

**AFTER LONG MONTHS.**  
After long months we meet again  
Among the nodding daffodils,  
The light lies low along the plain,  
And over all the purple hills,  
The merry thrush sings out the day  
With bursts of May-time madrigals,  
And from the frosted budding apple  
Through opening leaves, the chaff-chaff  
calls.  
How different all when last we met  
In dim fields dashed with autumn rain,  
And watched the last late swallow set  
His wings toward the South again  
Long time we stood with voices low  
And alien lips, light words to speak;  
And was it rain that troubled so  
From those long lashes down your  
cheek?  
We parted, as the misters grow down,  
The gray mist, gathering fold on fold,  
Glimmered on the dew, the little town  
We watched the lamps wake, one by one  
And hand touched the starless sky,  
Gold stars beneath the starless sky,  
And hand beneath hand, and all was done  
'Twas hearts too full to say good-by.

And now Spring stands with sunny smile  
Over the dead months cold and gray;  
I think we've met in some far-off  
And wakened to the perfect day.  
With winter's snow and autumn's rain  
The days of lonely life are o'er;  
Forget the parting and the pain,  
Since our two hearts have met once  
more.

### A TENDERFOOT'S HORSE TRADE.

The start of a glorious mid-  
summer night was settling over  
the prairie as the sun set and  
glowed slowly and peacefully along  
a dozen miles or so from his next stopping  
place. His horse was an excellent one,  
but very tired from his long journey.  
George was a tenderfoot. His health  
failing under the stress and strain of  
business in the East, he had taken his  
doctor's advice to pass a year or more  
out of doors by accepting an invitation  
from an old friend to join him on his  
cattle ranch in the northern part of  
Texas. He was now on his journey  
thither, and a full two hundred miles  
from his destination.  
As he rode along his attention was  
attracted by the clatter of hoofs and a  
few moments after a single horseman  
came within view. He reined his steed  
up sharply when within a dozen yards  
of our friend, and greeted him with an  
affable nod and smile.  
Through the dim light George beheld  
a stalwart individual in the picturesque  
garb of the frontier. He also ob-  
served that he bore a magnificent  
animal, which evidently had been  
driven very hard, as it was flecked  
heavily with foam.  
"Good evening, stranger," said the  
planman, pleasantly. "Which way, if  
I am not too curious?"  
The man's friendly manner won  
George at once, and he readily ac-  
cused to his purpose, destination, and so  
on, casually remarking that his horse  
was about whipped, and that he feared  
its strength would not hold out to the  
end.

"Hello," he observed pleasantly,  
"something going on?"  
"Trial—horse stealing," explained a  
sympathizer, ironically.  
George raised his head at the sound  
of the stranger's voice, and to his blank  
amazement recognized the impudent  
scoundrel who had gotten into his  
pocket the money for the spring, and  
he almost shouted in his excitement:  
"There stands the man who traded me  
the horse! He is the person who  
foisted his spool on me! He will not  
deny it!"  
"Well, I'll be damned if it ain't Wed-  
don's relation," exclaimed the stranger.  
"Call him the black!"  
"I call all to witness that he admits  
it! How do I like the black? You con-  
fess, then, that you gave me a black  
stallion with white left fore foot and  
scar on right hip!"  
The stranger seemed puzzled by the  
interrogatory questions. "What is  
it?" he replied at length; "that is  
so, say, I let you take him to ride to the  
ranch. He's Hank Weddon's thorough-  
bred and with a clean thousand."  
"And I am under conviction for the  
stealing of the accused brute! After  
that man's statement I have a right to  
demand that you return me my money,"  
cried the prisoner, turning to the  
stranger.  
"Well, now—let's go—a little slow—"  
drawled the court, with a knowing  
wink in the direction of the jury. "I've  
seen this stranger, what's my time  
then, this stranger, what's my time  
then?"  
"My name is Bill Horton—nister be  
William—and I'm from the cattle  
ranch of Henry Weddon. It was the re-  
ply, frankly and fully given.  
"How do you come by the black horse?"  
"He belongs to Weddon, and I've been  
riding him about for nigh on to three  
weeks looking for lost stock."  
"Did you know that he tallies to a dot  
with a horse as was stole from Kitter's  
ranch four nights back, and that there's  
a big reward offered for the Kitter  
horse?"  
"If he does Hank Weddon will give  
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"The stranger's aspect underwent a  
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"If I ain't too bold I'd like to ask if  
there is anybody here as insinuates  
that I'm guilty of horse stealing?" he  
inquired, carelessly dropping his hands  
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his belt.  
No one spoke. The buckskinned one  
flushed his eyes keenly from face to  
face, finally resting inquiringly on that  
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"As nobody seems like to be wanted  
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pose that we all adjourn and take a  
drink."

