SABBATH SCHOOL

MTERNATIONAL LESSON FOR DECEMBER 27, 1891.

Question-What message did the sisters ofazarus send to Jesus?

brother had not died.

Q.—What did Jesus reply?

A.—Thy brother shall rise again.
Q.—How did Jesus show His sympathy for the sisters?

A .- Jesus wept. Q .- How did He raise Lazarus from the A.-He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus,

come forth. And he that was dead came Q.-What did Jesus perdict concerning A .- And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,

will draw all men unto Me.
Q.—How did Jesus teach His disciples hundlity?

A.—He poured water into a basin and Washed the disciples' feet.
Q.—What assurance did Jesus give His

A .- In My Father's house is many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you. Q.-What did Jesus give as the test of friendship for Him?

A.—Ye are my friends, if ye do wnabso

ever f command you. Q.—What did He tell them about His de-A .- It is expedient for you that I go away: for it I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart I will send Him unto you.

Q.—How did Jesus begin His prayer?
A.—Father, the hour is come: glorify Thy
Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee.
Q.—What did He ask for His disciples? A.—Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me,

that they may be one, as we are. Q-Where did Jesus go after His prayer A .- He went forth with His disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into

which He entered Q.-Who guided His enemies to the place? and officers from the chief priests and Phar-isees, cometh thither with lauterns and torches and weapons.

Q .- What did the band do? A - fley took Jesus, and bound Him, and led Him away to Annas.

Q.—Wherlid Pilate say to the Jews after
be had exces.

A.—It in Him.

Q.—they all cry out when Pilate say all cry out when Pilate say all cry out when Pilate released Him?

with Him, away with Him, Thank did Pilate finally do?

Q .- What occurred on the third day after the death of Jesus?

A.—He rose from the dead.

Q .- To whom did the risen Saviour first appear?
A.—Se appeared first to Mary Magdaline,

Q.—What message did He give her?
A.—Go to My brethren, and say unto them,
I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God.

Q.—To whom did Jesus appear at the Sea of Tiberias?

A .- He showed Himself to seven of His disciples.
Q.-What direction did He give them?

A.— ast the not on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. Q .- What followed when they had done

A .- They took a great multitude of fishes

MRS. CLEVELAND ILL.

Indication That the Health of the Ex President's Wife is Shattered

LAKEWOOD, Dec. 17 -It is learned that Mrs Cleveland has not, as was hoped, derived real benefit from her stav here. She is, in fact, hardly so well as when she arrived ten days ago. A trained nurse is still on duty.

Mrs. Cleveland takes massages daily and lives exclusively on milk and wine. When she and her distinguished husband drive out, Mrs. Cleveland is muffled in furs, cloth leggings and wraps and her husband's strong right arm is at her back for support. She looks like a ghost; colorless, blue-lipped, bollow eyed, and with sunken cheeks

Not a soul is admitted to the cottage. Mr. Cleveland sits in the window all day long, except when he and Mrs. Cleveland are away for their brief outing. The baby, wrapped to the chin, and in her little carriage, is taken out each day by her nurse She seems very well, fresh

The temporary and other residents of this quiet little hamlet, have come to the conclusion that Baby Ruth Cleveland is as secure from prying eyes in the hands of her nurse as she would be in care of her accomplished mother. In confirmation of this belief this interesting story is going the rounds of the village.

The other day the nurse was pu-hing the perambulator about the sunny corner of the North Woods drive, near the Cleveland cottage, when a realous reporter of a New York newspaper, who had been lying in wait several days appeared with his Kodak charged. He was anxious for just such an opportunity to get a ; i tore of the baby. The reporter hastened long the drive, carefully concealing his camera under his overcoat. He took a roundabout way, and, as he faced the perambulator, snapped the

Baby Ruth's nurse, h wever, was on the alert, and saw the reporter advancing. She also detected the unnatural size of his coat on one side. and was supicious. Just as the camera was withdrawn from its hiding place, the pretty fur coveriet was thrown over the baby's face. The reporter was able to reproduce the coverlet and it is said to be a very fair pic-

Killed His Brother.

ROCKINGHAM, N. C., [Special.]—Snow Singletary was shot by his brother Lee, near Old Hundred, in this county on Sunday night. Snow did not live but a few moments, as the ball from his brother's 32 cal, pistol pierced his heart. The murder it seems, was unprovoked and no cause is assigned for the cold blooded act. The marder is about 22 years of age and is still at large. They are sons of Joe Sinclature a hard working and respectable colors man.

