I was seated in my office one aftercalled. I had then acquired a fair ex. | the matter in hand. perience in my calling, but my income from that source had been quite Simited; hence my extreme gratifica- steadily in his eyes. tion when my visitor announced that the purpose of his visit was "busi-ABC88.11

The gentleman said that a friend of his, Mr. B-, a merchant doing was not confirmed in any vicious an extensive business on Lake street, practice, and it his conduct during had requested him to suggest the name of a reliable man to undertake that it was our duty, if possible, to a private investigation; that he had promised to comply with the request, more good in this world by prevent and therefore came to me. I asked ing our fellow man from being a him if he knew anything about the character and details of the case. the criminal and punish him. How He replied that he did not. At my many lives and happy homes might instance the gentleman wrote a let- be saved if this were more frequently ter of introduction to Mr. Bwhich he handed me, and after receiving my promise to deliver it without delay he departed.

I lost no time in communicating with Mr. B--. I sent my messepger the letter of introduction inclosed in a note of my own, requesting an cue, I added: "Miss-, of to call at his residence that evening of my employment, and I presume

ignated time, and was ushered into deeply regret it if she did." little library room.

amuch concern.

"For what specific purpose is my scrvice required?" I asked, making a

dive at the business in hand. "I wish you to investigate a little matter for me," he said, "and will give you the cause and details in a lady," was my response. few words." After a moment's hesi- I had been right in my conjectures, very high fences, for your able bodied tation, which seemed devoted to and now knew that I had sent a is no slouch at playing leap frog. deep thought, he said: "I presume you are aware of the character of our business; we require a large valuable, though silent, adjunct to are not extra partial to water. In- more and it would be dissipated in clerical force in our counting room; the successful execution of my hastily vitations to the round up would then vapor." Of course, of this enormous we reward our efficiency and zeal with merited promotion, and many of our clerks have acquired their present advanced positions through pause, asked again, "Who sent you?" this system. Among others in our counting room is one who has secared his desk by gradual promo- you who authorized me to follow then get away back and scatter out tem. If we estimate in mechanical tion a young man who seems pos- your movements while away from in skirmishing order until a large power what we do receive, we find sessed of the required qualifications the office, but I will precede the insection of country was covered, and this to be on each square foot of surface equivalent, on an average, to judge, properly performed his whole employer is prompted by the deepest | the object point, of course being the about fifty tons raised a mile high duty. I speak of our cashier. He is concern in your behalf. Mr. B— is lofty stock yard. young, intelligent, with a kindly dis- the individual," I said, but the young "Pretty soon you would hear the bay- tinuously acting, to every thirty position, prompt at his post, and in- man's alarmed countenance urged defatigable in his work. Because of me to add. "Yet he does not suspect these qualities and the fact that he | what I have discovered; he is espechas exercised economy I have felt | ially alarmed about the great change myself gradually drawn toward him. | noted in your appearance, and com-I have taken deeper interest in him missioned me to adopt my own than in many others in our employ method and time in making the inand was much gratified to find that vestigation. To execute this comhe had to his credit a neat little sum, mission I determined to keep you saved out of his salary. Recently, under my surveillance, though I however, I have noticed that he scarcely expected developments so wears a haggard expression, and the soon. discovery has disturbed me. When first I observed this change it was discovery to Mr. B .-- at once?" he but slightly depicted on his counte- interrogated, with apparent alarm. nance, but it has grown more pronounced from day to day until now he seems little more than a shadow of his former self, and though prompt | he quickly asked. at his post and in his work, the old

month ago. "What is your idea of the cause of this condition of things?" I asked.

"I have no fixed idea," Mr. Breplied, and then added: "What proposition is unworthy of you as it hold from behind, but a young hound puzzles and pains me is the fact that, would be unworthy in me to accept will frequently rush into the bayed money standing to the credit of any an expression of dejection and lost be gets away alive he is lucky. The employe's account and had a right to hope overcast his countenance. Seedraw his money, he had several times | ing the effect my speech had, I added, invested in shares of building and loan earnestly: "I will be your friend and associations, but never without first | save you if you will comply fully with consulting me as to the advisability my demands." of doing so. Of course, I have been pressed with his worth that I had already determined that he would be the cashier's reticence have made me result. nneasy. I am determined, if possible, to learn the cause of this change, and as that you must make no move that | lost \$25. He repeated his visit two will disturb him until you shall have nights following with a like result, reported to me. You may adopt then the fascination and a determinthe end in view, and you may call upon me for such assistance as you may require in the case.'

