Ride out on the brave folly of any quest, But weariness, the restless shadow of rest, veringly upon the city broodsmay be, then, that those remembering And sleepless watchers on the crumblin

Shall lose the count of the disastrous hours.

Thich God may have grown tired of reckoning.

—Arthur Symons in Atheneum.

## THE POSTAL THIEF.

3 BY CHARLES B. LEWIS.

As a postoffice inspector I did not hear of the doings at Shelby until two or three of my fellow inspectors had tried their hands and made a failure of it. Then I took the case and failed most ignominiously of all because I added blunder to failure.

The postmaster was an old man named Harper, and for assistants he had his ther 15 years of age. Mr. Harper had held the office for 12 years when the complaints came in. The postoffice was I searched their room, and unfortunatean L of his residence, with a front added. The inspectors who preceded me had looked the ground over and left the more or less of the case, and as soon as case a mystery. Everybody said that Parper was honesty itself, and the idea that the girls would tamper with the over town that the two girls had been mails was not to be entertained.

The mail carrier was the first man to my identity being revealed and watched him for two weeks. There was opportunity during his eight mile drive to open the bags with a duplicate key, but I watched without result, except to be satisfied of his honesty. Then I made myself known to the postmaster and rereived a warm welcome. He was very much distressed about the thefts, and to the best of his knowledge and belief all had taken place in his office. There were only about 20 persons who rented boxes, and all other mail was put into the general delivery. As the father and his two daughters were the only ones handling the mail or having access to the interior of the office it seemed that one of the three must be the thief, and yet I could not bring myself to believe work outside unbeknown to the post-

I caused to be mailed to the patent medicine people a large number of letters, with a private number on each envelope. The first batch of ten came through all right, but out of the second two were missing. The whole ten had left Denton in the mail bag, as I well knew, and the two had either been taken en rente by the carrier or by some one after their arrival at Shelby. As the carrier had brought over two passengers in his cart that trip he might be sidered out of it. The mail had arrived at Shelby at 8 o'clock and been called for an hour later. Next day a batch of six letters came through all right, and so on the next, and on the third ten were received. I helped to distribute the mail and counted three letters and recorded the number. Father 5 o'clock three of these letters, together with two for a certain merchant, which I had particularly noticed, were missing and could not be found.

That evening, after the effice closed, we turned it upside down, as it were, but nothing came of it. The old postnaster was in the deepest despair, while his two daughters wept and sobbed over what they believed would be the ruin of all. As an inspector, and with such evidence before my eyes, it three guilty, and yet I had to reason that they wouldn't be idictic enough to purloin letters under my very nose. I simply didn't know what to think, and next morning was knocked off my feet to receive a complaint from Washington that three important letters posted at Shelby ten days before for a city only 100 miles away had been lost en route. I telegraphed for enlarged instructions, and upon receiving them I told Mr. Harper I must let go of the case temporarily for another. I shifted my quarters over to Denton, through which all mail to and from Shelby must pass, and made such arrangements with the postmaster that every letter was counted and its address taken. I mailed about 30 decoy letters in this time, and at the end of 14 days had the satisfaction of knowing that 11 different letters had somehow or other been made away with at Shelby. This was adding evidence to evidence, but I did not return to Shelby to lay the matter before the old post-

I went back there in the disguise of a farmer's hired man looking for work, and luckily for me no farmer wanted a man. I therefore loafed about the village and was in and out of the postoffice half a dozen times per day-always there when the mail departed or came in. By looking through the glass door of one of the boxes I could see the general delivery box, mail tables, etc., and carefully scrutinized the conduct of the three as they did their work. I kept up this espionage for a week before anything happened. Then the mail came in one afternoon while the father was temporarily absent, and the girls opened the bag and assorted it. As they picked up the letters each pocketed one with a sly look, and you may believe me when I tell you I turned away with a heavy heart. Instead of one thief there were two, and those the handsome and winsome daughters of an honest and upright old man. It would break his heart when be learned the truth, but I must tell him, and those girls must be punished.