Bishop Galleher Dead NEW ORLEANS, LA -Bishop Galieber is dead. He was much loved by all who knew him. During the late war he was s brave soldier. His eloquent remarks at the city hall over the body of Jeffer son Davis will long be remembered.

DECEMBER DOINGS.

The Latest News From a Trio of

Interesting News Items From Many Points in Our Own and Neighboring States.

VIRGINIA.

E. E. Meredith is elected Congressman in the Eighth District to succeed Gen. Lee, deceased, with about the same majority as his predecessor.

A colored woman one hundred years and one day old was buried in Claremont

Robert E. Cocke and Miss Mary Scarce, of Danville, elope d across the Carolina line Thursday and were married at

The Grand Lodge of Masons, which convened Tuesday in Richmond, is meeting in the 113th annual convocation.

The State of Virginia owns about a million and a half acres of oyster lands. The question of managing these oyster beds so that they shall yield a proper revenue to the State is to be taken up by the Virginia Legislature now in session,

Gen. Scott Shipp, superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute, is making arrangements to build a memorial hall to Stonewall Jackson. The estimated cost of the building is \$40,000, \$10,000 of which, it is said, has been secured. The revival of some of John Randolph's

duelling exploits recalls to many Virginians the beauty of his famous plantation, Roanoke, which was situated near the confluence of the Roanoke and Staunton rivers. It contained 7,000 acres and was divided into quarters, each designated by a name of its own and managed by its own overseer. On a commanding eminence overlooking these smiling valleve and well-timed hills the mansion house reared its ample proportions. In June, 1846, by the provisions of Randolph's remarkable will, all the slaves were will contests, but the slaves at last ers. got their liberty and made their way to Mercer county, Ohio, where homes had been purchased for them.

NORTH CAROLINA. The new union passenger depot at

Raleigh is being finished. The cotton receipts at Raleigh (local) this season to date are 15,538 bales against 26,613 last season.

At Shore's Ferry on the Yadkin rive Thursday the wire broke, letting the boat and its cargo float down the river. The stream was swollen and the ferryman in his endeavor to save the men and team which were crossing over, sustained painiul and perhaps fatal injuries. Both arms were broken, besides being other-

News is received of a heart-stricken family at Ladford on the Rosnoke and Seaboard railroad. Ped Turner, an esteemed citizen, a son and daughter all died one morning of pneumonia and another child the following day. The wife and mother died a few days ago.

At Elizabethtown James Johnston, colored, was hanged in the presence of 3,000 people. Johnston committed a criminal assault on Florence Sutton, a colored girl ten years old, and then murdered her. He confessed the crime when arrested, but protested his innocence on the gallows.

The wood pulp mills at the falls of the Neuse have begun work. There has been expended on these mills, and on the new plant for the paper mills there, \$22,000. The company owning the property propropose to open very valuable and extensive granite quarries at that place, and to secure a branch railway from the Raleigh & Gaston, some three miles in length. The water power is very great. The turbine at the wood pulp mills is 350-horse

SOUTH CAROLINA.

A survey is being made by Major Lec. of the Eastern Barnwell and Western Railroad towards Walterboro, It is said that this road will be built A bill was introduced in the Legisla-

ture Thursday, to require railroad companies to furnish separate coaches for white and colored passengers. The America, U. S. lighthouse supply

steamer, touched at Charleston a few days ago, on her annual tour of South Atlantic lighthouses to which it carries the yearly susplies. The steamer has a capacity for 100,000 gallons of oil.

The total taxes for York county this year will amount to considerably more than \$100,000, and not more than \$25,000 has been collected up to this time.

The steamship Yemassee, which arrived at Charleston from N. Y. last week brought the first instalment of iron for the new West End Electric Railway Company. Crossties have been hauled to the corner of Spring and Ashley streets, and the work on the new line

The recent two days' communication, at Charleston, of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolica showed by the very large attendance that the Masonic spinit has a deep root in the entire State. The amount of business transacted in the two days' session was surprising, but the efficient officers had so systematically mapped out the line of work that there was so necessary delay. The next annual communication will be held in Charleston.

As the result of the confession of a negro named Henry Suber, to the effect that he murdered Thornton Nance some months ago, ten persons who had been senfenced to hang October 24th last, at Greenville, but whose execution was steyed by an appeal to the Supreme Court will now be released. Suber confessed that he alone committed the deed and that he makes a clean, breast of it. He does not want to see ten innocent men

suffer for his crime. OTHER STATES.