"Do you suspect financial trouble in any form?

"I have no data upon which to ground a suspicion; his trial balance sheet made three days ago proves the books and accounts in good shape, and the cash balance on hand at that time was correct."

"Does he complain of illness or overwork?"

'He does not; in fact, when I questioned him concerning the cause of him by Mr. B— and Miss—would

and departed. The next day I en- enough in his recklessness to filch. tered the counting room of Mr. Band asked the clerk at one of the windows to give me silver coin for a \$20 note. Pointing to another window he said: "The cashier will of that gentleman's face.

ed I asked: "Are you the cashier?" Receiving an affirmative response I requested change for my paper cur- and if you prove unfaithful to your rency, which request was silently pledge I will see to it that you do

granted. The few seconds required by the cashier in which to gather up the coin grasped, and his moistened eyes, full and pass it through the window suf- of gratitude, told me that he was in "doed me to "take in" that gentle- earnest when he said: "I pledge my in existence."

SAVED ON THE BRINK. man's face that I might know it when ever I should see it again.

I spent several days in quiet investigation and then sought a private moon in October, 1884, when an ac- interview with the accused. After a quaintance, a merchant of this city, few commonplace remarks I took up "I am a messenger appointed to

watch you and gain information concerning your habits," said I, looking The young man assumed a calm-

ness, but could not conceal his alarm and deep concern. I had fully determined that the cashier was not a rogue at heart. I believed that he our interview warranted it I intended prevent crime. We effect a vast deal criminal than by permitting the commission of crime in order to "detect' practiced!

After a moment's pause my companion asked: "Who sent you to watch me?"

"One deeply interested in your welfare. Can you not guess who?" I re

"A lady?" he asked, much agitated "No," I answered, and taking the interview, and in reply was invited avenue, so far as I know, is not aware she does not even suspect that I was promptly on hand at the des- there is cause for it; indeed, I would

a comfortably and well appointed | He turned his face full upon me and there was a startled and puzzled ex-Mr. B received me cordially, pression resting upon it. "What do dean agriculturists to combat the namely, two hours and thirteen minbut his face wore an expression of you know about that lady, and why did you mention her when I asked it your principal was a lady?" he asked,

hastily. "I know that you visited her at her home this evening, and have reason to know your feelings toward the

shaft to a tender spot and felt as- The location generally chosen was sured that this hit would prove a on the fork of a river, for kangaroos dulum and it would be water, seven formed plan.

With a deep sigh of relief he said:

"I presume you will report your "Not necessarily," I replied, brief-

"Can my exposure be prevented?"

"That depends," I answered. The smile seldom lights up his genial face. cashier impulsively thrust his hand I have taken occasion to look into into the breast pocket of his coat and his personal account in the ledger and | drew forth a roll of bills. Turning to find that from time to time he has me, with extending arm, the money drawn upon it until now very little in his hand, he said, excitedly: "You remains of the \$1,900 to his credit a are welcome to this, but, for God's sake, don't expose me; it will ruin me forever!"

Restraining my indignation as though he has authority to pay out it." My words s tunned him, and

A gleam of hope instantly shone on

more than pleased with this mark o his countenance and he added, rather confidence, and was so favorably im- demurely: What do you demand?" Looking him earnestly in the eyes I answered, "That you tell me truththe next to be admitted to a junior fully how you came to visit a faro copartnership interest in our estab- | bank; how long the visits had been lishment. My recent discoveries and indulged in; how often and with what

