WHO DID IT?

Who tracked the mud across the floor—
And through the hall, and up the stairs?
And left it clinging to the chair?
Whose finger prints deface the door?

Whose crumbs beneath the table lie?
Who smeared the butter on the china?
Who spilled the gravy, slopped the bread,
And dropped a pickle in the pie?

Who pulled the curtain with a jerk,
And left it hanging all askew,
And broke the chord?—'twas nearly new.
I wonder if 'twas mother's work?

Whose knife is this, with handle stained,
And open blade with rust so marred?
'Twas found this morning in the yard.
Upon the grass—last night it rained.

Just now I slipped and nearly fell—
A marble rolled a rod or more,
And then I crushed an apple-core—
Whose was it, mother? Can you tell?

Face downward on a slab, a book
Lies open, leaves dog-eared and thumbed,
And near, a handkerchief, begummed
And stiff with taffy—only look!

Upon a door knob hangs a hat—
'Tis passing strange it hangs at all;
And in the corner is a ball,
And on the sofa rests a bat.

I missed the hammer yesterday;
The hatchet vanished long ago;
All winter underneath the snow,
Behind the house, the shovel lay.

Are things bewitched? Do gnomes hide
Within my closets and my drawers,
And skulk behind the chamber doors,
And through the darkened attics glide?

I often go from room to room,
And sweep the floating cobwebs down,
And wonder when the spiders brown
Departed with their dainty loom.

But then—who knows?—those films so fine
May once have lain upon my shelf
Beneath the little bowl of delf;
'Twas there I used to keep my twine.

The tiny tacks I lost last spring—
A paper full, with polished heads
As black as jet and round as beads,
But deader than a mummied king—

What do you think they did to-day?
My sugar-bucket's sides they stormed,
And the sugar fairly swarmed—
Who turned tacks into ants, tell me, pray?

The elves are in the house, 'tis clear;
I'd like to catch that one who took
The clothes-brush down from off the hook
And left it on the etagere.

Who was it, little Johnny Bell?
Why do you stand so shame-faced there,
And blush from chin to forehead fair?
I think you know the culprit well.

A STRANGE STORY OF A LIGHT.

No one ever thought of doubting Father Marshal's word, and when he told us this story, one chilly night last September, we believed it, and we still believe it, without pretending to understand it. This is the story.

When I was a boy,—began the old gentleman,—and was learning my trade in Belvidere, N. J., I lived with old Major L——. Belvidere was a queer little country village then, with very few good houses in it, and the Major lived in the best one. It was a large, square frame house, with a hall extending thro' the center, and two great barn-like rooms on each side. Over these second floor was an immense attic, the size of the house.

This attic, or garret, was my sleeping room. The bed was placed close against the old-fashioned chimney, which was in the center of the spacious chamber, and Sam, the other apprentice shared it with me.

One night we went to bed rather earlier than usual, and Sam being very tired (he was a year or two younger than I), was soon fast asleep. I was thinking of my mother and of home, and a feeling of homesickness made me wakeful; but after awhile I too fell into a sound sleep.

Towards midnight I had an unpleasant dream, and was so thoroughly aroused that it seemed as though I should never go to sleep again. I lay there with closed eyes, listening to the heavy breathing of my companion, when something—I don't know what—prompted me to open my eyes and look up. I did so, and there, directly above my breast, at a distance of about an arm's length, I saw a candle burning with a dim, blue light—burning steadily and clearly, but very faintly.

The candle was in a tall bronze candle-stick, unlike any I had ever seen used by the family. The bottom was square, and on each side were pieces of brass as bright as if they had just been polished. Near the top of the bronze column were two angels with brass wings, and between them was a shining shield.

Now, perhaps you will wonder how I can describe it so minutely. But wonder took the place of fear, and I gazed with curious eyes until the image was impressed faithfully upon my memory. I had never seen a candlestick anywhere that bore the slightest resemblance to this one.

At last it occurred to me that I might bring this mysterious light nearer to me by reaching up my hand, for it was only a little way from me; and I did so. But just as I was about to grasp it, it rose slowly and steadily, as if drawn by unseen fingers, an arm's length nearer the roof. I withdrew my hand, and watched the phantom candle for some time longer, and then determined to pursue my investigations.

