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LEMONFINGERS.

Five years ago I was telegrah clerk at side; not forgetting a three volume novel dark hours.

he contented himself with forbidding me where can he be going at this time of the the house; tru-ting to time and distance morning? None of the inns will be open--for they lived, several miles from New- ed for above an bour. stone-to aid his cause.

the platform for change of scene.

flames among the wagons in the station yard; boarse, uncouch shouts of men, and that seemed tearing madly up and down, merely to keep themselves in a glow on such a bitter night, and not because they had anything particular to do. So into thing more, and I turned back to the ofthe office again with numbed fingers, glad fice, and there bending over o jovial fire, of such a baven.

The long dark hours sped slowly; each bour cheeked out by the valorous little and Binks the draper, were all mingled clock in the corner. Midnight came and went; one o'clock, two o'clock, three o'- in my weary brain. What had the teleelock. I had grown tired of the charm. graphic message to do with the handing heroine, and had again become weak. some traveler? I sleepily kept asking myly despondent of the subject of Binks, self at intervals of a few minutes; but then went himself to the booking office were lighting our cigars when the land when I was roused by the quick tinkle of the electric bell. A private message:

High street, Newstone. Lemonfingers etarts by the mail to-night. [All Cirene. Take care of the black dwarf.

I was accustomed to queer messages, but this was the oddest I had seen. spelled it over twice to see that I had got it down correctly; then copied it out on one of the printed forms; signed it; entered at the foot the time I had received it-three, forty-five and placed it in an stroked his moustache. But, even sup-

envelope. Number thirty-nine, High street, was the residence of Mr. Breem the tailor. and was only 5 minutes' walk from the station. Mr. Breem generally had apartments to let, and Mr. Darke was probably a lodger. Having locked the office door, I proceeded at a rapid trot towards Mr. Breem's. I concluded that Mr. Derke was a showman and that somebody was sending him a dwarf-perhaps a giant also-but certainly a dwarf to put in

It looked like it.

end floor was not moved, but the window more.' 'I would pick that voice from a ed Mr. Choop, with a grim smile. 'Fred by Choop. They came to the ground alwas opened, a head popped out, and a gruff voice demanded:

'Who's there?' 'Does Mr. Darke live bere?' 'Why do you want to know?' 'I've got a telegraphic message for

"Ugh! All right. Wait a moment." the chain would admit; and a great muscular hand was thrust out.

'Hand it here,' said Mr. Darke.

'Wait a bit, till I see whether any answer's required.

gain opened.

man, I was equally at a loss to know.

off for a stroll up the platform, determin- himself. What can it all mean? stone; all the others booked through, as stone. The night messages at Newstone were was evident from their frantic struggles never very numerous. There were rare- to find their seats the moment the bell ly any for private people; they referred clashed out its warning note. And this mostly, to the tusiness of the railway one passenger! A slim gentleman, stycompany. That evening I felt very low lishly dressed. Young, without whiskers, spirited. It went against the grain to but with a long, fair moustache, which work on Christmas eve, when everybody he was fond of stroking with his exquisiteelse seemed to be keeping holiday, and ly-gloved thumb and finger. He alightenjoying themselves Cary and I had ed jauntly from a first class carriage, been engaged about two years; and, for smiled amiably on the porter, who touchany prospect of marriage, we might be ed his cap, took up his small black portengaged for 20 years longer. Mr. Lancas- manteau, gave one hurried, auxious ter, Cary's father, was a tradesman in glance round, broke into a smile again, good way of business, and naturally re- swaggered slowly down the platform, and fused to let his daughter marry a fellow pushing through the heavy folding doors, who was getting only seventy pounds a emerged into the street. Some swell year. He several times advised Cary to from London come to spend Christmas give up; but, as she would not do that, with his friends, I said to myself. But