To sum up this statement briefly. but which he gave in detail, he said therefore I have sent for you to look he went with a friend one night out anto the case for me. I desire you to of curiosity; that the game was fasascertain what influence has caused | cinating; that he commenced by buythe change in his appearance, and ing \$5 worth of checks; he won \$10; what he has done with his money. Visited the place again a few nights The only condition that I interpose after, and tried his luck, but this time your own time and method to reach ation to recover his small loss impelled him to go agaln, each time meeting with a loss each succeeding loss being greater than the last, until he visited the place almost nightly, and finally realized that he had drawn out near, ly all of his cash balance in the officebesides having hypothecated some shares of stock owned by him. The loss caused him much regret, but he had spent many sleepless night because of remorse when it fully dawned upon him that he was living a lie and that the confidence reposed in his appearance, his answers seemed be instantly withdrawn and summary had come in to renew a note, and deep sorrow in his sensitive soul, After a few moments' further con- of course, disgrace. He had used his wersation I bade my client good night own money; he had not gone far "Are you satisfied now to cutshort

this recklessness?" I asked. "Yes," he answered, determinedly. "Pledge me your word that you will never again enter a gambling give it to you." I was about to house or gamble, and I will agree to have a view of the cashier. This was make a report that will not expose the purpose I desired to compass. I your recklessness. I feel assured that had not up to that time had a glimpse otherwise you are reliable. I believe there is ample chance for you if you Approaching the aperture designat- will be wise as well as correct in your character; but I will warn you that you will yet be watched, not escape the logical consequences."

He extended his hand, which I

word to never again enter a gambling house or gamble. I thank you for your more than friendship. Your generosity will make mo a better and stronger man." We parted on State and Madison streets, the casher going home and I to my lodgings. put a shadow after him. His conduct proved exemplary. I so reported from time to time during the month following to my client that I believed the young man made a temtrouble; that he had rescued his friend, and that his friend had paid him back the loan. To confirm my report the cashier had deposited the money in the office and credited his gard expression had vanished, and the old genial smile was again enthroned in its place. My report was accepted; I was thanked for my ser-

vices, and well paid for the effort. On the 1st of January following the partnership interest in Mr. B--the same year he led Miss — to the sumed the responsibilities of wedlock than did this one.

go Times.

#### A Kangaroo Round up.

A reporter met a gentleman who has been largely indentified with pasconnection with the efforts of antipo- this coating of ice in the same timeplague of the long eared pests.

"The idea," said the gentleman. "is not entirely new to Australians" mounted, an accompanied by what-"Who else can be so deeply inter- ever kangaroo hounds they chanced ested in you?" said I. "I will tell to possess. Dogs and owners would

ing of scores of hounds, and then the square feet of the earth's surface. It long jumping marsupials would be is by this enormous supply of energy seen leaping like gigantic frogs, while that the whole world is kept alive the skirmishers would advance and and active. It keeps us warm and close in steadily and systematically, drives our steam engine and water controlling the hounds the while, so wheels, it circulates our atmosphere as to gradually direct the hopping and brings us rain and snow in due kangoroos to the desired point. When the mob, which on occasions numbered many hundreds, were finally | the source of almost every earthly housed in the place of slaughter, some | blessing. one was sent to close the draw gate

on them, and the fun commenced. The dogs were restrained and family relics in the shape of blunderbusses and ancient flint locks were brought into requisition until the last grass and crop despoiler had bitten the

"Kangaroos make it rough for the not?" asked the reporter. "You bet they do. An old man kan-

garoo is just as tough a bit of mechanism asever a dog tackled. When fairly cornered he will place his back against a tree or rock and invite the best dog in the pack to come on. Old dogs are wary of them, and use their much as possible, I said: "Your best endeavors to get an ear or neck .narsupial's arms, so to speak, and if kangaroo will balance himself firmly on his tail, which is both powerful and springy, and will clasp the dog around the body with his hind legs, while he will utilize the sharp claws of his fore paws to tear the brute's stomach into ribbons and haul his entrails out.

