1 AP REMEMBER FOR TE & DAYS ONLY. could derive no assistance from it. HOR CONGRESS. conveyed no information, and contained nothing which would assist me in my in B. FRANK ESHLEMAN. augzi-tida w quiries. It was very likely that I should light upon something further, and I pro-Dress Goods for Less Than Cost ceeded with my task. The figure im FOR JURY COMMISSIONER, mediately following the alphabetic letter A was 12, which meant, if I were on the H. T. SHULTZ, right track, that the second sentence in -AT THEof Filzab thtown Borough. Subject to the decision of the Democratic County conven-tion. mail-tidk w this communication was composed of twelve words. I followed the same pro cess I had previously employed, and the twelve words formed themselves thus: "Awfully hard up ida is an angel I love **BOSTON STORE** FOR JURY COMMISSIONER, GEORGE DARMSTETIER. her to distraction." So as to finish this communication, I Seventh Ward, city. Subject to Democratic Rules. Imaril-lydaw unravelled the last ten words and found North Queen street, right across from Postthem to be: "I will do all in my power yours till ROOTS AND SHORS. death. This I set aside as being intended to LADIES, LEVAN'S FLOUR convey no meaning. The first sentence, making an appointment at the corner of LOOK TO YOUR INTEREST. Chester street, was, whether correct or SELLING KID SHOES AT REDUCED not, of little importance. I concentrated my attention upon the second sentence of twelve words: "Awfully hard up ida is an angel I love her to distraction." PRICES.

Yes.' The judge interrupted with the rebuke, 'You have said in examination that you did not see the prisoner and his companion leave the room.' And the wit-mess replied, 'But when I returned, after being away for three or four minutes, monsieur was gone and the coat was also gone.' The prisoner put his last question to the waiter, 'You did not see me put on

French Kid, \$5.00; reduced to \$4.00. Peat Carneo Kid, \$175 to \$1.00; \$1.00 to \$2.50 \$1.00 to \$2.10 These goods must be sold by April 1 to close bu-mess. WITMEN HERS, tobl2-5, WAWIT No, 41 West King Street.

So the young scamp was hard up again and knew that his sister would respond

to his appeal. And he was in love, too.



An an and a st

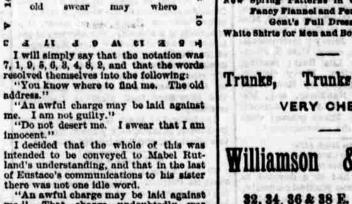
nta 165 was an anges and, or course; was a capital I. I jumped to my feet as if I had been shot. Ida! What was the name of Mrs. Layton's maid, who had gives such damm-ing evidence against the man I meant to set free? Ida White! Not a common name. An unusual one. I walked about the room in a state of great excitement. Ida White, the angel, and Eustace Rutland, the scamp. But the woman must be at least eight or ten years older than Eustace. What mat-tered that? All the more likely her hold upon him. Young fools frequently fall in love with women much older than them-selves, and when the women get the chance they don't let the youngsters es-cape easily. Yes, opposite to each other stood two men-one a worthless ne'er do well, the other a martyr! Opposite to

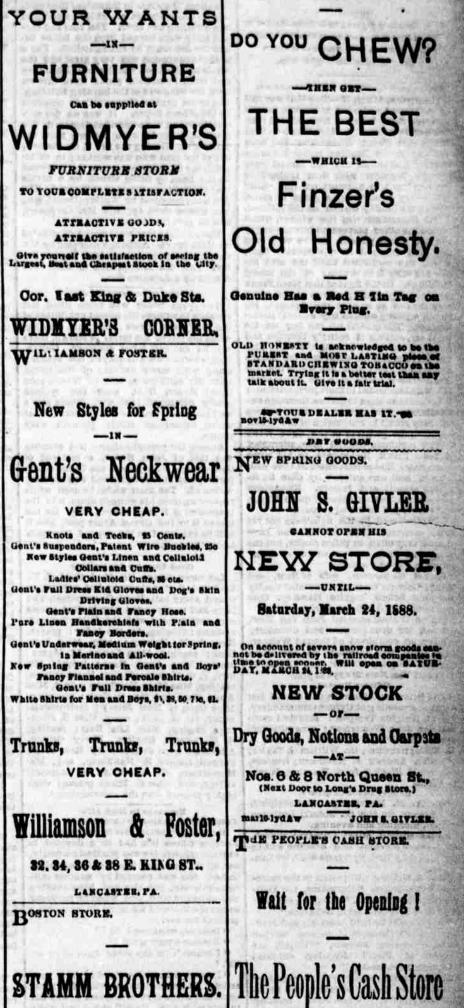
each other stood two women-one a scheming woman of the world, the other a suffering, heart broken givil I would save the noble ones. Yes, I would save them: The chain was forming link by link. Industry divers

