

The Last Watch.

The stars shine down through the shivering boughs,
And the moonset sparkles against the spire,
There is not a light in a neighbor's house
Save one that burneth low
And seemeth almost spent.
With shadowy forms in dark attire
Flickering in it to and fro,
As if in pain and doubt,
And heads bowed down in tears.
Hark!
Was there not lament?
Behold! behold, the light burns out!
The picture disappears.
Ye who with such sleepless aching,
In the chamber out of sight,
Whispering low
To and fro
Your swift needles secretly
At the dead of night do ply,
What is it that ye see?
Hark! Hark!
Heard ye not the sounds aloof
As of winds or wings that swept the roof?
Band of heavenly voices blending
Choir of seraphim ascending—
Hark! Hark!
Away! Away!
Behold! behold, it is the day!
Bear her softly out of the door,
And upward, upward, upward soar!
—*Forney the Willson.*

Twenty Pounds Sterling.

There never was such a man to bet as Staining. He was always so sure he was right. Our mutual friend, Maxwell, ought to have sailed for Brazil, but I felt confident I had seen him in the street; but Staining said it was nonsense, and he bet me twenty pounds to one shilling I was wrong. He hardly finished speaking when Maxwell came in. Staining pulled out of his pocket a twenty-pound note and handed it to me.

"There you are, old fellow. 'A fool and his money,' etc. Another illustration of the wise adage."

"Not exactly; for you don't expect I shall take your money?"

"Yes I do; and shall be extremely annoyed if you refuse."

I protested, but presently he said, in considerable irritation:

"Then be my almoner and give the money away in charity."

He left presently, and, as there are objections to standing in the public highways with a bank note in your hand and a puzzled expression in your face, the note was transferred to my pocket, and I went my way wondering, when I was met full tilt by a clergyman whom I knew.

"Halloa!" he cried, "Mr. Smith, you and I seem to have our minds so much occupied that we cannot take care of our bodies."

"No grave matter of mine," I said, "but you look sad. Nothing wrong with you or yours?"

"No, thank you; but I have just left a depressing scene. A young couple, married in haste, have come to grief. The wife and child are ill. Relatives and friends have receded into the remote background. And, worse than all, the husband—"

"Has become intemperate or has gone mad?"

"Neither one nor the other."

"Something worse?"

"Yes; for to be dishonest is worse than going mad. And it is such a mere trifle that is needed apparently to put all straight, that I groan in my inability to find it."

"What's wanted?"

"Well, it's only £20."

"There's the money you require. Haste away, and do all the good you can with it."

My friend looked astonished. He even hesitated a moment.

"It is very good of you," he said, nervously, "but really—"

"I have the power to give this away. Good-bye." And I hurried off. Then I hastened back to him.

"May I request that you will on no account mention my name?"

"As you wish it I won't; but you should know the objects of your bounty." And he told me. Then we parted. I had only gone a dozen yards when there passed me a young man with a flushed face and a frightened, anxious look in his eyes. He caught up to my friend and spoke to him.

"That is the man," I said to myself, "whose proceedings here have been dubious, and who will, I trust, be rescued by Staining's £20. Well, if the wheel should turn and this poor man should ever be in a position to deliver a fellow-creature from such trouble as he himself is now in, by the surrender of £20, I wonder whether he'll do it?"

Smith, you surely know human nature well enough to answer your own foolish question. Not he—not a bit of it.

This incident was soon swept from my mind by a sudden call to go abroad, even to the place where Maxwell did not go—Brazil. Nothing hampered me then; I was a young bachelor, and could start for the antipodes at two days' notice. When I take my wife and children—I forget the number—for our autumnal trip, in these later years of my life, I require weeks' preparation.

Away then to Brazil; away to new life, new companions, new hopes and fears; away to fortune and the yellow fever! Here occurs in my tale an in-

terval of twenty years (my story deals in twenties.) I doubt if I should have come back had not a young English lady one night sung in my hearing an old home ballad, so well remembered in connection with some loved ones who in this world will sing no more, that a craving for my native land mastered me at once, and in a very short time I was on my return home.

On the way I had one night a frightful dream. I fancied a terrible enemy had me down and clutched my throat. Tighter grew his grasp and fainter my breath. My staring eyes scanned every feature of my murderer. Slowly and painfully did I call to mind the face above me. I gasped an entreaty for mercy.

"Give it to me; I want it; I must have it instantly—instantly!" was the hoarse reply.

"What—what can he mean?"

"What!" he shrieked in maniacal frenzy. "My £20."