I went to the hotel, threw off my dis-

guise and then returned to the posteffice. I somehow felt that the girls ought to look guilty, but they did not. They gave me a cordial greeting, hoped I had come back to stay until the mystery was thoroughly sifted, and no persons could have borne themselves more innocently. That night after the office was closed to the public I asked the father to my room and then went over the case with him. There could be no manner of doubt that a score or more of letters had been purloined from his office. There were three of them who had access to the mails. and one of the three must have some guilty knowledge of those letters. By no possibility could an outsider reach as gently as I could-told him what I

had seen in the afternoon and what was

For some time he argued that I must

be mistaken, but finally told me to go ahead and do my duty and never mind his feelings. He had been father and mother to those girls for years, and no word or act of theirs had ever before caused him a moment's uneasiness. If they had taken two letters, they had taken all the others, and he asked me to go to the house and confront them and extort a confession. Hard hearted as I thought myself, I hadn't the nerve to do that, but put it off till morning. He gave me his promise to say nothing overnight, and I was at the house soon after breakfast. I sat down with the girls and went over the case, as I had with him, hoping to break them down, but they had only anxiety on their faces as they listened. Then I boldly stated what I had seen on the previous day, and the shot told. Both blushed and stammered and began weeping, and I took it as a confession and told the father so. He couldn't speak to them for his emotion, and when I told him they story: must consider themselves under arrest we daughters, one being 19 and the and a search made of their rooms he simply bowed his head in acquiescence. I wanted to keep the girls below while ly for me I called in the village constable to sit with them. He had to be told he was at liberty he went out to spread the news. In an hour it was known all caught robbing the postoffice, and some of the excited people even went so far see to. I arrived on the ground without as to say that the father had probably winked at it.

My search revealed two letters from two different men in New York. They had been directed under other names, but the two girls had opened them. They had stolen these letters and forgot to destroy them. I went out and made inquiries, and then I discovered what s blunderer I was. Both girls were carrying on a clandestine correspondence, usasked them to confirm this theory they evening, if she could elude the vigidid so, but it was evident that in their lance of her mother and join me unseen. as bad a crime as robbing the mails. the pass key. The news had gone forth that they had been detected in purloining letters, and that. I was given the fullest opportu- two days in trying to explain matters execution. Although it was the middle be duly punished. Letters were also my head like a drink of wine. written stating that I must have been You may well reason that I was sumfor ten years, but that didn't count. If appeared to turn out the lights. I got a grain of comfort out of the situ-Shelby had just come in that day.

and daughter all knew this, and yet at my mind to go over to Shelby and have window, and within three feet of this again? window was the general delivery box. was my business to believe one of the of letters were lying there to be wrap- thin; so drawing close and snug like along to the delivery box and picked off strange occurred. the top letter and darted away. . In 15 magpie and the real thief, but I had neither to be seen nor heard. rained the reputation of a family before missed. The magpie belonged to a about the face and shoulders. all day, and there were times when only | where we crouched in terror, and one of public. With the usual cunning of her | when Victoire uttered a stifled shrick. other inspectors might have been put on | ly as it had opened. the case without solving the mystery. I ure in saying that after awhile the peopers entirely innocent and made ample | without a spoken syllable were filled

"Well, his grandpa gave him a gingerbread horse, and he is mad because it isn't a gingerbread wheel."-Detroit

Boy Versus Bee. Ole, my! Oh, me! He laughed in innocent, childish glee Before he sat down, but, oh, my, and, oh

He arose with a yell like a wild Cherokee!

Oh, my! Oh, me!

-New York Sunday Journal.

The Steps. Literary Aspirant-What steps are necessary when you want to get out a book? Borus (who has had some experience)— Several thousand steps will be necessary if it generally takes me. - Chicago Tribune.

> The Circumstances. "I love the ground you walk on!" This was the tale he told. They lived up by the Klondike, And the ground was full of gold.

> > Two Millions a Year

When people buy, try, and buy again, little hand held fast to mine. No matter it means they're satisfied. The people what threatened us, it was something, of the United States are now buying at least, to have gained this happiness; no possibility could an outsider reach them. With tears streaming down his of two million boxes a year and it will be my lips. furrowed cheeks he acknowledged that three million before New Year's. It my assertions and declarations were means merit proved, that Cascarets are the most delightful bowel regulator for every body the year round. All drughis daughters? Then I broke it to him anteed.