Florida is probably the best timbered State in the Union. Out of about 38. 000,000 acres, only some 3,000,000 are included in farms, the rest pineteentwentieths, exclusive of the area covered by lakes an rivers, being covered with heavy forests. Judge Ridley, of the Criminal Court,

of Nashville, Tenn., a few days ago discharged the grand jury because they had disregarded his instructions in regard to indictments. The Judge had instructed them to include in one indictment all parties charged with gambling, but they returned separate indictments against each, saving that the Attorney General ference. The result could not be learned.

had instructed them to do so. The Courterefused to receive the indictments. discharged the jury and refused to hear the Attorney General's explanation.

The great bridge in course of construction over the Mississippi river it Memphis, Tenn., is to be completed by May 1 of next year. Already a programme for a demonstration upon the formal opening of the bridge is being discussed, and the occasion will doubtless be made one of the most interesting in the history of the city.

An interesting little war story has Governor Jones, of Alacama, for its hero. At the time Gordon was Sherman's advance, resisting Jones, then a staff captain, was delivering a message from his chief, when he saw a little child, clad only in night clothes, hiding in terror behind a frame house in the direct tracks of the bullets from each army. Jones rode forward, took the child on his horse and galloped back with her to the Confederate line. When the Union forces saw the act they ceased firing, and there was an impromp tu cessation of hostilities until the child had been carried to a point of safety.

SUNBEAMS.

William Jackson, of Ellsworth, Me, h's lost six wives within the past 55 years, the last having died a few weeks since. It is stated that in 1890 the number of persons killed in India by snakes was 21,412, while the number of snakes slaughtered was 510,659.

The mandolin, banjo, and glee clubs of Harvard University will give public performances during a Western tour in the last week of the year.

It appears that Sir Edwin Arnold tickled the fancy, raised the pride, and touched the heart of the Bostonians by saying that they speak the English speech better than the people of any other American city.

At Santa Rosa, in the republic of Uruguay, 200,000 vine shoots were planted this year. Next year there will be twice as many planted. They grow luxuriantly and bear abundantly in that part of were freed. Even in those days there Uruguay, and are profitable to their own-

The Australian city of Melbourne which was founded less than 50 years ago, has already a population of nearly half a million, and stands fifth among the cities of the British empire. It is now a great shipping port, and its slum quarter is small.

It appears by the report of the treasurer of Yale College, which has just been published, that the gifts received by the college during the year covered by the report amounted to the large sum of \$343,395. The gifts ranged from \$100 to \$50,000.

In Atkens, Ga, a system of electric railway and a system of electric fire alarm have been established this year. In the coming year a new system of street paying and a new system of waterworks are to be established. The introduction of small factories of many kinds is to be encouraged there.

Judge Crisp's father and mother were members of a Savannah dramatic company in the days before the war, and the future Speaker, then a vouth, sometimes appeared on the stage in minor roles His brother, Henry Crisp, who died about ten years ago, was an actor of promise, and had at one time been connected with Jno. T. Ford's company in Baltimore. Judge Crisp is said to have had a fine stage presence, but however that may be he is certainly a prominent figure now on the national stage.

It is not very often that a preacher of national reputation is met at a published appointment by a congregation of one But that is what happened to the famous Parson Brownlow-the Swift of a provincial age and place. It was before the war, when he was about equally venomous against the Baptists and abolitionists. The fame of his controversy with both filled several States. Somehow, though, when he stepped into the pulpit of a Methodist church in Clarksville, Tenn., notoriously a Methodist town, he found himself with just one auditor. The sexton even had gone away after opening the doors and ringing the bell. The parson looked about him for a minute, then lifted his hands and said, "Let us pray." The prayer was long and fervent but nobody came. At the close of it the minister sang a hymn. Still there were no more listeners. Drawing a long breath the preacher said, "Sister, we will be dismissed," then repeated the benediction, grabbed his hat and overcoat, and took the next train home.

A CALL TO COTTON PLANTERS

To Meet and Consider the Reduction

MONTGOMERY, ALA., [Special.]—Commissioner Lane, of the Department of Agriculture, of Alabama, has issued a circular to every State Agricultural Commissioner in cotton growing States for the purpose of calling a convention of farmers of the cotton growing States, for the purpose of considering the expediency and practicability of decreasing the acreage of catton in the South.

"Being deeply impressed with the conviction that this demand is most imperative and action ought not to be delayed. I respectfully ask immediate consideration and through you, of colton growers, in reference to the subject and the urgent recessity of an early meeting for the purpose of discussing and, if possible, arriving at some conclusion that will accomplish the desired result."

He names the city of Montgomery Ala., as the most available place, and Wednesday, the 6th of January, 1892, as the time of the meeting of the conven-

THOMAS INTEREST HAS CONTROL

Of the Richmond Terminal and a Secret Meeting is Held Without Final Action.