## A Rebel Gold Dollar.

From the Duluth Tribune' Jerry Johnson, a negro boy, was standing on a trash pile, running his toes turough the debris. He noticed something bright in the pile, and very small yellow coin. At first he thought it was copper but as he fingwas too heavy for copper, so he at | could cut up?" once conjectured that it was made of showed him the piece of money. He asked the lawyer how much he would strong, good stuff." give him for it. Walker's attorney thought it was a gold dollar, and, as help you make the breeches. We'll he was particularly anxious to get such a coin to wear on his watch chain, he offered the boy one dollar for it, which he gleefully accepted. examination, and became convinced | morning. that he paid too much for it. He was in Colonel Redwine's office, and with some disappointment in his took the coin out and exhibited it to | and heart countenance. you \$1.25," interrupted a man who in his eyes, a tremble in his voice, Done," exclaimed Mr. Walker. he said: his coin, and the lawyer thought he laugh at me.' had made a good bargain. Hurrying "Oh, never mind," said the cheerydealer scrutinized it closely and said: ing her own heart. will you give?" After a little consid- they want to. You just study hard, eration the dealer said: "Will you and when you get to be a smart and take \$25 for it? "No but I'll take \$30 learned man nobody will ask you for it." "It's a go; here's your what kind of breeches you wore when you?" money," and the happy man walked you went to school.' out of the office. The coin which fig- | So Benny went to school with his ured in these transactions is a Con- coffeesack breeches and "let 'em federate gold dollar. A gentleman laugh." said to a reporter. "The worst sold man of the four was he who sold the

#### The Sun's Energy.

The most satisfactory way of ar-

estimate the amount of work which porary loan to a friend who was in the sun is capable of doing, and also the quantity of energy he must be losing year by year. By suitable arrangements we can cause a certain quantity of his radiation to be abaccount with the amount, the hag- sorbed by water or other substance, and note the rise of temperature which results, and as we know the mechanical equivalent of each degree of temperature in water, for instance, it is only a matter of calculation to cashier was admitted to a junior co- arrive at a knowledge of the sun's total energy. Like everything else extensive business, and in October of | connected with this wonderful body, figures gives us, says the Scotsman, alter, and a happier couple never as- no adequate conception of his energy. and various illustrations have been used by different investigators. Thus. I meet the cashier occasionally. Hershel considered it in relation to We greet each other cordially, but | the quantity of ice which it would never allude to his narrow escape | melt in a given time, and states that from disgrace.-Blackstone in Chica- the amount of heat which the earth receives when the sun is overhead would melt an inch thickness of ice two hours and thirteen minutes. From this that calculated the body of the sun were entirely surtorial interests both in Australia and rounded by a sheet of ice on its sur-New Zealand, and from him some in- face of more than a mile in thickness, teresting facts were ascertained in the sun's heat would entirely melt utes. Prof. Young uses and even more striking illustration. He says: "If we could build up a solid column They have for yeare employed a of ice from the earth to the sun, two somewhat similar method of riding miles and a quarter in diameter, pastoral lands of the destructive spanning the inconceivable abyss of kangaroo. The usual way was to ninety-three million miles, and if the build a capacious stock yard, with sun should concentrate his power upon it, it would dissolve and melt, not in an hour, not in a minute, but in a single second; one swing of the penbe sent to neighboring farmers, and | quantity of heat the earth receives on a specified morning the farmers but a very small fraction. The re-"I am glad of it;" and then, after a would all put in an appearance, mainder, except, of course, what the other planets receive, passes away into space and is lost forever, so far as can be ascertained, to the solar sysyearly, or to one-horse power con-

## The "Little Breeches."

season; it grows and nourishes our

plants and animals, and, in a word, is

It was during Governor Ben For aker's schoolboy days that the incident occurred whose relation in the newspapers years afterward won for him in his first gubernatorial camhounds on some occasions, do they paign in 1883 the sobriquet of "Lit-'tle Breeches.'