Without waiting to consider whether I knew that Mr. Lancaster always in- it was any business of mine, I pushed vited a number of young people to his through the folding doors after the travhouse on Christmas eve, and I pictured eler. He was walking slowly across the them there, dancing; Cary flitting little square in front of the station, lookabout in her white muslin dress, with the ing from side to side, as if not knowing very ribbon round her waist that I gave which road to take. Suddenly a dark her only a month before. Would any figure glided out from behind some prothought of my miscrable self ever cross jection. I could hear the murmur of a her mind, as she moved among the gay few words. Then the stranger took the company? Perhaps my detested rival, portmanteau from the traveler's hand, and Binks, the draper, might be even danc- they went on together at a rapid pace ining with her, pressing her waist with his to the town. All this I saw by the light arm at that very moment. Thought not of the station lamps. When the two figcalmly to be borne; so away I went on ures got beyond their influence, and passed out of view in the denser darkness be-A clear, starlit night, with a keen youd, impelled by a vague feeling of cubreeze that whistled shrill and dry thro' riosity, I drew my coat closer round me, the telegraph-wires above my head, and and set off after them at a stealthy pace, brought to my ears the faint sounds made taking the darker side of the square as I soft and sweet by distance of the Christ- went. I had not far to follow. They tache; wearing a pair of lemon-colored mas waits. Lanters, flitting like fire- passed into High street, and stopped op- kid gloves, and carrying a small black limp. posite number thirty-nine. A moment more, and they were both inside the house, wild shricks from distracted locomotives, and the door was shut; another moment and I saw the light shining from Mr. Darke's room in the second floor front.

Having no expectation of seeing any-

fell gradually into a dose, in which Mr. Darke, the traveler, Cary, a black dwarf, in a fantastic drama revolving endlessly swer. Suddenly a new light burst upon Mr. Kerf, Ironvill, to Mr. Darke, 39 me. I started up, thoroughly awake; and tearing open the despatch-book, read 'Lemonfingers starts by the mail to night.' Well, what has that to do with the handsome traveler? Why, this: don't the traveier wear a pair of tight-fitting lemon-colored gloves? and wasn't the outside seam of the first finger of the right hand glove burst open This I had noticed as he posing the traveler to be the Lemonfingers of the message, what about the black dwarf? There was no black dwarf? He was alone. Alone? Yes; but had he not with him a small black portmanteau, of which he seemed to take particular care, refusing to let the porter so much as take it out of the carriage for him? A theory, to the description given by you were in don't think he'll have time-lay hold of ingenious, but improbable, remarked to it. myself, as I put out the gas and drew up the blind to admit the struggling day.

My duty was over at eight o'clock .-his caravan. There was a light in the The London train was about to start as I second floor of number thirty-nine. Was went up the platform on my way home. Mr. Darke waiting, expecting a message? Passing a group of people standing near as arriage door, I was suddenly staatled the individuals you mention reached here crash of a falling table, and then the win-I gave a loud knock, and stepped back by a deep gruff voice exclaiming to some by the eight A. M. train,' to note the effect. The light in the sec- one: 'We shall be off in half a minute