NEW YORK CITY, [Special.]-A report was prevalent that the Thomas interest in Richmond Terminal Company had been steadily absorbing stock for some time, and that having acquired a controlling interest they had notified the parties now in control that they desired to call a meeting for a special election according to the by-laws of the company. This report was confirmed when it was learned that secret meeting had been held. and the meeting adjourned without action to meet again the following day, After the meetings Directors Thomas Wormser Moor and Motice held a con-

ALLIANCE -COLUMN.

Colonel Polk Interviewed About the Indianapolis Meeting.

Bill Seems to Work in Russia.

WASHINGTON, D. C .- The Post has the following interview with Col. Polk, on his return to the city from Indianapo-

Col. L. L. Polk was being congratulated at the National on his re-election to the Presidency of the National Farmers' Alliance at the late Indianapolis convention. "The partisan press, as usual, misrepresented our meeting," he said. "Was the Indianapolis meeting harmonious?"

"Thoroughly so; and it will be productive of vast benefit. There was no effort to carry the Order into any political party. The Ocala demands were indorsed unanimously by all of the thirtyfour States represented, and also by the delegates from the F. M. B. A. which practically merges it and the Alliance into one harmonions organization." "Is there to be no political action,

then next year." "Well, the meeting of February 22d will decide about that. It will be a grand convention, composed of twentyfive delegates at large for each order or organization represented, and one additional delegate for every 10.000 members of each order. The delegates at large will be selected by the organizations, but the others by a direct popular vote. The convention will probably be held at St.

Louis or Cincinnati. "I don't care to anticipate its action. but something of importance will come out of it. The old parties seem to be on the verge of coalescing. Read the editorials in the Democratic newspapers favoring the return of John Sherman to the Senate. Doesn't that look like coalition ? I suggest that the Democrats should nominate next year Cleveland and Harrison, and the Republicans Harrison and (leveland. In that way Wall street would be certain of compassing its ends,

SEEMS TO WORK IN RUSSIA.

The Charleston News and Courier has the following despatch from Washington. D. C.: Consul General Crawford, of St. Petersburg, has sent to the department of State a report on the system now in use in Russia (resembling certain plans incorporated in the platform of the Farmers' Alliance in this country) of making advances on farmers' grain stored in ware houses or delivered to officials of the railways of the country.

Mr. Crawford says the advances on grain may be made by any railway company on account of the Imperial Bank of Russia, authorized by the ministry of finance. They must not exceed 60 per cent, of the value of the grain at the nearest market place, except in cases of loans of six weeks or less, when an 80 per cent, advance may be obtained. The usual interest is 6 per cent., payable in advance with further small charges on account of a sinking fund and commissions to railroads. The loans range from six menths to one year, and if they are not repaid at their expiration the grain is sold at auction by the railroad company. Grain may also be sold if in danger of deterioration, or if it is feared that the value will not cover the loan and expenses of storage. The railroad companies bear the entire responsibility for the loan by the bank, and are required to meet their liabilities within seven days of settlement of a loan or auction sale of grain. In calculating the percentage of advance the cost of transportation to the point of destination is charged as part of the loan. No distinction is made between farmers and middlemen in making advances, the loan being made only on the grain.

In conclusion the consul general says: "This scheme went into effect June 14-26, 1888, and at the present day it is generally adopted throughout the country, and business is carried on under it on a very large scale. I should also add that the scheme gives great satisfaction to the farmers, very many of whom declare it has been an essential feature of successful farming in Russia."

The Alliance in Louisiana is doing as well as it can under the circumstances Its growth has been obstructed somewhat by unavoidable circumstancis, vet the brethren are in earnest, and are determined to place the Order on vantage ground in the near future. It is a difficult State to organize, and those who have stood in the front have had a hard struggle. Within the past year a State organ, The Vidette, has been started, and a most excellent paper it is, which will doubtless aid materially in the prosecution of the work of reform. The Alliance in this State are fighting the lottery swindle. and as a result are meeting with all the opposition that a moneyed corporation can bring to bear. It is expected that the Order will succeed, which will place it on a high road to permanent pros-

That was a very good answer given a gentleman by ex President Elias Carr, of N. when the man remarked that such legislation as the Aliance proposed would make him get only 80 cents for a dollar. Bro. Carr said that wouldn't be as bad as dollar for products of the farm.

men held at Dammen, Norway, resolutions were passed, demanding that the government should buy the land of the * * * * * * There are 12,000,000 workmen in this

At a mass-meeting of 20,000 working.