One very busy Summer when Ben was eight or nine years old and going te a Summer school, his pants gave out. They had previously been patched by his industrious mother in the late evenings after Ben had gone to bed. But now they had given out beyond the possibility of any more

The day this happened, while poor, blushing Benny was studying at school and trying as best he could to hide the rents in his pants, his loving mother was planning and contriving how she could rig him out with a new

Her sister, Julia Scott, had come over that morning to help with the day's work. So Julia Scott and Maggie Foraker put their wits to work to see what they could do in the matter of breeches for poor Ben-

"Haven't you any cloth at all in the house?" asked sister Julia Scott -"no old thing you could make over -no nothing.' "No; nothing but that jeans in the

when he picked it up, found it to be a | loom, and I have no time to weave.' "Now, Maggie, just think," persisted Ben's sympathizing Aunt Julia, ered it his native sense told him it | "haven't you any old bag that we

"Why, we bought a new sack of gold. He had some business with coffee when the men were coming to Mr. Walker, and while in his office fix the dam. The coffee sack is double, and the inside sack is pretty "Get it," said Aunt Julia, "and I'll

> make it do somehow." That night, when bushing and hon-

est-hearted Benny came home from school, he was told that he would Mr. Walker gave the coin a careful have a new pair of pants in the The next morning Ben put them on

the great financier. "What will you, While his mother was putting up give me for it?" he asked. I'll give his dinner for him to carry to school, \$1," was the reply. "And I'll give Ben sidled up to her, and, with tears

here's your money," was the quick "Mother, I can't wear these breeches answer. The buyer left the office with to school. All the boys and girls will

off to a man that buys coins, the voiced mother, kindly hiding a purchaser exhibited the piece. The motherly sympathy that was pain-"What will you take for it?" "What "Never mind. Let'em laugh if

The state department received a dispatch coin for \$30. If it be true that it is announcing the death at Kingston, Jamaica, as represented a genuine Confederate of J. Harvey Bingham. He was consul at dollar, it is worth \$650. I am told Paso del Norte, Mex., at the time of the Cutthat there are only six of these coins ting incident, and was subsequently promoted to Kingston.

#### HOW IT HAPPENED.

I got to thinkin' of her, both her parents riving at an idea of the enormous dead and gone, energy of the sun is by measuring the And all her sisters married off, and none but but her and John amount of heat which his rays are A-livin' all alone there in that lonesome sort capable of generating; and further, And him a blamed old bachelor, confirmder by our knowledge of the relation every day. I'd known 'em all from children, and their dadwhich exists between heat and medy from the time chanical work, we are able at once to He settled in the neighborhood and hadn't Er dollar, when he married, for to start So I got to thinkin' of her, both her parents I got to thinkin' of her and a-wondern what That all her sisters kep' a gittin married one And her without no chances, and the best girl of the pack, An old maid, with her hands, you might say,

tied behind her back!

Evaline and John

jes' take on-

And jes' declare to goodness 'at the young the fever and managing the troublemen must be bli some splints. He was the worst boy To see what a wife they'd git if they got in the school. I don't mind admitting to you now that I was contem-I got to thinkin' of her; in my great affliction plating expelling him from our mem-Was sich a comfort to us, and so kind and neighborly; She'd come and leave her housework fer to chap," admitted Mr. Palev. "But he'p out little Jane. And talk of her own mother 'at she'd never his aunts spoiled him. He never had any bringing up to speak of." see again:

And mother, too, before she died, she used to

When none of 'em was left, you know, but

Maybe sometimes cry together, though, for the most part, she Would have the child so reconciled, and hapby like, 'at we

Felt lonesomer'n ever; she'd put her bonnet And say she'd railly haf to be a-gittin back

I got to thinkin' of her, as I say; and more I'd think of her dependence, and the burdens 't she bore: Her parents both abein' dead, and all her sisters gone And married off, and her a livin' there alone with John:

You might say jes' a toilin' and a-slavin' out For a man 'at hadn't pride enough to get hisself a wife. Less some one married Evaline and packed her off some day; So I got to thinkin' of her, and it happened ter came in, carrying a student-lamp, that a-way. which she had just filled and trimmed

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

# HIS STEPMOTHER.

"Hush, Doras! is that rain? sounds as if some genii were dashing pails of water against the casements.' "It's rain, Guy. The equinoctial storm, you know."

"And that dreary moaning down the chimney—is it wind?"

The boy shivered a little, and drew the bedclothes up around his chin. The red flames from the blazing log on the hearth danced up and down don't believe I should be alive now it like a magic lantern; the shaded lamp | it wasn't for her." burned steadily on the table. Dorcas Wynter stitched quietly away at her sewing without looking up.