I had quite forgotten about the bet and £20; but the dream set me thinking of what rumors I had heard respecting Staining since I left England—that his money had wasted, he had fallen in position, and even into poverty.

"Poor fellow!" I thought, "there may be something in that dream. If his pride will accept it he shall have the money back, and very glad I shall be to restore it."

Back in England, settled down in the old country. Main matters disposed of I began to think of minor ones, and among the latter the discovery of Staining. He was not in his former haunts, and I failed so long to find him that I was beginning to despair, when one night I met him in the street.

The brilliant light of the ballroom may increase the luster of a woman's eyes, but if you want to see a broken-down man in his worst aspect, survey him standing disconsolately under a street lamp, and he with folded arms presenting a picture of mute despair. So did I behold Staining. I put my hand upon his shoulder. He sprang from me as though I were a wild beast.

"I did not want to run away," he said, hoarsely; "they knew that. Go on; I'll walk quietly enough. Why—what—can it be—"

"Yes, it is Smith, your old companion. Come out of this and confide in me. If you are in trouble and money can help you, you shall not want." And I took his arm and we went together.

And then I heard poor Staining's confession, and it amounted to this: When he had wasted his money he had obtained a situation in a merchant's office. The pay was sufficient to keep him; but even now nothing could restrain him from betting on horse-racing. As a consequence he was soon penniless, and worse—dishonest. He had paid a betting debt out of a £20 note which had been intrusted to him. Discovery had ensued, and though the luckless man had explained that it was only through a failure of another member of the virtuous fraternity he could not replace the money at once, he had been discharged, and had reason to suppose he would be prosecuted.

"Many, many thanks," replied the poor fellow to my offer. "You can see the firm in the morning; but I doubt whether they will take the money. I believe they are bent on my ruin."

Early the next morning I was at the office of Blendon, Baydon & Co., and having stated my errand, I proffered my £20.

Mr. Baydon was a sleek old gentleman. There was an air of wealth and ease all over him. He bowed complacently and said:

"I can appreciate your kindness to this poor man, and I myself would pass the matter over at once, but my partner takes a different view, and I cannot interfere."

"Can I see Mr. Blendon?"

"Yes; if you will call again in two hours."

"In the cab I kept muttering to myself: 'Blendon, and Robert Blendon, too? I am sure of it. Still, if it be so, it is very strange. I think I should know that face again. We shall see who will be master.'"

Back to Messrs. Blendon, Baydon & Co.'s office, and then in the presence of Mr. Blendon. All my anxiety for my poor friend faded away. I was master of the situation. I stated my desire to pay the amount of Staining's defalcation, and my hope that under the extenuating circumstances no publicity would be given to the miserable wrongdoing.

Mr. Blendon heard me with some impatience, and, before replying, drew a check to "self or bearer" for £100. Having given it to the clerk, he said to me:

"You will excuse my answering somewhat shortly. It cannot be. It is not the money we care about, but we must vindicate the law."

I declared I was pleased at the grandiose style of his speech. How beautifully he was working into my net. I suggested that in a case like this there was no imperative call to such a course, and that forbearance might be shown.

"I do not see it," answered Mr. Blendon. "You do not appear, sir, to

observe the immense importance of punishing a delinquency of this kind. I cannot take your money. If I were to let this man off I would be ashamed of myself. I have just overcome some foolish hesitation of my partner. I am always firm myself." (Not always, Mr. Blendon—not when I last saw you. But wait a bit. 'A little further into my net, please). "And, therefore, however sorry may be, sir, I must say no. If I were myself to commit an act of this kind and—"

Why did he stop? I bowed quietly, and rising, said:

"You are quite right, Mr. Blendon, for dishonesty is a terrible thing, and while not for a moment pressing my request, I know you will forgive my calling to remembrance a curious case known to myself. Some twenty years ago a poor young couple, not long married, had fallen into poverty. The wife and infant were ill; the husband was distracted; he must get money, when his young wife and infant child were almost starving what was to be done? The money was obtained—Mr. Blendon, you know how. But in what way was it repaid before mischief came, and how was the husband saved from ruin and degradation—saved to become a rich and respected merchant? Whose money saved him? That you do not know, but I will tell you. The £20 note which rescued the husband, rested only ten minutes before in the pocket of this very Staining whom you are about to prosecute. Then Staining was as rich as you are now; but he was a kind, Christian man. Mr. Blendon, I have a right to ask you to what character do you lay claim?"