Who lived up in a tower He said: "I can prognosticate

With estimates correct, And when the skies I cont

I know what to expect.

When dark ning clouds obscure my sight,
I think perhaps 'twill rain,
And when the stars are shining bright

I know 'tis clear again."

And then abstractedly he scanned
The heavens hour by hour, Old Ptolemy Copernicus Flammarion McGower. -Carolyn Wells in St. Nicholas.

THAT SEDAN CHAIR. -"I repeat it," said Jacques d'Ebli-

gnac, with an emphasis se curious that all turned to look at him; "it gave me the fright of a lifetime."

"A sedan chair?" "Yes. Listen, if you would know all

about it." And he told us the following "A love tale," said be, "of the city of Lille, of my twentieth year, and my pastry cook's daughter, a mere child, but so pretty, so sweet, so adorably coquettish; moreover, so admirably skilled in all pertaining to her father's business. Nowhere else could I buy such cake, such buns, such sugared almonds And the stacks and stacks of rich con-

prove my devotion! "The fire of my love-which she returned between the smiles bestowed upon her father's customers - alone saved me from gastritis by consuming the heaviness of my stomach.

fections that I devoured each day to

"This was the state of things, when, one day, I chanced to find the pass key of 'le pere,' who spent half his time in the wineshop across the way and the other half gosa ping at his door with his equally idle neighbors.

"Determined to profit by this piece of luck, I managed to speak a word to Vicing fictitious names, and these were the toire, my little sweetheart, and to proletters I had seen them pocket. When I pose to her a visit to the theater that eyes clandestine letter writing was about | She could easily re-enter by means of

"Victoire was charmed with my inspiration, and six hours after I had conhow could I combat it? I spent the next ceived the project we had carried it into to the public, but found not one man or of the winter the night was superb, a woman who would believe me. Post- late rising moon, but thousands of briloffice inspectors didn't bring charges liant stars shining from every quarter and retract them, they reasoned, and a of the heavens. Victoire trembled like strong petition was drawn up and sent a leaf in the wind, but I was filled with to Washington asking that the culprits such burning ardor that it mounted to

"We were young, you see; the theabribed to act as I did and declaring that ter for us a scene of enchantment, in I was not a proper man for the service. love with each other and more than happy. Our hearts, like the strings of moned to report in Washington without some delicately tuned instrument, videlay and that my reception there was brated to the slightest touch. In fact, anything but flattering to me. I had we forgot everything but each other and lost my official head before saying 20 hever thought of moving when at last words. It was my first and only blunder the final curtain fell until the lampist

"Hurrying then to the street, we ation, it was when I heard that several found that the night had changed. The more complaints about lost letters at stars were gone, the moon hidden under a canopy of clouds, a cold, penetrating I left Washington with no particular rain beginning to fall and all the sedan aim, but on reaching Denton I made up chairs gone with the stars.

"No, I was wrong; one was left one more look around. I went back in standing by the roadside a little way my old role as hired man and entered below us. At sight of it a fatal idea that postoffice about half an hour after popped into my brain. It was not vet the mail had been distributed. Looking very late, and I had still so many beauthrough the glass door of a box, I saw | tiful things to say to Victoire. Why not one of the girls sewing and the other get into that chair, a refuge from the reading. Behind them was an open back chilly rain, and talk everything all over

"The clock at the corner was just In front of the window and only two striking 12 as we slipped into our movfeet away was the table on which the able apartment, rather cramped, to be mail packages were done up, and a score sure, but both of us were light and ped. I had just made out these things birds in a nest, we awaited the passing when a good sized bird, black in color, of the shower-cheerfully awaited it, alighted on the window sill, hopped too-when all at once something very

"The door of the house near which seconds the bird was back, and in the the chair was standing opened noisecourse of ten minutes I watched her lessly, as if hung on velvet, and two take away five letters. That bird was a men looked out, evidently desiring