Four hours' daily work is sufficient to support any person if social conditions are just .- Benjamim Franklin.

country adding to its wealth at the rate

of \$7 per day, but they get less than \$1

of Labor Journal.

Virginia, "Mother of Presidents," is mother as well of Speakers of the National House of Reresentatives. since she has furnished as many sons for that honor as have New York, Ohio, Maine and New Jersey combined. For thirty-nine out of one hundred and two years the Speaker's chair has been filled by either a Virginian or a Kentuckian.

FLORIDA'S TRAGEDY.

A Whole Family Was Exterminated.

Something Like the Sub-Treasury Defenseless Women and Children Brutally Murdered by Ruthless Hands. Looking for the Fiends.

> JACKSONVILLE, FLA., [Special] -The latest developments in the horrible tragedy at New Smyrna, in which Mrs. L D. Hatch (formerly of Maine), her young son, Miss Adelaide H. Bruce, of New York, and Frank Packwood, Jr., sged four, only make the case more mysterious

> than ever. The scene of the murder is a beautiful and romantic spot, seven miles below Smyrna, or half way between Smyrna and Oak Hill. A grewsome fatality seems to have clung to it, for it was here that the Shives family-father, son, wife and baby-were murdered by the Indians in the war of 1856. The house where this later day murder was perpetrated is on the site of those ruins. It stands on a shell mound thirty feet above the Hillsboro river, and commands a magnificent view of the two graceful sweeps of that

WHERE THE DEED WAS DONE. On this mound are two houses; one hous: of two rooms was used for a dining room and kitchen. A house of the same size twenty steps away is where the deed was committed. These houses are shaded and surrounded by ancient cedars, fir trees, oaks, palmettos and palms, back or west of the house is a dense ham-

mock with a flat pine and beyond. Saturday at 10 o'clock in the morn ing, the murder was discovered and a hor ible picture it was. On her back by the window in a pool of blood, Mrs. Hatch lay with a pistol ball wound on the inside corner of her left eve. Her face was blackened with powder. The other hodies lay near hen. When the crash came she had evidently been near the window. When the murderer entered, her little son, frenzied with fright, had probably fled as a child would and had sought refuge in the bed clothes of a lounge at-the end of the room. He was torn from these, shot over the left eye and his throat cut from ear to ear.

THEIR AWFUL WORK COMPLETE. On the bed lay the body of Miss Bruce, shot through the face and her head terribly bruised by blows from a gun stock, the shattered remains of which showed the force of the murderous blows. She had been beaten all over the body. Nearby lay pretty Frank Packwood with his throat cet. Mr. Packwood had gone to Orlando,

in South Florida, the day before The murderers probably watched his de-A posse of one hundred armed men have been out since. Saturday morning,

but no trace of the murderers has vet been secured. It was first thought that the crime was the work of tramps, but this delusion was subsequently dispelled by finding a trail leading around the vard to the north and then through the hammock, south to the rend, a path that none could travel unless was familiar with the country. Mr. rackwood has suspicions, and will give them to the coroner's jury only, when it is expected that several arrests will be made.

FEDERATION OF LABOR.

Annual Meeting of The American Body For The First Time In The South.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., [Special.]-The annual meeting of the American Federation of Labor-the first ever held in the South-was called to order at 10 o'clock the m raing at Erswell's Hall by President Samuel Gompers. Nearly one hundred delegates from every part of the United States and Canada were in attendance. The meeting will occupy the en-

A fund has been raised by the local labor men and the merchants of the city for the entertainment of the visitors, and near the close of the conventiona grand banquet will be tondered to the deelgates at the Florence Hotel. The feature of the meeting will be a number of excursions given by radroads to mines, furnaces, and other industries | ia the vi-

The executive committee arrived here several days ago to audit the accounts and prepare the annual reports, which were submitted. One of the important matters that will come up will be the question of recognition of working cards b tween the Federati n of Lator and the Knights of Labor, as suggested by the latter. While there are no matters of paramount importance to come before the convention much work will be done. The morning addresses were made by Governor Thomas B. Jones on behalf of the State of Alabama, City-Attorney J. J. Banks on behalf of the city of Birmingham and Samuel R. Freeman on behalf of local labor organizations. President Gompers responded Organization was affected and the usual committees