"It must be an awful tempest, that you did at tealast night cannot Dorcas," uttered the lad, as a fresh call himself an invalid any longer. gust of wind seemed to shake the octagonal tower to its very founda-

"It is, Guy. I heard old Capt Lake say that the tide had not been so Mrs. Paley one of these days and—" high since the year the Royal Victoria was wrecked off Paine Point."

"It is better to be here, even with a broken leg," said Guy Paley, slightly I've got to say is—" lifting his evebrows, "than out at sea in such a blow as this!"

"A good deal better, Guy." Dorcas, that it's better to go for a head and bones around the place any thing in an honest, straightforward | time." way, than to try to reach it by sneaking. But I always supposed it was a easiest chair in the library, reading a fine thing to run away to sea, or else I shouldn't have tried the get-out of- the door opened, and his father came the-window by-midnight dodge, and in.

broken my leg. I'm wiser now!" Dorcas smiled at him with melting and movement struck the boy. hazel eyes and rose-red lips, revealing

a line of pearls. "Poor Guy!" said she. "It was a hard lesson, wasn't it?"

"I think I need it, Dorcas. If ever there was a thorough-paced young ruffian it was I!" groaned the boy "But, you see, nobody ever talked | Mr. Paley laughing. to me. Scoldings without end I got, I grant you, but no one tolhed common-sense to me before. You are the only one who seemed to think me worth reasoning with; and you shall see, Dorcas that, I am worth the trouble. Once I'm up from this scrape I'll tackle my lessons in real pleased, my boy, and Dorcas says berg knows by former experiences earnest, and try to do something she will always love you as if you that any suggestion he might give better. And I say, Dorcas.—"

"Yes, Guy?" "You're the prettiest girl I ever

"Nonsense, Guy." "Oh, but you are! and the sweetest and most sensible. I can't think how

you ever came to be a housemaid in a place like this. Dorcas colored a little. "Shall I tell you, Guy? I came as governess to the primary department, but I had no discipline, they told me. The younger boys did exactly as they pleased. I've always thought that Mrs. Vall. who suc- into silence.

ceeded to the position, had somemy management that reached Dr. | him. Delfer's ears. But that can't be proved, neither can it be helped. I under the housekeeper to mend linen, | say so, and-' care for occasional cases in the infirmary, and make myself generally dropped on his shoulder.

"I knew you were a lady!" exultantly cried the boy. "I could see it in your face."

"I would rather you would call me alive who is worthy of him. And I a true woman, Guy, than a lady," suppose people would say six years said Dorcas, moving the lamp a few was too much difference in our ages. inches farther back, so that the light although how they're to get over the would not shine in Guy's eyes. "But I say, Dorcas, how old are I don't know" he added, with a forced

"Rather young, I am afraid, Guy Paley learned his first lesson in self-—only nineteen. "And I am fourteen, Dorcas. Will you wait seven years for me?"

"I shall be twenty-one then, and my own master," eagerly added the boy; "and I'll work like a slave to get a good profession, and if you will Dorcas. "Guy is a strange boy-a marry me, Dorcas, I'll make the best | noble nature. I am not sure, Horace,"

I'm desperately in love with you, that I am.

"Yes, of course I love you; but not

bit more than I do Cecil Parker or

"Well, a trifle more perhaps, be-

cause I've had all the care of you

these four weeks, and you've really

"We're engaged, all the same,"

"It's a bargain. And now you may

"Yes, Mr. Paley," said Dr. Delfer,

with a nod of his spectacled brows,

"that wild boy of yours is a different

And the infirmary nurse has done it

brought a few presents for her-a

warm shawl, a silver snuff-box and a

"She-I don't think she takes

The door opened and Dorcas Wyn-

Dr. Paley dropped the silver snuff

"I beg your pardon, I am sure!"

And when the doctor suggested

that the nurse had better accompany

"Nurse, indeed!" said Miss Sophro-

young Guy on the journey home she

and bright before," he thought.

other, and the coast will be clear."

suffocating sensation in his throat.

den path with a bunch of searlet hol-

are as false as the serpent woman!

stant, though his voice was choked

There was an instant's silence, and

"Well, so let it be. My father is a

trump, and you are the only woman

laugh. And then and there Guy

"I have just seen Guy," she said.