I knew that by sitting up in bed and reaching up my hand I could touch the strange thing, if there was anything to touch, and immediately did so, but as before, the effect was futile. Again, it receded slowly an arm's length higher, this time almost reaching the beams. I fell back on my pillow discouraged and provoked, and a little bit—no, not frightened, but nervous.

This occurred on Tuesday night, and all the week I was very restless and troubled, so much so that the boys and men in the shop ridiculed me, and asked me if I hadn't broken away from my mother's apron-strings yet. I couldn't summon courage to tell them what was the matter, for I had been rather superstitiously reared, and regarded this strange light as a warning, and I could not bear to hear the notion ridiculed. Besides, I thought, as no one else saw it, it must have been intended for me alone, and for this reason I kept silent. I could scarcely wait for Saturday night to arrange was I to reach home and see if all were well.

Saturday, at sunset, I started on my walk home, having for company Sam and a young Irishman, both of whom lived in the village quite near my father's farm. It was a long walk, but we knew we could reach our homes by half-past nine, if we walked briskly, and home-sick boys are generally good walkers.

We soon left the little town of Belvidere behind us, and reached the river road, a romantic, pleasant highway in the day time, but gloomy enough at night.

There was no moon, and the sky was somewhat overcast; the dry leaves were blown hither and thither by the chilly autumn winds; the river looked dark and dangerous, and it seemed to me my mind being filled with dismal forebodings, that an evil spirit was walking with us.

We followed the road for about two hours, then turned into a narrow, hilly lane leading to the up-country. At the end of this lane, which was two miles long, stretched a long piece of woods, and by going through a portion of it we could shorten our walk a mile or more. There was a path through it, and we entered it with no misgivings, though Sam said encouragingly that a man was murdered there once and no one had ever found out who did the deed.

We walked rapidly, single file, I being ahead. If my companions, who talked together cheerfully, whistling a merry tune now and then, and joking me on my gloomy silence.

When about half through the woods I saw the flicker of a light in the trees, and bushes on my right hand. It was only a dim light, not much more than that made by a glow worm, but it awakened my curiosity, and I resolved to see what it was.

So I left the boys and started for the bushes where I thought it to be. When I reached the bushes where I thought it was, I could not see it, but just beyond about three yards, it appeared in a clump of young alders. Calling to my companions, who were now some distance behind me, that I would join them in a moment, I still pursued my way.

At that moment an impulse I could not resist (and for which I afterwards thanked God) prompted me to follow the mysterious light. On and on it led me around the bushes, over the fallen trees, past a clearing and through a marsh, until just as I reached an open road that I knew reached home, it disappeared.

Early next morning word came that a man had been murdered near the village. It was the young Irishman, Sam scented with an ugly wound.

Iowa Railroads.

The Clinton *Age* has the following in relation to Iowa railroads:

It is a curious fact the Chicago & Northwestern, the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, have entered into. It has been in existence several years, and as the public were given to understand, it was entered into to prevent the three roads from cutting each other's throats at competing points. At the time the arrangement was made, the competing points were Chicago, Council Bluffs and Omaha. It was understood that neither company should put itself in the position of competitor at any other point—that is, that neither road should acquire possession of any other line which traversed a locality reached by either of the others. But all the roads making up the pool have gradually receded from this portion of the contract, until the little city of Clinton is left almost the only point the C., R. I. & P. and the C., B. & Q. agree to keep away from. And judging from what the several pool roads have been and are doing, in the way of infringing on each other's territory, we conclude that it is only a question of a very short time, when the agreement as regards Clinton will be violated.

Purchasing by the Rock Island of the line of the Des Moines Valley road puts the former road in competition with the C., B. & Q. at Ottumwa and Keokuk.

The purchase of the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis road by the C. B. & Q. Co. makes the latter a competitor of the Rock Island road at Rock Island and Davenport.

The C. B. & Q. is extending its road from Knoxville to Des Moines—for which project Des Moines has just voted a tax—which extension puts the C., B. & Q. in competition with the Rock Island at Des Moines.

The Rock Island road has already extended its Washington branch to Knoxville, a competing point for both Rock Island and C., B. & Q. roads.

The Rock Island company has just completed a lease of the Des Moines & Ft. Dodge road, and the Gate City says: "We understand also that it is the purpose to form a connection with Sioux City," which if done on an independent line of its own, brings the Rock Island in competition with the Northwestern at Sioux City—one of the most important points on the Northwestern road.