I broke off here to dispatch telegrams to two of my confidential agents. My in-structions to them were to employ them-selves immediately in discovering where Ida White, the maid who had given evi-dence against her master at the trial, was living, and having found it, not to lose sight of her for a single moment, but to set a strict watch upon her, and to take note of her proceedings and movements, however trivial they might be. These tel-egrams being dispatched I returned to my task.

The two scaled letters which Dr. Daincourt had received from Mrs. Rutland lay before me. I took up the first, which I knew to be in Eustace's handwriting. I opened it. It was of a similar nature to the two I had already examine nd in-terpreted. There is no need her repeat the details of the process by means of which J read this third communication, a copy of which I also append: 9 11 8 9 J 11 A 7 N 13 know am I me address 1 bo cn awful mo tho funocent laid to that guilty do against you not charge am not

old





TOBACCO.

TANDARD CHEWING TOBACCO.

was a tangible link in the chain of Edward Layton's innocence. Is it not most mysterious and strange that three of these identical cards should be found in Miss Rutland's desk and that one should be found in the pocket of Edward Layton's ulster which he wore on the 25th of March? Does not this circumstance, in connection with what you now know of Mabel Rutland's movements on that night, go far to prove that the lady whom Edward Layton met in Bloomsbury square was none other than his old sweethcart? Heaven knows what conclusions are to be drawn from the coincidence. I will make no comments: indeed. I almost tremble to think of the matter. Your legal mind will perhaps enable you to deduce something from Eustace's letter to his sister which sive must have conveyed to her some in-formation respecting the missing article of jewelry. The elation of spirits in which I had indulged took a flight; I had not dismay be of service to you and Edward Layton. To me they are simply incom-prehensible. Before I visit Miss Rutland to-morrow I will call on you. You may have something to say to me. I sincerely trust I shall not be the means of bringing fresh trouble upon her and hers." With that he wished me good night, and

I was left alone. I set myself sedulously to the task of

discovering the key to these mysterious letters.

own in which I was engaged. Never in the course of my career have I been so in-terested. I determined to set aside the words, "Death stares me in the face, send Dr. Daincourt had not opened the two sealed letters which had arrived during money instantly," and to search, in the words that remained, for the true mean-ing of Eustace Rutland's first communi-Miss Rutland's illness, and I did not immediately do so. I felt a delicacy with respect to Edward

Layton's letter to the young lady which he had given me in prison to post for I put them aside, and selecting the first

of the two letters from Eustace Rutland which had been found in Mabel's desk (judging from the postmarks on their envelopes which of the two she had first received, for they bore no date), I devoted myself to a study of This is an exact copy of the singular

communication, the size of the paper and the arrangement of the words, and of the figures and alphabetical letters, being faithfully followed: X 9 C 14 H 7 E 4 F 20 الإيداع المحافظ المحافظ المحافظ 5 birds. the stare3 face runs back got I 10.0 your hundred Seno.

in the second the money won are death river diamond gayly me

on bracelet four singing 18 615

cherry the the instantly They's sile

S I S N OT A SI A F C It appeared to me that the first thing 1 had to consider was the relation, if any, that the alphabetical letters and figures bore to the words to which they formed a

I had discovered the notation of the sen-tence I had set aside for the time. What frame. I did not lose sight of the sug gestion which immediately arose that this frame work of figures and alphabetical letters might be placed there as a blind, ment of the figures from 1 to 9 was arbi-trated by the first letter in the alphabet, although the evident care and pains which had been bestowed upon them was opposed to the suggestion. But then, again, the care thus exercised might be intended to more deeply mystify any strange person into whose hands the missive might fall. In order not to deface or mutilate the original, I made two exact copies of it for my own purposes, using as a kind of ruler one of the playing cards which Dr. Daincourt had also found in Mabel Rut-

and's desk. There were two words in the missive which soon attracted me. These were the third word, "diamond," in the fifth line, and the second word, "bracelet," in the sixth line. "Diamond bracelet." I die 1 did not doubt that this was the diamond bracelet which Mr. Rutland had presented to his daughter, and which she could not wear at the dinner party because if was

ence, the correct solution was to be found o'clock in the morning. The longer I considered, the stronger be-came my [doubts; with "diamond bracelet" staring me in the face, I felt that I had been following a Will-o'-the-wisp. Dr. Daincourt called while I was dress-I had asked Dr. Daincourt the date of the dinner party at which Mr. Rutland had detected the absence of the diamond