"Yes, I think he is," hesitated

"Dorcas," he cried, "Dorcas, you

"About my engagement."

"About what. sir?"

"Your what, father?"

ly-berries in her hand.

You beau-

Guy said bravely:

abnegation.

promised husband stood.

"Isn't he pleased?"

assented without remonstrance.

Dr. Delfer gasped a little.

"Yes-but there she is now."

behaved very decently, but-'

ittle Frankie Gaines.'

"I won't, Guy."

get me my gruel."

derful.

black stuff gown."

snuff!" said he feebly.

box in astonishment.

stammered he.

ing!"

"All these nurses do."

"Doreas!"

eyes, "that I would have married you if I could not always have had Dorcas burst into laughter. Guy with me." "Guy," she said, "what a child you

"And my true wife will be Guy's true mother!" said Mr. Paley, draw-"But you do love me, don't you?"

### The Wedding Present Nuisance.

ing Dorcas tenderly to his side.

The most expensive evil which socalled "society" has latterly inflicted upon us is that of giving wedding presents. Like death, it has all seasons for its own, and, bowing to the dread monarch, we are compelled "to give up and weep."

said Guy, with a deep sigh of relief; As with every other useful and pretty custom, "shoddy" has laid its vandal touch upon it, and the hard earned dollar of many a bread winner, instead of purchasing presents for proper persons and at the proper all. Not to mention the credit the time, or flowing into the legitimate doctor gives her for keeping down channel of household needs is extravagantly expended upon trashy brica-brac or useless ornaments.

It is universally acknowledged as a great and crying evil and yet no one has the courage to put his foot down and refuse tribute to this social high-

"Guy always was a wild sort of wayman. Our rabbis, says the Hebrew Standard, have kindly given us signs "But this illness seems to have whereby to recognize approaching Messianic times, but with all due defexerted a wonderful influence over his erence to their prophetic discernmoral nature." added Dr. Delfer. ment we can only consistently hail 'And I really think Dorcas has done the advent of the millenium, when init all. Her influence has been wonvitations to weddings will bear upon their face, in large, cold type, the welcome legand, "No presents re-"She deserves a greae deal of credit I am sure, said Mr. Paley. "I should

like to see her and thank her. I've ceived." Then we can have the inward assurance that we are invited for our own personal worth, and not for the value of our gifts; then the ghosts of departed checks will not appear at the wedding feast and taunt us with our servility to fashion; then, when the bride sweetly thanks us for our lemonade set, conscience will not ask us whether she is guying us or not; then, when at the request of Mrs. Katzenstein, we look at Rachel's presents on the second floor, no faraway look will haunt ours eyes, no weary smile freeze upon our lips, as our better half silently nudges us or presses her No. 5 gaiters on our favorite corn, while we count seven other lemonade sets of exactly the same pattern, evidently purchased from the same store, minus only the \$4.98 tax.

nia Paley, a guant high-featured Hail the happy day of deliverance damsel of fifty. "As if a pretty simfrom this Egyptian social bondage! pering chit of a thing like that could Hail the noble, patriotic deliverer. understand anything about nurswhether his name be Obermeyer or Gansemeyer, Cohen or Isaacs, who praises; heavy-hearted, light-pursed

"She does, though," said Guy. "She's a brick, Aunt Soph. And I will set the noble example; families by the wholesale shall sing thy "You are quite well enough by this husbands shall call thee blessed, and time to dispense with services," said thy name shall be known at the Miss Sophronia. "A boy that eats gates through Israel's countless genthe quantity of muffins and plum-jam erations! Selah! In former days, when diamonds were