Recently the Davenport and Northwestern road put on a train which connects at Dewitt for Chicago, thus making the Northwestern and Rock Island roads competitors at Davenport.

So it will be seen that the laws of trade and commerce are more potential than the written agreements of railroad companies.

The next break must be at Clinton. It is inevitable. It must come. We believe it is near at hand.

A Health Destroying Vapor

Is generated by the action of the sun's rays upon damp decaying vegetation, stagnant pools, and marshy, low lying tracts. The true nature of this miasma is by no means clearly understood, but there are two facts in relation to it that are. The first is, that the periodical fevers which it breeds are of the most virulent type; the second is, that these maladies are rarely cured although they may be ameliorated, by the ordinary remedies employed to overcome them. The true antidote to the effects of miasma is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. This medicine is one of the most popular remedies of an age of successful proprietary specifics, and is in immense demand wherever on this Continent fever and ague exists. A wine-glassful three times a day is the best possible preparative for encountering a malarious atmosphere, regulating the liver, and invigorating the stomach.

Dr. Jaques' German Worm Cakes stand unrivalled as a worm medicine. Give them a trial. Sold by all Druggists.

THE TERRIBLE SCOURGE.

Reports from the Infected Districts.

Relief for the Sufferers.

Oct. 1.—Number of new cases in New Orleans, 281; deaths 54. Canton, new cases 28, deaths 2. Memphis, 36 deaths. Vicksburg, 12 deaths; Bovina, a village of 75 inhabitants, 8 deaths. At Port Gibson the fever is spreading rapidly. Three cases reported in Cincinnati yesterday—refugees from the South. The Governor of Louisiana has proclaimed Wednesday, Oct. 9, as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, for deliverance from the scourge.

Oct. 2.—New Orleans, 186 new cases, and fifty six deaths reported. Memphis, forty two deaths; Holly Springs, seventeen new cases, and eleven deaths; Baton Rouge, eighty two new cases and five deaths. Delta, twenty one new cases and three deaths. Dry Grove, seven new cases and two deaths. Fever increasing at Plaquemine and Fort Hickey. In many parts it is spreading all through the country. The people are terror-stricken, and the panic is worse than that of a routed army.

Oct. 3.—Ten cases and six deaths reported at Hickman, Ky.; at Baton Rouge, 19 deaths and a large increase of new cases last night; at Thibodeaux, La., 16 cases, no deaths; at New Orleans, 141 new cases, and 11 deaths. Twenty-four physicians of the Howard medical corps report 138 new cases at Memphis. Indications of a light frost were seen at Memphis this morning. At Delta, La., 18 cases are reported and 8 deaths. Holly Springs, 30 new cases, and 9 deaths. A telegram from Memphis says reports from the country show a continued increase of yellow fever through Hinds county.

Oct. 4.—New cases at Memphis 129, deaths, 21; at Bay St. Louis, 17 new cases and 3 deaths. At Port Gibson the fever is spreading in the country; physicians are treating an even hundred cases out of town. At New Orleans the fever is increasing. The Board of Health at Lagrange report 22 deaths in 24 hours. 9 additional deaths are reported outside the corporation. A relief boat loaded with provisions departed from St. Louis on her mission of charity, Oct. 4th, with the God speed of thousands of that city and elsewhere. The sub-committee of the New Orleans relief committee made an appeal to the people of the United States for means to support the destitute with food. The committee state that they represent 30 organizations that have for years elevated themselves to good on earth to their fellow men. They have united in the common effort to behalf of the destitute, and will be pleased to receive and distribute all contributions.

October 5.—At New Orleans, eighty-five new cases have been reported, and fifty two deaths. Baton Rouge, eight deaths and eighty new cases daily for the last four days; in Memphis, twenty two physicians of the Howard Association report 1,5 new cases, the undertakers report thirty nine interments. Vicksburg, six deaths—fever greatly abated, and the new cases are few. Two deaths at Cairo, one reported to be yellow fever, and the other doubtful.