thousand as Mr. Darke's!' I exclaimed my boy, if you want to see a bit of fun, most together, and rolled over in a fierce The Philadelphia Press, gives the folunder my breath, as I glanced quickly and like to go with Timothy and me, you struggle. But Mr. Darke, twice as strong lowing, among its "Police items:" round. The group had dispersed, num- are welcome." ber thirty-nine, than I had when I went, As the clock struck twelve, we found astride of Mr. Choop. Only for one mo- ness in South Ninth street, was called except two persons, a man and a woman, ourselves at Fulwood station -- Mr. Choop, ment, for the next my arms were around home from his work shop on Saturday who were preparing to take their place in Timothy and myself, after making a few his neck. I gave him a sudden pull back morning, by a messenger who brought the train. The person whom I took for inquires of the Station-master. Mr.Choop with all my strength. Choop, now on his the melancholly intelligence that his wife Mr. Darke was a bulky middle aged man, sent Timothy in one direction, while he A very gruff voice, certainly. Next dressed in a good suit of black clothes .- and I took another. Mr. Choop put cau- Mr. Darke, safe and fast before that in- pose of committing suicide, and was then moment, the door was opened, as far as He had black hair, and thick black eye- tious questions to several individuals, but brows; his whiskers were black meeting witout gaining any decisive information. full and bushy under the chin; his face Neither was Timothy-when we met him was pale and marked by the small-pox, -able to furnish any satisfactory intelli-Accordingly I placed the note in his and his eyes were black, bold and cun- gence. Mr. Choop considered for a few care, the small black portmanteau. Mr. she wished to confess before her departning, altogether a fierce fellow, whom it moments; 'It must be as I have suspected Choop opened it, and I perceived it to be ure, with the hope of obtaining his forwould be unwise to enrage. His compan- all along,' said he at last. 'We shall find half full of watches, rings, pins, and jew- giveness. Mr. P. with great emotion deions face I could not see, it being con- them at the Ten Tramps. Step out lads; elry of various kinds. The woman's veil, sired her to go on with the disclosure, ad-In a minute or two the window was a- cealed by a thick veil; but judging from best leg foremost.' her figure, she could not be much above We left the village at a rapid pace, "No answer," and the casement was twenty years old, she was well but rather and still keeping on the high road, got slammed down. With the exception of conspicuously attired; having over her into a barren moorland country. Fields, his voice, I had no more idea of Mr. silk dress a voluminous scarlet shawl, hedgerows and trees, were gradually left Darke when I left, I had merely seen the comfortable looking enough, certainly, on behind; until at length we were shut in on outline of his head when he looked out a cold christmas morning. But see! As every side by swelling billocks of moor, of the window. Whether he was a young I live she has got on the very lemon-col- which were swopt away as far as the eye man or an old man, a fair man or a dark ored gloves that were worn by the young could reach, and bound the horrizon with dandy who arrived by the night mail; the their sinuous, graceful lines. Following Ironville is thirty-five miles from same pair of gloves without doubt, hav- the guidance of Mr. Choop, we quitted Newstone. The mail-train runs the dis- ing the outside seam of the first finger of the highroad after a time, and came to a tance in rather under an bour, and reach- the right band a little torn. There, too, balt under the lee of a bigher billock es the latter place at half-past five. As is the identical little black portmanteau, than common. Mr. Choop taking off his through the darkening afternoon, to Ful- P. after some hesitation. The silver the clock pointed to half-past five, I set carefully carried, this time, by Mr. Darke hat, clambered up the hill, and took a wood.

Newstone Station. I had a week of a should not depart unseen by me. I half two or three o'clock in the afternoon; but of a ridge of country, from which the road day duty, and a week of night duty, al. expected Mr. Darke waiting for the on Christmas day, such a proceeding was swept down into a small valley, in the ternately. Christmas eve had come a- train; but he was not to be seen. True not thought of. So having breakfasted, I middle of which and close to the bigh of the burglaries in which they had all Paine encouragingly. "I hope heaven round, of all nights in the year, and there to its time, the train crawled slowly into put on my sunday suit, and left home road stood a small, square house. I found myself cooped as usual, in the lit- the station; and in another moment, the with the intention of taking a stroll into 'The Ten Tramps. I dare wager that the office; two great staring instrements platform was flooded with those strangely the country. Before setting out, I went Jim Riley and his wife are in that house,' in front of me, a flaring gaslight over- attired individuals, whose business or to the station to see if could not induce a said Mr. Choop. 'It is a notorious gathhead, and a well heaped grate by my plasure induces them to travel by night, certain friend to accompany me; when ering place for all the rogues in the dis-No dwarf, nor giant, or other strange whom should I meet on the platform but trict. to assist me in whiling away the long monster. Only one passenger for New- Mr. Choop, the chief constable of New- Mr. Choop descended, and he and Tim-

to do. Mr. Choop had a smiling open mischief as a tiger-cat crouching for a cussing various matters, with a glance ospring. Mr. Choop is a distant relative ver the hillock every two or three minof mine by marriage, and was aware of uses in the direction of the inn. him on the platform and looked the most without being seen ?' amiable and artless of men.

Have the old man and you made matters ter awkward.

I shook my head discontentedly. 'Well, faint heart, you know," he added, with a smile. 'What brings me down here? Business, to be sure. The fact enough to talk about calling in other asis," mysterirusly taking me by the button, there was a daring burglary committed last night at Ironville, and property to door post, smoking his long clay pipe .a large amount was stolen. From infortelegraph, I have reason to believe that ly; a second time; and a third time. one of the accomplices, having in his posession a considerable part of the stolen property, arrived here early this morning by the mail train. A slender young man, fashionably dressed, light flaxen mousportmanteau.'