were appointed. President Gompers, in his annual report, reviewed the growth of the organization. He set forth the history of the eight-hour movement which it had been proposed to put into effect by the miners on the first of last May, and expressed the farmer getting only fifty cents on the his chagrin at the failure of the movement. He impressed upon them the im portance of the movement, and cited many instances where it had been a local success. The president recommended the election of a delegate to visit the Trade Union Congress of Great Britain and the Trade Union Congress of Gercountry, distribute it among the laborers | many, to be held in 1892, and other laand advance them the money necessary bor organizations. He recommended ho'ding an International Labor Congre-s at Chicago September, 1892, or in May, 1893. He recommended the personal visitations of the representative of the American Federation to all parts of the world in order to insure representation Who gets the other \$6?-Knights at the Chicago convention. He opposed lunch, and partly by pleasurable anticipolitical action as a body, and urged national legislation making the first Monday in September, labor day, a legal holiday in the territories as it is in most of the States. The secretary's report showed that during the year 264 charters

The Anti Free Pass Law.

ten national unions.

were issued to unions in thirty States and

COLUMBIA, S. C.-The House has passed the anti-free pass hill, which was previously passed by the Senate prohibiting public officers from phaining free

THE KEY OF CHRISTMAS LAND. Who has the key of the Christinas Land?

In each group you meet

Where the bonfire shines, And the holly twines, Carollers sing-a merry band-

And stars are bright o'er that fair strand-Who has the key of Christmas Land? Light are the bearts in Christmas Land:

There are faces sweet. Bosoms young and guileless are there. And brows not yet wrinkled with care-Who has the key of Christmas Land?

Dear baby hearts in Christmas Land We want to be near. And join in your cheer When the tree with its strange fruit bends, And you wait for what Santa sends-Who has the key of Christmas Land?

Love has the key of Christmas Land. Oh come, Cherub Love, With wings like the dove, Spread over hearts thy light of peace, Sow for a harvest full of increase-

Open the gates of Christmas Land Open the gates of Christmas Land: There is much to do And the days are few. Bid all men set Charity free;

By thy grace, let us see there be

A MAD CHRISTMAS

-William Lule.

None of God's poor in Christmas Land.

BY E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM. If there is one thing more than another when a bachelor commences to doubt whether his state of single blessedness is the most desirable form of existence it is at Christmas time. The joys of the season are essentially domestic joys; and every one is either looking forward to convivist meetings with a circle of relations and friends or a happy reunion with his own family. At such a time a

middle-aged bachelor with no relations feels rather out of it. Now, although I must plead guilty to ten years of bachelorhood, I never was one of the misanthropical type. I was single (observe the past tense) not from principle, but merely from force of circumstances, and I was never addicted to shutting myself up with my books and a cat, and growling cynical remarks at the pleasure seeking world. On the contrary, I am of a somewhat jovial disposition, and was always fond of society. Christmas time I liked to spend at a jolly country house, and could turn my mind to charades, dancing, romping with the villagers or children, conjuring and many other accomplishments. In fact. may say with fine modesty that I once heard myself described by a country hostess as an "extremely useful sort of



WITH MY BACK TOWARD THE ENGINE. The idea of spending Christmas in any solitary rooms, with only my landlady and her domestic to talk to was a contingency which I had never contemplated for a moment; but last year I was very nearly brought face to face with it. I generally had at least two or three invitations to select from, and chose the one where I should be likely to meet the most interesting set of people; but on this occasion my usual invitations did got arrive. The Harwoods, with whom I had spent the Christmas before, had lost a child, and were in mourning; the Houldens were wintering at Nice (Mrs. Houlden was delicate) and at Houghton Grange both the girls were married, and the Christmas house parties were things of the

past. These were my stock invitation; and as I recollected others among my circle of acquaintances to whom something or other had happened since last year it slowly dawned upon me that if I desired to avoid a Christmas in London I had better make arrangements to remove myself either to a northern hydropathic establishment which I had occasionally honored with my presence. or to a Brighton hotel, where I was sure of falling in with some pleasant company. Just as I had arrived at this melancholy decision, however, a letter arrived which afforded me the greatest satisfaction. It was an invitation to spend a week or two with my old frien !. Fred Halleton, at his place in Leicastershire; and with the vivid recollection before me of a pleasant Christmas spent at Gaulby Hall some, three years ago, I lost no time in penning a cordial assent to the welcome invitation. A few days later beheld me, followed by a porter carrying my various impediments, on the platform of St. Pancras, prepared to had no experience in talking with lunamake my journey down to Leic the half-past three Manchester and Liv in my present position. Mrs. Hallaton erpool express. The Pullmen crowded with a pack of noisy schoolboys, so I eschewed it and selected an empty first-class carriage. I took possession of my favorite corner seat, with my back to the engine, and wrapping my leg round my knees and unfolding a newspaper glided away from the city of smoke in a remarkably good humor, partly inspired, no doubt, by a capital

pations of my forthcoming visit. Fred met me at Leitester station, and I saw with regret that he was looking pale and ill and much thinner than when I had seen him last. He seemed pleased to see me, however, and greeted me