worn by those only who could afford to indulge in expensive luxuries, when She has been here a month, and-" our daughters were easily initiated "But she's not to go away for all that, Aunt Soph," said Guy, who into the useful mysteries of "The Ancient and Honorable Order of the was devouring roasted chestnuts like a dragon. "Ask papa. She's to be Darning Needle and Scrubbing Brush," when our wives bent their en-"Mrs. Paley!" Aunt Sophronia ergies toward making our homes pleasant, domestic and Jewish, in turned green and yellow. "It's come to that, then, has it? Well I've susstead of centres of scandal and gossip, pected it this some time. And all when our mothers (God bless them!) used to say their prayers and go to "Seven years from now," said Guy, "school" instead of attending kaffeewith his mouth full of chestnuts, "I klatches and betting on "bobtail flushes"-then wedding presents were shall be twenty-one, and she will be "Not that I am a coward, Dorcas!" twenty-six. Not enough difference timely, and the gifts were confined to eried the boy. "There are worse to signify. And," he uttered with a such articles only as were useful, serthings than a storm at sea, and I grin, as his aunt flounced wrathfully viceable and necessary. Spoons from have an instinct that I shall be a out of the room, "you'll get your one, tables, bureaus, pots and pans sailor yet; But this sickness has walking ticket, old lady, when I'm from another, were the "costly, magtaught me, this sickness and you, married! I'd as soon have a death's nificent and expensive" presents which the happy pair received. They were aids to housekeeping, and only He was sitting curled up in the intended as such; they were presented in a spirit of affection; they were rebook, half an hour afterwards, when ceived with grateful thanks. Nowadays society clutches everybody by the throat, and regardless of their Something in the paternal glance inclination wrings their hard-earned drachmas from their pockets by an "I never saw father look so young imposition diaphanous yet vile.

There is one thing certain that, "Something must have pleased him with the exception of near and dear very much. Perhaps aunt Soph is relatives, everybody in giving a wedgoing to marry some old fogy or ding present wants to make the biggest possible show for the smallest "So you knew about it, Guy?" said of money, and the rabbinical maxim. "Examine not the pitcher, but its contents," is often reversed, for the satin-lined, plush-covered box some-The book fell with a crash to the times costs more than its plated con-

"What shall we send," asks Mrs. "At least you told Aunt Sophronia Silberberg of her husband, "and how about it. Well, I'm glad you are much shall we spend?" Mr. Silberwere her own son. As a general would only be poohpoohed, that any thing, I don't approve of stepmoth- offer he might make to "buy someers, but you and Dorcas love each thing down town" would be speedily other so dearly that— Why, Guy, ruled out, for Mrs. S. does not bewhat is the matter?" for the boy had lieve in the metzeeas you get in the rushed out of the room with an odd wholesale houses down town, so he meekly sighs and says: "Anything He met Dorcas coming up the garyou please, my dear, only don't spend too much money, for I cannot afford it." Mrs. S. looks over her unused presents to see if she can spare anything, but finding them all too good goes from shop to shop trying to She comprehended him in an in- collect something, and after a day's tramp and an outlay of \$2 for car fares and lunch for herself and \star ter-She flung away the scarlet cluster in-law, buys a half-dozen cups and thing to do about the bad reports of and put her arms tenderly about saucers for \$2.99 and a plush box for \$7 for a wedding present; a cloak for "Dear Guy," she whispered, "I love the baby for \$12, half-dozen hose for him; but if you are unwilling-if it Silberberg for \$1.50, and a tovely was alone here and friendless, and takes away any of the home feeling bonnet for herself for only \$18. "You was glad to accept a vacant position for you, it only remains for you to know we have to be economical," she 'says, "and I guess our present will Her voice died away, her head make as good a show as any one

Why don't people permit the printers to make a truthful "typographammatical" error by printing: "Your presents is cordially solic-

## Weather Prophets.

From the Toronto Mail.

ited," &c.?

fifteen years between you and father The prediction that the present summer would be a cooler one was on the verge of verification when the hot spell set in. Now the scientist say it is going to be terribly hot, and Dorcas picked up her holly berries they give as their reason the theory and went into the library, where her that heat follows the practice of hard times and comes at regular intervals. The summer of 1867, 1874, and 1881 were unusually warm, and if excessive heat really presents itself every seven vears 1888 should be a scorcher. It is wonderful how easy it is to argue husband that ever was to you, for she added, with a dimness in her in favor of any kind of weather.