'Darke's friend, by Jupiter!' 'Eh, what do you mean ?' asked Choop sharply, with his eager ferret-look; that changed him at once into another man. Three minutes sufficed to put him in posession of all I knew. Mr. Choop gave an almost imperceptible jerk with his folk seemed to be gone out somewhere. thumb; and a tall ungainly-looking man, in his best clothes, lounged up; and I re-

tial subordinate.

would next stop, giving a brief descrip- him. tion of Mr. Darke and his companion de- Mr. Choop's apathy vanished in a mosiring the train to be searched on its ar- ment. His eyes flashed, his teeth glisrival, and the individuals in question to tened he look dangerous. 'Go you into be detained. In a quarter of an hour the garden,' he whispered to me, 'and we received a reply; "The train has been take your stand below the window on the searched, but no individuals answering left. If Jim Riley jumps out-though I

'Telegraph to each station where the Tim, quick and silent!' Mr. Choop and train has stopped,' said Mr. Choop, 'till Timothy, each pulling out an ugly-lookyou discover at which of them the man ing staff, crept up stealthily as two burand woman got out."

out success, but the fifth answered, "Yes, crowned by a woman's wild shrick, the dow was flung up and, and Mr. Darke 'I'll have you yet Jim Riley!' exclaim-dashed madly through, followed closely clock by his nose.'

stealthy survey over its summit. He ed that if any dwarf, or giant, or other Under ordinary circumstances I should then beckoned me to follow. Peeping ostrange monster, arrived by the train, it have at once gone to bed and slept till ver I found that we were on the summit

othy held secret council for some minutes. Mr. Choop is a small, wiry active look. Then Timothy opened a small bundleing man, with a sauntering and negligent brought all the way from Newstone-and air, as if he were in want of something proceeded with much gravity to induct himself into a wagoner's blue smock frock countenance; he wears his hat very much plentifully braided and buttoned, after at the back of his head, and generally the fashion in which wagoners delight .displays an ample amount of shirt bosom; He next turned up the bottoms of his fusseeming in his quiet way, to invite the tain trowsers. so as to bring into more confidence of every one. But, tell him prominent view his laced-up boots; then something that interests him; excite him; he gave his hat a push back and his hair bring him out of the passive into the ac. a pull forward, and set off at a swinging tive mood, and you will see his eyes be- pace in the direction of the Ten Tramps, come keen an piercing, his features shar- whistling the Plough-boy as he goes .-pen, and his teeth glisten. He looks at Mr. Choop and I passed the next half such a moment as dangerous and full of hour together, smoking cigars and dis-

'Because, after dark, we should be pret-'How are you this morning?' he said ty sure of finding half-a-dozen rough cus- the capture of Riley. Now, I am not an took this morning was intended for you. as we shook hands. 'And how is Cary? tomers there, who would make the mat-

> with you, so as to avoid the risk ?' 'What credit would there be in that? When Timothy and I fail, it will be time

sistance. There he is!'

Timothy was lounging against the While we were watching him, he took off mation I received half an hour ago by his hat, and scratched his head vigorous-'All right!' said Mr. Choop. 'That

was the signal. Lend me your cap, Fred, parlor.' and you take my bat; I don't want Riley to recognize me till I get into the house.' Having made the transfer we set off, Mr. Choop walking with an assumed

the door when we reached the inn.

'Foine day, master.' 'Very fine, my man,' replied Mr. Choop, What sort of lap have you got here ?' 'Oh, toidyish. You'll foind the landlord somewhare inside. All the women