"Assured of solitude and a clear solving the mystery. I at once made coast, they descended to the street, bearmyself known to the father, and we vis- ing in their arms a heavy burden. Just ited the back yard to search for the let- at that instant the moon slid from unters. There in an old dog kennel which der the clouds, and we distinctly saw had been tenantless for years we found that this burden was a human being them-every single one which had been | wrapped in a long cloak closely muffled

peighbor, and singularly enough she had "This was startling enough, but fancy never been caught at the trick. As it our horror when the bearers of this was summer the back window was open | strange load moved straight to the chair one person would be waiting on the them already had his hand on the door species the bird watched her chance, answered by a frightful oath, and quick taking letters from both the table and as a flash the men were gone as they the general delivery box, and a dozen | had come, and the door reclosed as soft-

"The whole thing had passed so quickbad that satisfaction, though I was not | ly that we might have believed it some reinstated, and I also take great pleas- fearful vision, only doubt was not possible—we had seen it—both of us had ple of Shelby came to believe the Har- distinctly seen the same thing, and amends for what had been said and with the same blood freezing thoughtmurder-a murder doubtless committed in this very house, from which the murderers were now seeking to carry away "What is little Dick bellowing and to conceal all traces of the crit with the victim's body.

> "'Oh, let us go, let us go!' moaned victoire tremblingly. 'Let us go at once, Jacques. I am so frightened!" "Go? Yes, I was willing enough, but how? For as Victoire spoke, two men emerged from the darkness around uswe could barely distinguish them, as the moon had gone behind a cloud again -caught up the chair and were bearing

us away into the dismal night. "This was a predicament. We were stupefied. What must we do? Cry out, and make a dreadful scandal? Betrav Victoire, and expose myself to the risk of discovery? Never! It was not to be thought of! It was not to be thought of! It was one of those times when trust it takes you as long to find a publisher as in chance was the only resource, hoping by blind confidence to propitiate her

> "Perhaps this was our case; perhaps, and I am inclined to think the latter, we were both so frightened that we had neither the strength nor the courage to attempt anything. Victoire had unconsciously thrown herself into my arms. Her warm breath fanned my cheek. Her

-were accomplices of the first two, and by a previous arrangement they had been engaged for the carrying off and concealing of the dead body. Deceived by our joint weight, they believed they

had it, and we, instead of the murdered victim, were hurrying away through the shadowy gloom.

"True, so we were, but where were we hurrying? Where were we heading, as the men trotted on with swift, untiring steps, at times almost a run? What were they going to do with us-their sinister burden?

tempted to cry out, to call to the sentinel, but fear for Victoire deterred me, Victoire, whose mother believed her slumbering sweetly under her little

white curtains. "What should I do? What could I do? I was rearly distracted.

"By this time we were clear of the suburbs, but still swept onward. Another lightening of the sky, and I saw ahead of us a glistening sheet of water, the river Deule. I knew it well—a deep, rapid stream, the running of whose current we even now could hear.

ing to fling us into this seething vortex. "This time I would have cried out, but Victoire, mad with fright, clung so tightly to my neck, clasping me with filled with eating sores; my tongue was such force that my voice died in my almost eaten away, so that for three throat, my eyes closed and the cry was months I was unable to taste any solid

"Undoubtedly the wretches were go-

"How long a time elapsed I never knew. I was brought back to consciousness by the chair striking the ground. They had set it down preparatory toyes, but where, where? Decidedly not finished eighteen bottles, I was cured in the river. It was a room, on the con- sound and well, my skin was without a trary, the dirty, grimy chamber of a blemish, and I have had no return of low country wineshop, where a crowd the disease. S.S.S.saved me from a life of rough, coarse men were drinking, of misery." S.S.S. (guaranteed purely swearing and rolling about a lot of vegetable) will cure any case of blood boxes, Larrels and packages, like mer- poison. Books on the disease

"'Mme. Jervaise, Mme. Jervaise!" they shouted in chorus, as our bearers Specific Co., set us down. 'Have you brought us Atlanta, Ga. Mme. Jervaise?"

"'She is here," the bearers replied. "'To work, to work, then! We have no time to lose.