The court agreed readily enough, and  
under the mellowing influence of the  
liquor the decisions the best of feel-  
ing soon gained ascendancy. The  
stranger was well supplied with money,  
for a cow puncher, and spent it freely.  
"Now I'll tell you what we'll do so  
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"Stranger, there was a boss stole  
from Kitter's ranch several days ago,  
that at some boss being a valuable boss,  
and it's our painful duty to ask how  
he come under your saddle—hey,  
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The crowd granted assent.  
George was fully alarmed by now. He  
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"Gentlemen," said George, rising at  
a brief formal discussion of the situa-  
tion, "I am well aware that circum-  
stances are against me, but I assure  
you of my innocence and of my ability  
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to find Mr. Horton—"  
A roar of laughter interrupted him.  
"Suppose we telegraph for him!" ex-  
claimed one.

"Or have him come C. O. D.," sug-  
gested another.  
"We never do things in a hurry," re-  
plied the spokesman, "we wait  
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place at that time. The boss'll be put  
in evidence agin you, and if you can  
prove that you came honestly by him  
you'll be discharged; if you can't you  
won't."

A gesture told the rest.  
The morning came, and the court-  
room—at other times the bar-room—  
was filled with as motley a gathering as  
ever confronted a prisoner. The spokes-  
man of the preceding day occupied the  
man of the jury was impassioned, and  
George was offered counsel, but declin-  
ed the service of the lauk, tobacco-  
stained cattleman who was assigned to  
the case.

The trial proceeded. George was sick  
at heart at the utter hopelessness of  
his case. The landlord testified that  
the prisoner had ridden the stolen horse  
into the village, and George repeated  
his tale of the stranger and the ex-  
change of mounts. It was further eli-  
cited that the missing horse was valued  
at a thousand dollars, that he was tele-  
graphed for the place four days before,  
that Kitter's was fifty miles northwest  
of Burritt's, and that there had been no  
previous clew to the identity of the thief.