I have often thought since what admirable advantages are a clear head and calm temper. I'd worked myself up to a white heat. It was only when he first saw my 'drift that my listener manifested any strong emotion. Then he rose from his chair with flushed face, but he resumed his seat, and by the time I had finished he was almost as calm as when I entered. There was a slight pause, and then he said:

"You have acquired some knowledge of an incident in my life which I am not called upon to discuss. Is this knowledge confined to yourself?"

"I believe it to be confined to myself and my informant, and I have no desire it should be otherwise."

Mr. Blendon bowed.

"I will not conceal that I shall be glad if that goes no further, and on that footing I will say that your friend shall be freely absolved, and I will even aid him if I can. You must excuse my taking your £20. I am obliged to you for coming. Good-morning."

I felt as I left him that the enemy had well covered his retreat, and had not left me a morsel of triumph more than he could help. But my object was accomplished, and I hastened to meet Staining. He was not at the appointed place, so I went to his lodgings. The landlady told me he had come in early and gone to his room—not well, she thought. She and I went up together and knocked more than once. Then I went in. Poor Staining lay upon the bed dead. His enfeebled frame had not been able to endure the recent wear and tear, and he was now beyond the reach of his follies and his troubles.

How Old are Trade Marks?

Probably nearly as old as the industry of the human race. Ancient Babylon had property symbols, and the Chinese claim to have had trade marks 1,000 years before Christ. Gutenberg, the very inventor of printing, had a lawsuit about a trade mark and won it. In the year 1800 parliament authorized trade marks in England, and they are recognized and protected in most civilized countries. The theory by which a suit is brought for infringement of a trade mark is that its use deprives the originator of his property and deceives the public as to the article it stamps. In ancient times great importance was placed upon the marks of individual workmen, because, as in the case of the armorers, valuable lives often depended on the quality of the workmanship. One old author complains that "certain good and true soldiers were killed because the workmanship of their swords and arms was not good, and failed them in battle." Very early, therefore, it was found necessary to make stringent laws against counterfeiting trade marks and against scamped workmanship. Without protection in this one particular, trade would almost come to a standstill, because there are very few things comparatively that can be judged at the moment. In general, the quality of goods is known by experience, and it is only after they have been in use that a correct judgment can be pronounced upon their quality. Having, then, once found that a certain workman's productions are good, we seek them again in the market. If there are no means of positive identification, the whole work of buying becomes a hap-hazard affair, and the best goods at once lose their true value.—*London Printing and Paper Trades Journal.*

THE FAMILY DOCTOR.

Says Dr. Foot's Health Monthly: The method of routing insects or maggots from the ear by the use of anaesthetics (ether or chloroform held on a sponge over the ear) is said to have originated with Dr. J. E. Blake, of New York city, in 1862.

The best remedy for chilblains is sperm oil. Rub the parts of the foot affected with the oil, on retiring at night, and hold the foot near a hot stove until the heat seems to burn. Then remove it to cool a little, then heat it again, and do so three or four times every night for four or five nights, and it will prove a perfect cure.

When rusty nails have produced wounds, nothing is better than placing the part hurt in as hot water as can be borne. If on hand or foot, keep in hot water. The same is good for felon. Another excellent remedy for curing wounds made by rusty nails, and thus preventing lockjaw, is very simple. It is only to smoke such a wound, or any wound or bruise that is inflamed, with burning wool or woolen cloth. Twenty minutes in the smoke of wool will take the poison out of the worst case of inflammation.

If you wish to sleep well, eat sparingly of early suppers. Avoid all arguments or contested subjects near night, as those are apt to have a bad effect upon one who is troubled with sleeplessness at night. Avoid having too much company. Many persons become so excited with the meeting of friends that sleep departs for a time. There is probably nothing better, after cultivating a tranquil mind, than exercise in the open air. By observing these simple rules, sleeplessness, in the majority of cases, may be wholly cured. Another excellent cure for wakefulness is to take a sponge bath before retiring, having plenty of pulverized borax in the water; rub well with a coarse towel to get up a circulation; or a teaspoonful of common baking soda in a small quantity of water is considered even better than borax. Poor sleepers will find it advantageous often to raise the head of the bed a foot higher than the foot and then sleep on a tolerably thick hair pillow, so as to bring the head a little higher than the shoulders. The object of this is to make the work of the heart in throwing blood to the brain harder, so it will not throw so much.

The First Live Stock in the United States.