Oct. 7.—The report of the Board of Health in New Orleans, shows 50 deaths, and 182 new cases in the last 24 hours. The Board of Health of Memphis reports 36 deaths in 24 hours, and the undertakers 22 additional deaths occurring outside of the city limits. At Baton Rouge 111 new cases, and 11 deaths are reported. Many new cases, and many deaths are reported from the small towns. Two more deaths are reported at Cairo. Aid for the afflicted is still being contributed in the various cities and towns throughout the country. The Catholic Relief Association of New Orleans acknowledge the receipt of a munificent donation from Cardinal McCloskey, in the shape of a check for $5,000.

Crops in the United States.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—The following is the report of the condition of the crops for September, as made to the Department of Agriculture:

Oats—The condition of oats average 97 against 100 in August, 101 in July, and 103 in June. Last year the September average was 106, against 98 in August, and presented an exceptionally high condition. A preliminary average in June indicated an increase of 9 per cent. in the average. The yield will probably fully equal that of 1877, which amounted to over 400,000,000 bushels. The highest State average, 115, was in Connecticut, and the lowest, 76, in Texas.

Rye—Only six States, Vermont and Connecticut being the highest, 102. Alabama, West Virginia, Ohio and Minnesota report the condition of rye about 100. In Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Florida and Oregon the crop is an average one, while in the other States the figures range from 80 to 99. The condition for the country is much below that of last year, being 83 against 101.

Barley—Excessive rains have reduced the September condition from 98 last year to 95 in 1878. There is much complaint of discoloration of the grain. But two States report their condition above 100—Connecticut 110, and Indiana 101—and two at 100, Rhode Island and Ohio. Of the other States reporting Pennsylvania is the highest, 99, and Oregon the lowest, 84.

Fruit—All New England and the Pacific States report apples a full average, except Vermont, Texas and Ohio, which are also above the average, and all other states are below.

Stock Hogs—The number of stock hogs is about 4 per cent less than last year. An increase is noted in the New England, South Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific States; the Middle States show a small decrease, as well as all sections of the Mississippi Valley. In the inland Southern States the decline is almost a fourth.

It is said by a farmer, who has tried the experiment so often as to be sure of his ground, that buttermilk poured over a scurvy pig will entirely and speedily remove the scurf. The remedy is simple. Almost any farmer can boast of one or more scurvy pigs, and if buttermilk will cure it, it should not be spared.

For Gout, Dyspepsia, Bilious, Remittent and Intermittent Fevers, Diseases of the Blood, Liver, Kidneys and Bladder, Dr. Tutt's Pills have been wonderfully successful. These diseases are the result of vitiated Blood. As a Blood Purifier they have no equal.

The fiddler of the same town never plays well at their feasts, because he is too full to distinguish between the "Arkansas Traveler" and the "Dead March in Saul."

Two Noted Grave Robbers.

Our readers will remember the account given in these columns of the robbing of the graves of the Rev. Scott Harrison, in Ohio, last May, the body being found in the dissecting room of the Cincinnati Medical College. Public indignation justly burns hot against such a miscreant who will rob the graves of the dead. But there are two noted grave robbers in the country, so far from being the employees of the people's wrath, are universally lauded for their virtues. The reason is plain. While the former class steal the dead bodies of our loved ones to subject them to the dissecting knife, the latter only rob the graves to restore the living victims to our hearts and homes. Their names Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and Pleasant Purgative Pellets—are household words the world over. The Golden Medical Discovery cures consumption, in its early stages, and all throat, chest, and lung affections. Pleasant Purgative Pellets are the most valuable laxative and cathartic.

Soldiers' Home, Jeff. Barracks, Mo., June 30, 1876.

Messrs. J. A. C. Magnire:

While Chaplain in the U. S. Volunteer Army, in charge of the Soldiers' Home (having had the supervision of some 40 or 50 thousand men), I have given Magnire's Bedog Plant a thorough test, and found it a most efficacious remedy for Chills, Dysentery, Diarrhœa, Fever, and indeed for disease generally where purging is one of the symptoms. WM. DRAPER,

Chaplain U. S. Regl. Soldiers' Home.

A Cooling and Sparkling

Purgative. Hostetter's Stomach Apperient is warranted equal to the best in quantity and quality. It is cheaper and better than nauseating pills, or frothy nauseous medicine. It cleanses and tones the stomach and bowels, regulates the bodily regulator, the liver, operates favorably upon the kidneys, is cooling to fevers and delights the dyspeptic. After taking one dose of this mild and delightful Apperient no lady will do without it. For sale by L. H. Rust, Des Moines.