-me-instantly-the. Here, then, in these nine words, was the communication which Eustace Rutland intended his sister to understand. I cop-ied them on a separate sheet of paper and arranged them in different ways until I arrived at their correct solution:

"Death stares me in the face, send money instantly."

money instantly." Congratulating myself upon my elever-ness, I came to the conclusion that Eustace Rutland, being banished from his father's house and not being able to obtain from his father the funds necessary for his dis-reputable career, was taking advantage of his sister's devoted affection for him, and was in the habit of calling upon her to supply him with money, which, no doubt, the young lady did to the best of her abil-ity. Curiosity led me to the task of en-deavoring to discover whether the alpha-

playing card, were arranged in the frame-

formed person at once to the solution. There must be a starting point with which

both Eustace and his sister Mabel were acquainted. What was this starting

third letter to his sister. So absorbed had I been in the unravel-

ing of this mystery letter, which occupied me a good hour and a half, that I had lost

sight during the whole of that time of the two words which had at first enchained my attention — "diamond bracelet."

my attention — "diamond bracelet." "Death stares me in the face, send money

instantly," had appeared to me so reason-able a construction to be placed upon the communication of a man who must often

have been in a desperate strait for want of funds, that the thought did not obtrude

itself that these words might be merely a blind, and that, in the words that re-

mained after the obliteration of this sen-

bracelet on his daughter's arm. That

date was the 8th of September. I exam-ined the postmark on the envelope of Eus-tace Rutland's first communication; it

was the 26th of September. Mr. Rutland had laid upon his daughter the injunction

that the diamond bracelet was to be shown to him before the end of the month.

What month? September. She had pro-

duced it in time, and her brother's mis-

covered the clew. I set myself again to work. I felt now

as a man feels who is hunting out a great

mystery or a great criminal, and upon the success of whose endeavor his own safety

depends. It seemed to me as if it were

not so much Edward Layton's case as my

cation. I copied them in the order in which they were arranged, and they ran

birds

runs

your

the

X 9 C 14 H 7.E.4

the

hundred

river dismond gayly ] !

the

bracelet four

B I I N HI I II A F C

I counted the number of words; there were twenty-two. Now, was the true

reading of the communication contained

in the whole of setwenty-two words, or in only a portio of them, and if in only a portion, in what portion? In how many

words? There lay the difficulty. The words "diamond bracelet" gave me a dis-

tinct satisfaction, but there were other words which I could not by any exercise

of ingenuity connect them with, such as

"birds" - "trees" - "river" - "gayly"-"cherry"- "singing." Undoubtedly th

communication was a serious one, and

these words seemed to be inimical to all ideas of seriousness. How to select. What

to select? How to arrange the mystery? What was the notation? Ah, the notation!

if the same notation would lead me to the clew I was in search of? The arrange

A. I would try whether that arrangement

would afford any satisfaction in the twenty-two words that remained. It

would be an affectation of vanity on my

part if I say that this idea occurred to me instantly. It did not do so. It was only

after long and concentrated attention an

consideration that it came to me, and

then I set it immediately into practical operation. The first figure in the sen-tence I had discovered was 6. I counted

six in the present arrangement of the

words. It ended with the word "got."

cherry

won

back

.

- 5

the

got I = 4

619

singing

as follows:

in

trees

F 20

-

.

-

ing, after a few hours' sleep. I am not usually a dreamer, but I had a dream so strange that I awoke with the memory of it in my mind. It was of hands-ladies' hands-every finger of which was covered with rings. Holding the theory, as I have already explained that the imagination during sleep is not creative, but invari-ably works upon a foundation of fact, I was endeavoring to trace the connection between my singular dream and some oc currence or circumstance within my mowledge, when Dr. Daincourt entered. "Well," were his first words, "have you made anything of the letters which I left with you last night?"

was employed only upon one," I said, "which kept me up until 6 o'clock this morning. I don't begrudge the time or the labor, because I have discovered the

clew to Master Enstace Rutland's com-munications to his sister." "That means," said Dr. Daincourt, excitedly, "that you have discovered the mystery of the 'nine of hearts.'"