"And the chair door was thrown open. "But scarcely had they caught sight of Victoire and me, crouching half dead in the bottom of the chair, when a wild stampede took place, a helter skelter rush for the outside. The lights were extinguished, the thud of feet was heard pounding away into the night, and then a deep, bloodcurdling stillness.

"We were alone in black darkness. of the door. To leap from the chair, No. 21-Fast Freight ..... 3:15 P M. seize Victoire's hand and make my way to it was the work of a second. The clouds had not deepened, the rain had seased, and by the purest miracle we found the road back to the city. By daylight we were safe at home.

"A fortnight later perhaps an article in a morning paper gave me the key to the mystery of that hideous night in which we (Victoire and I) had been so 1808, viz: strangely involved. The article announced the capture by the police of a band of smugglers who had installed themselves in an old, abandoned wineshop in the outskirts of Lille-a regular magazine, as it turned out, of contraband goods, which they had smuggled in and out of the city by means of a manikin representing a sick old woman, partly paralyzed, and which, muffled in wraps and placed in a sedan chair, they carried back and forth under the very nose of the gendarmes without the slightest fear of detection.

"'An invalid ordered by the doctor to take the steam baths,' they told the officers of the law, 'by name Mme. Jer-

"'Mme. Jervaise!' The name told me all and explained everything that hitherto had seemed mysterious and inexplicable in our midnight adventure. Happily for us ove nocturnal escapade had never been suspected, and Victoire and I escaped a summons to appear as witnesses before the court of assizes. All the same from that day to this the thought of a sedan chair gives me goose flesh down the spine."-From the French in Cincinnati Enquirer.

The Chrysanthemum.

When the plant was introduced, about 1840, it was only the small daisylike flower, now only seen as a rule in cottage gardens, which was highly prized as a novelty. The taste for growing and showing it began early, and before 1860 there were many chrysanthemum societies in existence, among them the Stoke Newington, which formed the nucleus of the National society. Yet it was not until 1859, when the plants suffered severly from early frosts, that there was any idea of growing it under glass. The Japanese variety was noticed in 1864 as a novelty, "very curious and interesting, but scarcely ornamental." How little did the author of these remarks suspect what a future was before the plant he so summarily set aside! Three years later, however, we find Japanese varieties recommended with pompom and incurved, and since then they

have ever increased in favor. The gorgeously colored, moplike blooms now exhibited every autumn would certainly astonish that writer of 30 years ago. The golden and bronze shades of the chrysanthemum suited the taste of the promoters of the "high art" sesthetic movement of a few years ago, west, 5th P. M.
He names the following witnesses to prove to bring this flower more forward and revived the culture of sunflowers, which were fast becoming extinct in our gardens.-Longman's Magazine.

Relations

"How are your relations with your

More Weight. Though much against the watered stock The honest farmer rails, He gives the thirsty steer a drink A mile this side the scales. -Detroit News.

Pink and Teller. Fillen-By the way, your wife has dis ontinued her pink teas. Follen-Well, yes. We've got a little pink tease at the house now that is occupy-

Try Grain-O! Try Grain-O!

Ask your grocer today to show you a

ing all her time. - Indianapolis Journal

package of Grain-O, the new food drink that takes the place of coffee. The children may drink it without injury as well as the adult. All who try it, like it. GRAIN-O has the rich seal brown of ECLIPSE and FAIRBANKS Mocha and Java, but it is made from pure grains, and the most delicate stomach receives it without distress, 1/2 the price of coffee. 15c and 25c per package. Sold by all grocers.

"Presently we saw that we were passing one of the city gates leading into the distant country. Again I was the system, to surely break forth in a wreck of the system.