THE GREATEST BLESSING.

A simple, pure and harmless remedy, that cures every time, and prevents disease by keeping the blood pure, stomach regular, kidneys and liver active, is the greatest blessing ever conferred upon man. Hop Bitters is that remedy, and its properties are being blessed by thousands who have been saved and cured by it. Will you try it? See other columns.

Common colds neglected, are the cause of one half the deaths. Consumption locks in every cough, often using as masks, the ruddy cheek, quickened pulse, and sparkling eye, till it deeply plants its dreaded deadly seeds in the system. Every home should contain Hibert's Extract of Tar and Wild Cherry which prevents serious sickness if taken in time, and will surely cure Colds, Coughs, Croup, Catarrh, Consumption and all Bronchial complaints. Don't wait for sickness to come, but this day take home a bottle of Hibert's Extract of Tar and Wild Cherry for it may save the life of a loved one, where delay would be death. Sold by all druggists.

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The Celebrated
"Manhattan"
Wood Tag Plug
Tobacco.
THE PIONEERS TOBACCO WORKS
New York, Boston and Chicago.

Children have health and Mothers rest when Dr. Winchell's Teething Syrup is used. It produces natural sleep, regulates the bowels, cures dysentery and diarrhœa arising from teething or other causes. Sold by all Druggists at 25 cts. a bottle.

Females that are liable to suppression by taking cold, or irregular or painful Menstruations, should always keep Carter's Compound Extract of Smartweed on hand, and its use will convince them that it is Nature's Remedy in those complaints. Ask your druggist for it.

DR. WISHART'S PINE TREE TAR CORDIAL positively CURES consumption. Taken in time it will prevent it. All affections of the lungs are cured by this sovereign Remedy, which also eradicates dyspepsia, and kindred diseases. Sold by druggists. Depot, 916 Filbert street Philadelphia.

Uncle Sam's Nerve and Bone Liniment is for man and beast and is a balm for every wound. Sold by all Druggists.

Brain and Nerve Food.

"VITALIZED PHOSPHATES" have been largely used by the Medical Profession for the relief of General Debility, Loss of Nervous Power, Consumption, Scrofulous Diseases, Failure of Memory and Brain Power, whether caused by overwork, indiscretions or excesses, sleeplessness, nervousness and Difficult Teething of Children, and all Disorders of Debility. Within the years the Profession have used about 150,000 bottles with the very best results. For sale by all Druggists. F. CROSBY, No. 662 Sixth Av., New York.

"Economy is the road to wealth." Fifty cents worth of Uncle Sam's Harness Oil applied to your harness, will make your leather look like new and keep it soft and pliable.

KIDNEY'S LIVER MEDICINE for biliousness, Liver Complaint and Constipation. Sold by all druggists. Price 50 cents.

Thousands of dollars are now being saved every year by progressive farmers, who soon discover the great value of freely using Uncle Sam's Condition Powder in the feed of their stock; it restores the sick, increases the usefulness and beauty, and promotes the growth. Sold by all Druggists.

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A positive remedy for Dropsy and all diseases of the Kidneys, Bladder and Urinary Organs. Hunt's Remedy a purely vegetable and prepared expressly for the above disease. It has cured thousands. Every bottle warranted. Send to W. K. Clarke, Providence, R. I., for illustrated pamphlet. If your druggist doesn't have it, he will order it for you.
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KIDNEY INVESTIGATOR!

A Specific in the cure of all Diseases of the Kidneys, Bladder, Prostatic Portion of the Urinary Organs, Irritation of the Neck of the Bladder, Burning Urine, Bright's Disease, Gravel, Incontinence in all the Stages, Mucous Discharges, Night Emissions, Congestion of the Kidneys, Brick Dust Deposit, Diabetes, Inflammation of the Kidneys and Bladder, Dropsy in the Kidneys, A Cure Guaranteed, Pain in the region of the Bladder, Pain in the Back, Urinary Calculi, Renal Calculi, Renal Colic, Retention of Urine, Frequent Urination, Gravel in all its forms, leading to bones the water, particularly in persons advanced in life. The INVESTIGATOR removes the cause in all the above diseases, restores health and vigor and the effects of the excessive use of intoxicating liquor.

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