"In so far," I replied, "as respects the playing cards found in Miss Rutland's desk—yes, I have discovered that part of the mystery; but I have not yet discovered the mystery of the particular nine of hearts which was found in the pocket of Edward Layton's ulster." I showed Dr. Daincourt the result of I showed Dr. Dancourt the result or my labors on the previous night, and he was delighted and very much interested, but presently his face became clouded. "I am still disturbed," he said, "by the dread that the task you are engaged upon may bring Miss Rutland into serious trouble." "I hope not," was my rejoinder to the remark, "but I shall not allow considera-

tions of any kind to stop me. Edward Layton is an innocent man, and I intend to prove him so." "If he is innocent," said Dr. Daincourt, "then Miss Rutland must also be innocent.' "Undoubtedly," I said, "with a cheerful smile, which did much to reassure the worthy doctor. "Have you opened the two sealed let-

ters," asked Dr. Daincourt, "which I brought from Mrs. Rutland's house?" "No," I replied. "I have devoted my-self only to the first of the opened letters found in Miss Rutland's desk. I shall proceed immediately with the second, and then I shall feel myself warranted in opening and reading the letters which arrived for Miss Rutland during her illness. By the way, doctor, I have had a singular dream, and upon your entrance I was endeavoring to track it. It was a dream of ladies' hands, covered with rings."

"Any bodies attached to the hands?" inquired Dr. Daincourt, jocosely. "No; simply hands. They seemed to pass before my vision, and to rise up in unexpected places-pretty shapely hands. But it was not so much the hands that struck me as being singular as the fact

that they were covered with rings of one particular kind." "What kind?" "I must have seen thousands of rings

upon the shapely fingers, and there was not one that was not set with diamonds and turquoises." A light came into Dr. Daincourt's face. "And you mean to tell me that you can't

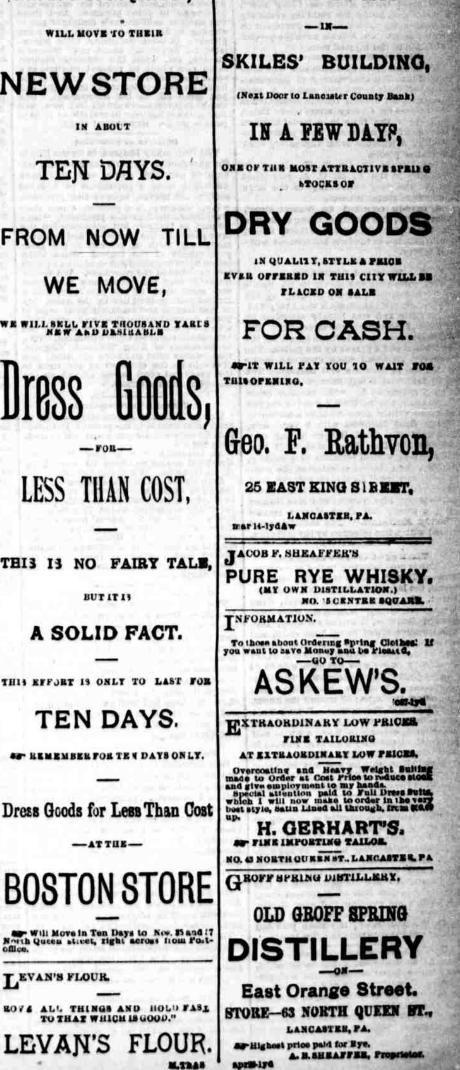
discover the connection?" "No; I can't for the life of me discover

"That proves," said Dr. Daincourt, "how easy it is for a man engaged upon a serious task to overlook important facts which are as plain as the noonday sun." What facts have I overlooked, doctor?"

'Have you the newspapers in the room containing the report of the trial?" Yes.

"Give me the one containing the report of the third day's proceedings?' I handed it to him, and he ran his eyes down the column in which the evidence of the waiter in Prevost's restaurant was reported.

Crossing out the word "got" and placing it upon a separate sheet of paper I pro-ceeded. The second figure in the sentence "The waiter was asked," said Dr. Dain-I had discarded was 2. I counted two on from the word "got" and arrived at "your." I crossed out this word "your" and proceeded. The third figure in the court, "whether the lady who accompa-nied Edward Layton was married, and whether there were rings upon the Engers



WILL OPEN