Mr. Frank B. Martin, a prominent jeweler at 926 Pensylvania Ave., Washington, D.C., says: I was for a long time under treat

ment of two of the best physi-cians of this city, for a severe case of blood poison, but my condition grew worse all the while, notwithstanding the

food. My hair was coming out rapidly. and I was in a horrible fix. I had tried various treatments, and was nearly discouraged, when a friend recommended S.S.S. After ' had taken four bottles, I began to get better, and when I had and its treat-

NEW TIME CARD. EAST BOUND-CENTRAL TIME. No. 6-Local Passenger ..... 7:05 A M No. 2-Fast Mail......8:50 A M No. 4—Chicago Special......11:40 P M No. 28-Way Freight ..... 7:05 AM

Trains No. 2 and 4 stop only at Lexingon and Kearney between North Platte and Grand Island WEST BOUND-MOUNTAIN TIME. No. 5-Colorado Special ...... 6:10 A M No. 1-Limited ........... 4:20 P M No. 3-Fast Mail......11:50 A M 

N. B. OLDS, Agent.

### Legal Notices.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
Land Office at North Platte, Neb.,

Lock, of North Platte, Neb., and Thomas M. Lee, and Joseph M. Durbin, of Wellfleet, Neb. J25-9 JOHN F. HINMAN, Begister.

MASTER'S SALE. KEENE FIVE CENTS PAVINGS BANK

FORECLOSURE OF MORTGAGE,

Public notice is hereby given that in purtownship fifteen (15) north, and the north half (a ½) of section five, (5), township fourteen (14) north, all in range thirty-one (31) except twenty

At a County Court, held at the County Court Room, in and for said County, February 14, A.

[A true copy.]

tinuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz , Loren Sturges, Hans J. Hansen, William Siebold and Louis Peterson, all of North Platte,

in the matter of the Estate of George W. Dillard, Deceased.

It appearing by the petition of James M. Ray, Administrator of said Estate, filed this 21st day of wife's mother?"

"My relations are not with my wife's mother. They are with me and have been said Estate, and that it is necessary to sell the in all the controversies."-Cincinnati En- realty of said Estate, to-wit: Lot 5, in block 159, and lot 5, in block 149, all in North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska, it is ordered that all persons in fice in North Platte. Nebraska, on the 7th day of April, 1898, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of said day, to show cause why a license should not be granted said Administrator to sell so much of said realty as shall be necessary to pay the charges against said Estate. Notice thereof will be given by publication for four successive weeks prior to said day of hearing in the TRIBUNE, 2 legal newspaper published in our said county.

H. M. GRIMES, Judge.

D. M. HOGSETT

+ Contractor and Builder, +

AND AGENT FOR

WINDMILLS.

NORTH PLATTE, NEB.

Contagious Blood Poison has been appropriately called the curse of mankind. more virulent form, resulting in a total

fact that they charged me three hundred dollars.

P, A. White, · · · Vice-Pres't. Arthur McNamara, - Cashier. A general banking business transacted.

First National Bank,

NORTH PLATTE, NEB.

## F. J. BROEKER,

MERCHANT TAILOR.

- - \$50,000.

SURPLUS. - \$22,500.

Ready for the Spring trade with fine line of choice suitings.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

## DAVIS, THE HARDWARE MAN,

Exclusive agent for the

And the Celebrated

## ACORN STEEL RANGES.

The only big stove house in Lincoln County. Call and get prices.

Foley Block.

A.L. DAVIS

(Who no one owes.)

## A. F. STREITZ, Druggist.

DRUGS, MEDICINES, PAINTS \* OILS-

Painters' Supplies,

Window Glass, Machine Oils.

Diamanta Spectacles.

Deutsche Apotheke.

# C. F. IDDINGS, Ike nn February 19th, 1898. Notice is hereby given that the following-named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his ciaim, and that said proof will be made before Register and Receiver at North Platte, Neb., on March 25th, 1898, viz: LORENZO D. GEORGE, who made Homestead Entry No. 16094, for the lots 1 and 2, section 2, township 14 north, range 31 west, 6th P. M. He names the following witnesses to the section 2 township 14 north, range 31 west, 6th P. M.

## AND GRAIN

Order by telephone from Newton's Book Store.

N. McCABE, Proprietor.

J. E. BUSH, Manager North Platte Pharmacy.

Drugs and Druggists' Sundries.

We aim to handle the best grades of goods

All Prescriptions Carefully Filled by a Licensed Pharmacist.

Sell everything at reasonable prices, and

warrant all goods to be just as represented.

Orders from the country and along the line of the Union Pacific Railway is respectfully solicited. First door north of First National Bank.