During our drive to Gaulby I hazarded a few remarks, with a view to ascertaining what sort of a party there was collected at the Hall, but I got nothing de-Minite out of him. He was quite unlike his old self, and I came to the conclusion that he must be ill. As we drove up the avenue I leaned out the window to gaz at the fine old mansion, and it struck me at once as looking cold and uninviting, while the grounds were certainly very much reglected. Something seeme wrong all round, and I began to feel almost sorry I had come. We overtook Mrs. Hallston at the hall door, just returned from a walk. She was as gracious and as pleasant as she had ever been to me, but I far died that I could detect in her manner and appearance something

of the ill being which seemed to exist

around her. We all three effered together, and the moment we passed through the door I felt convinced that my expectations of a jolly Christmas party were doomed to disappointment. There were no decorations about, only one deleful looking servant and apparently nothing stirring. I felt sure something was wrong, but at any rate I consoled myself with the reflection that I had lost little by coming, as it had been a choice between here and the hotel. But, all the same, I did not feel particularly cheerful as I followed the doleful looking servant upstairs, along wide corridors, across passages, upstairs again, and then down a long corridor, until at last we reached my room in the

west wing. My surmises were correct. When I descended, after prolonged and careful toilette, my host was lounging about, in a shooting jacket and he and his wife were the only occupants of the room. I

was the only guest. "I've something very serious to say to you, Neillson," he said slowly (Neillson is my name). "I'm going to make a confidant of you, if I may, old man." I bowed my head and listened.

"You haven's noticed anything particular about my wife, I don't suppose, have you?" he asked, with a searching I admitted I had thought her strangely silent, and apparently having some

anxiety weighing upon her mind: He laughed, a short unpleasant laugh, and leaved over to me confidentially. "I rely upon your discretion, you know, Neillson. I wouldn't have it known for the world; but my wife is

mad." ad."
"Mad!" I stared at him incredulously "Yes, mad," he repeated impatiently. 'It was the sun in India last year that did the mischief. She would expose herself to it. The doctor whom I have consulted advised me to send her tos private asylum, but I haven't the heart to do it. She's perfectly harmless, you know; but, of course, it's an awful trial to me."

I stammered out an expression of sympathy. To tell the truth, I scarcely knew what to say. I was bewildered at this painful explanation of the gloom which reigned over the house. Presently Fred closed his eyes and left me to digest this strange and unwelcome piece of news. I am naturally somewhat selfish, and before very long my sympathy was diverted in some measure from my host to myself. It occurred to me that it was by no means a pleasant prospect to be guest in a house the mistress of which was mad. It was not altogether kind of Fred to invite me, I thought, under the circumstances, without some explanation of his wife's state. I began to feel quite ar injured man. I was quite tired of my own company, and Fred was fast asleep. So I opened the door softly and made my way down to the hall. As I passed an open door Mrs. Hallaton appeared and beckoned me in. I had no alternative but to obey her invitation.



"I'M GOING TO CHECK HER DOWN."

"Mr. Neillson," she said, in an agitated tone, "as you are going to stop. here for a day or two, there is something connected with this household which you ought to know. Has my husband told you anything?" I bowed and told her gravely that I

est sympathy. Perhaps you are surprised that I should ask whether Fred had told vou." she said, turning a little away from me. "It seems s'range, doesa't it, that one should be mad and be conscious of it? It only comes on in fits, and they are

knew all, and that she had my profound-

She shuddered, and so, to tell she truth, did I "Such a phase of madness is probably

not incurable," I ventured to suggest "Incurable! of course it is not incurable," she answered, vehemently. I edged a little toward the door. ties, and felt anything but comfortable creaked and swerved with my weight.

"Of course if you are frightenel, Mr. Neilison," she said a little contemptuously, "you can leave us whenever you please. These fits de not come on often, but they are anything but pleasant things to witness when they do come

was beginning to look very excited and

"I should imagine so," I assented, de- Hal atoo. voutly hoping a fit was not then pendadieu, and with a sigh of relief found myself once more in the heart I made full of visitors) the most entertaining and my way to Euglet's room, but he had agreeable I ever met. There was one gone to bed, and seeing it was nearly 11 young person especially—a Miss Alice o'cloc's, I decided to go to bei, and, Pratison she was then-with whom I got again the wide stairs and threated the one, nor a ride so much as one afternoon room. It was at the end of a wide cor- run, rode home together with her little

the man as he bade me good night.