The following account of the first importation of live stock into the United States is taken from an old copy of the *Irish Farmers' Gazette*: In 1610 four cows and a bull were, after a long and dangerous passage by sailing vessel, landed in Virginia from Ireland. These were the first domestic cattle seen in America. In 1625 eighteen ewes and two rams were introduced as a novelty into New York, by the Dutch West India company. The first horses landed in any part of North America were carried over to Florida by Cabeza de Vaca in 1527; they all perished. The wild horses found on the plains of Texas and the Western prairie are probably descendants of the Spanish horses abandoned by De Soto. In 1625 part of the trade of the Dutch West India company was the carrying of horses from Flanders to New York, and that year six mares and a horse were safely transported from France to America. The London company were the first exporters of swine from Britain to America; and in the year 1621 they carried on their vessels no less than eighty-four, which were all, on landing, allowed to roam at large, and feed and fatten on the mast, which was very abundant in the woods. They increased so fast that in 1627 the colony was in danger of being overrun with them; but the Indians acquiring a taste for fresh pork, and the novelty of hunting hogs, that calamity was averted. So important was it considered at that time that the cattle, horses and sheep introduced into the infant colony should be allowed to increase, that the governor issued an order prohibiting the killing of domestic animals of any kind, on pain of death to the principal, and to the aider, abettor or accessory. In 1739 horned cattle, horses and sheep had increased to 30,000. In 1879 there were over 40,000,000 sheep, 30,000,000 cattle (of which over 12,000,000 were milk cows), 15,000,000 horses, 2,000,000 mules and 30,000,000 swine in the United States.

Shut Your Mouth.

One of the foreign medical journals calls attention to the evils of breathing by the mouth, and reminds us that the nose was made for a two-fold purpose: first, to sense impure air and lead us to avoid it; secondly, the inequalities of the nares retain solid particles of the atmosphere, and prevent the inhalation of irritating dust in the delicate tissue of the lungs. Therefore "shut your mouth," instead of being an impudent demand is good hygienic advice.—*Dr. Foot's Health Monthly.*

FACTS FOR THE CURIOUS.

Cows in Scandinavia are largely fed on fish offal.

The finest gline size is made from the waste of parchment skins.

The United States occupy thirty times the extent of the British Isles.

There are in Holland 12,000 wind-mills, averaging eight horse power each.

Bracelets were given as a reward of bravery to soldiers in the middle ages.

Queen Elizabeth left three thousand changes of dress in the royal wardrobe.

Poisonous snakes are not able, as a rule, to poison themselves or each other.

Seventy thousand deaths from consumption occur annually in the United States.

The ratio of insane persons to the whole population is very high in Russia, being as one to 450.

One hundred and twenty-five thousand heads of clover yield two and two-tenths pounds of honey.

Though the multiplication table was in use by the Arabians and Italians at an early age, no notice was taken of it during the middle ages in the rest of Europe.

There is on record the case of a lady, subject to nervous headaches, who always finds next morning patches of her hair white, as if powdered. In a few days it regains its natural dark color.

Artificial incubation has been practiced from the earliest times in the East, chiefly in China, India and Egypt. In the latter country large mammals, or ovens, holding from 40,000 to 80,000 eggs, are still used for the purpose; and the villagers bring their eggs in the expectation of receiving, after a lapse of twenty-one days, 200 chicks for every 300 eggs deposited.

The demand for good carpet designs far exceeds the supply, and American manufacturers are sending to Europe, particularly England and France, for hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of designs yearly. If the same quality of designs could be made in the United States the manufacturers would gladly patronize home talent. One carpet firm alone pays \$100,000 a year for its designing department, and of this sum several thousands of dollars go to foreign markets.

In the Franco-German war the Germans lost over 40,000 men by disease or the casualties of battle. It is to be remembered that every one of these was a picked man, in the full vigor of life, when he ought to have been adding to the wealth of the country and raising up a family to strengthen the State. Besides the official cost of the war, the voluntary contributions amounted to \$12,000,000 in money or kind. This was the price of a successful war, waged by the most economical of nations.

A Lake of Tame Fish.

Mrs. F. H. Burgess lives in Sandwich, Mass., on the bank of a lake. It has been her custom once or twice a day for quite a period to feed the fish in this lake. She first splashes the water with her hand, when in a moment there may be seen approaching from every direction hundreds of large shiners, then eels, varying in size from one to about three feet in length. Next turtles appear on the surface, ten, twenty and thirty feet away, their necks stretched apparently to see whether it is friend or foe who is disturbing the waters. In less than three minutes these various species collect directly before her, and as she commences to feed them the water is fairly alive with them. They take bread directly from her hands, and turtles will allow her to take them entirely out of the water, and while she holds them in one hand they will eat with the greatest voracity from the other. But the eels are the most amusing. There was one she called Quins, measuring about three feet in length, that repeatedly came to the surface and would glide back and forth through her hands, and several times she lifted him partially out of the water, but he was careful to keep his head under. The moment he saw daylight he would dart back as only an eel could.