"Got anything to say afore I sentence  
you to be hung," asked the court, at  
the conclusion of the evidence. "If the  
saker of the stolen horse took also the  
saddle, touching which no evidence has  
been submitted, and which it did not let  
it go with the horse? The saddle on the  
sore there is mine, if I came honestly  
to assume that I came into honest pos-  
session of the horse also, unless it be  
shown that I did not?"  
George's logic made an evident favor-  
able impression on the spectators, if not  
on the court.  
"What the prisoner says is true," said  
he; "but it is also true that you can't  
try a man for two crimes to once. This  
court'll try first for horse stealing, and  
after sentence for that has been ex-  
ecuted, we'll hear evidence for saddle  
stealing."  
A look of fierce disgust swept over  
George's face.  
"Am I to understand, then, that if I'm  
hanged for the alleged theft of the  
horse, and it is proven subsequently  
that I did not steal the saddle, no ad-  
ditional punishment will be inflicted?"  
he demanded.  
"That's the verdict of this court. We  
don't punish a man for what he ain't  
guilty of."  
At this time the door opened and a  
stranger entered the room. George  
glanced at the newcomer, and he readily  
recognized the man who had traded  
him the horse. The stranger was  
dressed in the garb of a cowboy, and  
he was accompanied by a man who  
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landlord, George and the cowboy were  
all that remained. It was some time  
before the speaker, who was a  
friend a farewell shake of the hand and  
also departed, seemingly in a state of  
maudlin insobriety.  
The male populace of Burritt's was  
hardly astir the next morning when  
sounds of cursing and lamentation were  
heard. It began when the hostler bur-  
ied from the barn to the hotel and  
whispered with agitated voice in the  
landlord's ear.  
"Both gone? You tamed foot, what  
you chattering about?" demanded that  
personage, excitedly.  
"That big black as was stole and  
Horton's bay is both gone," repeated  
the hostler.  
"Then did 'em! What the tarnation  
you gibbering about? Find Horton,  
the boss, everybody! He'll rage like a  
wolf when he discovers that his horse is  
gone. It don't make no great odds  
about the sick man's black, but that  
boy of Horton's is got to be got!"  
The sick man was easily found, but  
not so Horton, that courteous and lib-  
eral philanthropist who had brought the  
country exchanging superior stock for  
common, and threw his money over the  
bar as if it were so much worthless pa-  
per.  
To tell the truth, the landlord was  
glad that the big frontiersman could  
not be found, for he did not rejoice at  
the loss of having to face him with in-  
telligence of his loss. He was assuring  
Sanders that there was little doubt of  
the ultimate recovery of his animal,  
when again the hostler came running  
from the barn, this time waving a bit  
of paper in his hand.  
"What's all the excitement about?"  
asked the judge, entering at that mo-  
ment.  
"Two horses gone," replied the land-  
lord.  
"High! Hang two men, or one man  
two—don't make no difference  
which. Let's see that paper."  
He took the bit of newspaper from the  
hostler. Along the margin was  
scrawled the following lines:  
"Gentlemen—Sorry to leave ye but it  
is necessary. I dropt in just to say  
that the estern chap is innocent and  
being a good-hearted sort of greenhorn  
it wd be a shame to hang him for what  
I done. I got the bay boss honest cuff  
and as I don't spose heel want the black  
as has caused him so much trouble I'll  
take that too. Good-by."  
"The pesky scoundrel!" exclaimed the  
landlord.  
"The villainous thief!" snorted the  
judge, in the same key.  
"Too cute for Burritt's!" shouted  
George, savagely jubilant at the un-  
looked-for denouement.  
"What's that?" asked the judge, turn-  
ing to Sanders. "I said yesterday that  
you was the greenest greeny that ever  
blowed this way. I want to apologize  
for that slandering statement. About  
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### OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

**THIS IS THEIR DEPARTMENT OF  
THE PAPER.**  
**Quiet Sayings and Cute Doings of the  
Little Folks Everywhere, Gathered  
and Printed Here for All Other Lit-  
tle Ones to Read.**  
**The Land of Anyhow.**  
Beyond the reach of what's the use,  
Where Silphoid Point is now;  
There used to be, when I was young,  
The Land of Anyhow.  
Don't Care was king of all this realm—  
A cruel king was he!  
For those who served him with good  
heart,  
He treated shamefully!  
When boys and girls their tasks would  
slight,  
And climb poor mother's brew,  
He'd say: "Don't care! It's good enough  
Just do it anyhow!"  
But when, in after life, they longed  
To make proud fortune low,  
He let them find that fate ne'er smiles  
On work done anyhow.

**What It Meant.**  
The difference between ancient and  
modern slang was amusingly illus-  
trated at the Chautauque Assembly,  
when the teacher of English literature  
asked, "What is the meaning of the  
Shakespearean phrase, 'Go to'?" and  
a member of the class replied, "Oh, that  
is only the sixteenth century way of  
saying, 'Come off!'"  
**Broome's son.**  
"We have an old relic up in our  
country," said a gentleman from East-  
ern Kentucky, "which could tell a thrill-  
ing story if it were only provided with  
tongue and brain. It is an old rifle  
which is said to have been owned by  
Daniel Boone, the great pioneer. On  
the stock fifteen notches have been cut  
and these are said to represent the  
number of Redskins the indomitable  
Daniel slew during his numerous ex-  
peditions in the wilds of the then young  
State of Kentucky. On the stock is cut  
the name of the great pioneer. On  
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