'Two glasses of your best ale, landlord, having the appearance of a farm-laborer exclaimed Mr. Choop to curly red headed man with a villainous countenance, who cognized Timothy, Mr. Choop's confiden. came forward, scowling suspiciously. The landlord's back was hardly turned be-Mr. Choop sent Timothy off to number fore a quick whisper was exchanged be-Thirty-nine to make certain inquiries; tween Timothy and Mr. Choop. We without troubling myself to find an an- to ask of the clerk whether he remem. lord returned with the ale. He showed bered to what station Mr. Darke and his us into a small room, and we left the companion were booked. The clerk countryman still smoking at the door .booked so many passengers by that train He seemed to be a thirsty soul, this counover again the first part of the message: that he could not possitively remember; tryman, for he called for glass after glass but he thinks through to London. Mr. rapidly as if full determined on getting Choop then desired me to accompany him drunk in the shortest possible time. He to the telegraph office. The eight o'clock drank so much that the landlord's big jug train had hardly got half way to London was at last exhausted, and he lighted a yet. By consulting a time-table, Mr. candle to go down into the cellar to draw Choop found out at what part of the line more ale. Hardly had the landlord the train ought to be; so, at his request, reached the bottom of the cellar steps be-I telegraphed to the station at which it fore the door was quietly locked behind

him and stick to him till I come. Now, living, and your fortune to your enemies glars, while I hastened into the garden. So I telegraphed to four stations with- A mingled noise of shouting and oaths,

as his opponent, was uppermost, sitting Mordecai Paine, a saddler doing busi-

dividual could recover his breath.

corting Mrs. Riley, as I suppose she ought mind than of bedy. She declared that to be called; and carrying, with much there was something on her mind, which now thrown back, showed me the mid- ding that she might assure herself of his night traveler, minus the moustache; a forgiveness before she had made known bold, forward-looking, good-featured wo- her offence. man bearing her misfortune with a haugh- "Ah, Mordecai," said she, "you rememting indifference that excited Timothy's ber our large white pitcher was broken

door, and calling to be let out long before myself did it." this, was released by Timothy; and very "Oh, my dear," said Mr. Paine, "don't blank he looked when he beheld his guests concern yourself about such a trifle. I had suddenly come to grief. By Mr. had forgotten the pitcher, and it matters Choop's orders he brought out his horse not now how it was broken." and a light cart, and we drove back, "There is another matter," said Mrs.

turned queen's evidence; and it then came net." out that Mr. Riley was the planner only "Never mind it my love," said Mr. been engaged for some time back; it being will forgive you as freely as I do. his duty to pick out the premises to be After a short pause, Mrs Paine began robbed, to make plans of them, arrange again: the proceeds for his part of the labor. a tortoise shell comb.

Three days after Christmas day I re- "The dence !- well, well," said Mr. P. particularly to see me. He received me of it." in his grave, quiet way, looked me through "I could not leave thee with such a thing motioned me to a seat, and then spoke. tent.

'I received yesterday morning from "Go, on," cried Mr. Paine, "I told you Mr. Choop on account of certain events that I could forgive everything at such a relative to the recent burglary on my time as this." Mrs. Paine resumed:

'Yes. Were you not aware of it?'

ware that you were the sufferer.'

a portion of the stolen property, and that "Stay and hear one thing more," cried sition to marry. I will tell you what I'll do myself." for you. I will take you as an assistant "The devil fly away with you, you in my shop, at a moderate salary, and if jade !" roared Mordecai, as he flung himmarriage. Let me have your decision in afflicted. the morning. You will find Cary in the "Don't be alarmed, Mr. Paine," said

I are very glad to see Mr. Choop when- wished to destroy herself, and I tricked ever he favors us with a call in our new her in this way to save her life." home, and brings us news of Lemontin- "You swindling rascal," shouted Paine. a licensed hawker in the hosiery and Not- on false pretences? Begone!" tingham line .- Household Words.

Don't I espise Small Things. Some years since as a farmer in Connecticut was looking at a small potato asked what it was. "Nothing but a po- his discharge. tato," said he; "take it and plant it, and you may have all you raise from it till you are free." The boy took it, and dividing it into as many pieces as it had

the yield being four hundred bribels, the farmer begged to be released from his unfortunate promise. Not rad. First class in Oriental philosophy, stand up, Thibet, what is life?" "Life consides of money, a boss and a

"Next What is death?" "A paymaster, who settles every body's in the right shape, and den lean it up adehes, and gives the tombstones as re- ginst de fence to dry-" ceipts in full of all demands."

fashionable wife."

"What is poverty?" "The reward of merit genious general. eber made ?" ly receives from a discriminating public. "What is religion?"

"Doing unto others as you please without allowing a return of the compliment." "What is fame?"