A Wonderful Recovery.

Last October a San Francisco teamster named John Coltery, in driving unwarily through a barn door, had his neck broken by a beam and his spinal cord stretched two inches, according to the doctor's statement. The fact was published in the papers, and those who read the item naturally supposed that the man died in due course; but he was made of tougher fiber than is generally employed in the human machine, and has almost recovered. His life is now all the dearer to him for the torture through which he passed to preserve it. He was laid flat on his back upon a plank, and there he lay without daring even to sneeze for two months, while the doctor, having by delicate manipulations brought the bones into position without mangling the spinal cord, had the satisfaction of seeing the edges gradually unite.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

Polliteness is a wreath of flowers that adorns the world.

Life without industry is barren, and industry without art is barbarism.

French proverb—Consolations console only those who are willing to be consoled.

A brave man's record is better than an essay on courage, and a kind man's deeds than any sermon on philanthropy.

Liberty has shown itself in breaking through human law and breaking human restraints, and slavery is submitting to them.

When a nation gives birth to a man who is able to produce a great thought, another is born who is able to understand and admire it.

As to people saying a few idle words about us, we must not mind that, any more than the old church steeple minds the rocks caving about it.

Feelings come and go like light troops following the victory of the present; but principals, like troops of line, are undisturbed and stand fast.

A man with knowledge but without energy is a house furnished but not inhabited; a man with energy but no knowledge, a house dwelt in but unfurnished.

When we speak of obedience we should always speak of faith first. Faith is the first and fundamental act of obedience. Faith is the mainspring of obedience.

It is not by a person's seeking his own happiness directly that it is attained; but by a forgetfulness of self, and a consecration of thought, feeling, property and time to the interest of others.

Worth Twenty Thousand Dollars.

James Halfstop, in order to appear as a bondsman, swore before a Little Rock justice of the peace that he was worth \$20,000. Shortly afterward the justice, learning that Halfstop was not worth twenty cents and that he lived on a rented swamp farm, sent out a warrant for his arrest. The man appeared in court, bringing with him his wife and two boys.

"Mr. Halfstop," said the justice, "what have you to say why you should not be committed for perjury?"

"How have I committed perjury?"

"You swore that you are worth twenty thousand dollars, but the fact has been established that you are not worth anything. This is a clear case of perjury—so clear, sir, that the penitentiary gate is opening to receive you."

"I said," exclaimed Mr. Halfstop, "that I am worth twenty thousand dollars, and I stick to it. Jim," he added, addressing one of his sons, "stand up here before the judge. Now, sir, this boy is worth five thousand dollars. Hanged if I'd take that price for him. Ned, my son, you stand up. Judge, this boy is also worth five thousand dollars. Sue," he continued, addressing his wife, "stand up. Now smile for the judge. Now laugh a little. See that, judge? That woman's worth ten thousand dollars if she's worth a cent. That makes twenty thousand dollars. Now I am worth five thousand dollars—wouldn't take that amount for myself. But I didn't claim to represent more than twenty thousand dollars; don't you see?"

The judge reflected for a moment and said: "I guess you're right, sir. The statutes are not plain on the subject, but I'll discharge you."—*Little Rock Gazette.*

Methods of Avoiding Suitors.

All the unmarried women in the community will sympathize with the Williamsburg maiden who recently leaped from a window in order to escape from an importunate suitor. As a rule women are so altogether lovely and men so intolerably common that it is only by special effort and self-control that women endure men at all. Still, if the sweet creatures must have ways of escape they can do better than jump from third-story windows. Ten minutes spent in vigorous talk about dress will generally suffice to banish any lover who is not deaf. A few praises in detail of some man or men whose personal appearance differs diametrically from that of an obnoxious visitor will quickly secure the solitude desired by the lady. A hint that a visit to a church fair is desired has often been very effective. A short dissertation on woman's rights usually will clear a parlor in five minutes, no matter how many masculine visitors may be present when the speech begins. A statement that after marriage the lady expects to be accompanied to ball or theater three times a week will dispose of any man worth marrying, and an intimation that she has no taste for housekeeping will banish any other man, either good or bad. In short, there are numberless ways of getting rid of annoying suitors. Any woman of sense can afford to give the third-story window a wide berth.—*New York Herald.*

There are 282 females and 184 males in the Mississippi lunatic asylum.