"A six line puff in a newspaper while logy in de world!" when dead."

"New How late is it?" "Look at the boss and see if he is drunk yet; if he is not, it ean't be much after eleven o'clock."

"Does he keep good time!" "Splendid! they regulate the town A Startling Confession,

feet whipped out his handcuffs and had Barbara, had taken arsenic for the purat the point of death. He hastend to her At this moment Timothy appeared, es- bedside, and found her in more agony of

some time ago; I pretended to you that The landlord, kicking at his cellar- the cat broke it, but that was false, for I

spoons which I made you believe were Through Mr. Choop's indefatigable ex- stolen by the Yankee clock mender; I ertions, the whole of the gang of burglars pawned them to raise money to pay the was speedily captured. One of them milliner for doing up my pink satin bon-

the details of the attack, leaving to oth- "Your best razor, which you missed ers the merely mechanical part of the last summer, and made so much to do abusiness, and receiving a certain share of bout, I swapped it away to a pedlar for

ceived a note from M. Lancaster asking recollecting himself, "that is all done now, me to go over to Ironville, as he wished and can't be amended. Think no more

from under his tushy grey eye-brows, on my conscience," replied the fair peni-

"You remember our boarder Simeon 'The burglary on your premises, sir ?' Drake, who ran up a till for six weeks,

and then went off in a hurry without pay-'I was, of course, aware that a robbe- ing a cent. He and I agreed to elope ry had been committed, but was not a- together; but he changed his mind at the last moment, and ran away without me." 'Such, however, is the case,' replied "Fire and fury! do you dare to tell

Mr. Laneaster. 'Mr. Choop informs me me this ?" cried Mordecai in great excitethat it was through you he first obtained ment. "But as you are dying, I won't the state of my affections. He was in the passive mood when I encountered Choop, 'when you could approach the inn capture part of the gang, and recover the the affair with your capture part of the gang, and recover the the affair with your capture part of the gang, and recover the the affair with your capture part of the gang.

he was much indebted to your courage in the repentant Barbara. "The dose I ungrateful man; you have long had a li- I put it into your cup of coffee, but in king to my daughter, which I believe is my hurry to get the thing done, I gave 'Then why not take half-a-dozen men returned by her; but you are not in a po- you the wrong cup and took the right one

I find that you bring into your new trade self out of the room. In the entry he met that amount of intelligence and activity the apothecary who had sold Mrs. Paine which I am told you possess, I will ad- the fatal powder. This medical man had vance you accordingly, and, providing heard of the commotion at Paine's house you and Cary remain in the same mind and suspecting the cause of it, he came another year, I will not object to your to administer hope and comfort to the

be, "the drug I sold to your wife was I need bardly say that both Cary and nothing but magnesia I judged that she

gers; who, now that Mr. Riley is working "How dare you cheat a customer in that Timothy was still smoking his pipe at out his penal servitude, is doing well as shameful manner and obtain her money

And with this exclamation he violently ejected the astonished apothecary from his front door. The man of physic, suspecting, of course the poor Mordecai was deranged, sent two officers to provide for which a gentleman had found in his pock- his safe keepisg. His relation of the preet, a little boy of twelve years by him ceding dialigue, however soon obtained

A Kentucky Anecdote.

A Southern gentleman owned a slave, a very intelligent fellow, who was a Unicarefully put aside in the fall and pl-ated the intell one occasion he illustrated in the spring till the fourth year when in the following manner. A certain slave had obtained a license of the Baptists to preach. He was holding forth in the presence of many of his colored brethren at one time, when he undertook to describe the process of Adam's creation. -Said be:

"When God made Adam, He stoop down, scrape up a little dirt, wet it a little, warm it in the bands, and squeeze it

"Top dere, said our Universalist dar-

key. "You say dat are de fustres man "Sartin," said the preacher.

"Den," said the other, "jes tell a feller whar dat ar fence come from !" "Hush," said the preacher, "two more questions like dat would spile all de foe-

"Ma, what is revengel" "It is when your daddy soolds me and I hit him with a broomstick."

The rate of passage between New York and California, has been reduced from \$125 to \$50. 900 persons left in the steamers on last Saturday.