He pointed to a door exactly oppos "That is the master's room, air," he replied; and the one at the bottom and is Mrs. Hallston's. No one else altered in this part of the later. in this part of the house. The servent

in this part of the house. The servents' rooms are all in the north wing."

I am generally able to alway at whatever hour I retire; but it was early, and the fire looked tempting; so, fasteed of immediately undressing, I changed my coat for a smoking jacket, and lighting a pipe, made myself comfortable in an easy chair. Soon I heard hire Hallaton's light footsteps ascend the stairs, and the door of her room open and close, and a little while afterward Fred halted outside my door to bid one a county good night, and these safered the storn open site.

How long I sat there I cannot tell for I fell into a heavy doze, and when I woke up with a sudden start it was with the unersy constitutions that something unusual had awakened me. I some a my feet and looked fearfully around. The flickering flames of my fire, almost burned out, were still sufficient to there me that, no one had entered the room; but while I stood there with strained senses I heard a sound which made me blood run cold within me; and, although I am no coward, I shivered with feel it was the half muffled shriek of a woman in agony, and it came from Mrs. Heliston

room. For a moment I was powerten to move; then I hastily unlooked my door, and, hurrying down the corridor, knocked at hers. There was so answer. I tried the handle; it was looked; but listening for a moment, I could hear the sound of a woman gasping for breath. I rushed back along the corndor to Fred's room. The door was closed, bu unlocked, and I threw it open,
"Fred!" I cried; but Fred was at there, nor had the led been slept of.
A candle was burning on the dress as table, and is the right hand corner at the room was what appeared to be a hole in the wall, but when I stool before it I saw at once that it was a

secret passage running parallel with the cornider. Looking down it, I could see a light at the other and, and known see h light at the other end, and knowling it must lead into Mrs. Hallation room, I caught up the candle and baseling almost double half ran, helf want along it, until I reached its start extremity and found myself in Mrs. Hallaton room. I stood uprigue and glanced half engerty, half feetfalls ground. The room was empty, but the window directly apposite to me was experwindew directly opposite to me was con-and as my eyes fell upon it I stood se-rified with a dull sickening horror, and the candle dropped with a crash from my nerveless flogers. There was miniature balcony outside the window, and on this stood Fred Hallaton, holdand on the stood Fred Hallaton, holding in an embrace, which was certainly not of love, the fainting form of the wife. The moon was shining follow his face, ghostly and demoniacal, with the raging fire of the madman in his eyes and the imbecile grin of the lunatic on his thin lips. In a moment the trath flashed upon me, and as I stood there graing and house strucks have a many gaping and horror struck he saw me and

burst into a fit of wild laughter. "Ha, ha, ha! You Neillson! What a joke! See what a glorious view of the grounds! Come and bend over, man; don't be afraid. Does the height make you dizzy? It's made her;" and he motioned to the insensible figure of his wife, whom he still held clasped in his arms. "Do you know what I am going to do with her? I'm going to chink her down there," and he pointed to the garden below. "A mail woman is of no use to anyone. Mome and lead me a head."

Mechanically I rushed to the b and strove to wrench from his encercia grasp the fainting form of his wife, The a flash his imbecile or in vanished to his ejes filled with a realignant further let go his grasp of his wife and sports at me like a tiger cat. It was he was that I wrestled with him. His arms were around me and held me as if I were in a vice. I tried to shout for help, but my tongus cleaved to the roof of my mouth, and a faint gurgliag visuall the sound I could command. Nearer and nearer we drew to the paragraph edge, until at last kcould see the laws. belc w, studded with flower beds like the pattern of some funcy wark, for Ganity Hall was built high, and we were on the



triumph as he slowly forced as beet

and then my struggling feet seemed to part with the earth, as with a wild rell "Leicester! Leicester!" I opened my eves and sat up with a start. The pap had slipped from my fingers, and the train was slowly steeming into Leicester station, and there, standing upon the platform, smiling and robust, looking

the very picture of health, was Fred That Christmas party at Gaulby Hall ing. Soon I managed to make my was the most enjoyable I was ever at, and the people (the house was cremmed preceded by a servant (I could never on remarkably well. I never enjoyed a have found the way myself), I mounted visit so much in my life as I did that numerous passages which led to my when Miss Pratison and I, after a capital. ridor, on other side of which were six hand in mine and our horses were close together. Next Christmas, if Allee

"Does any one sleep up here?" I asked | doesn't object, I mean to have a jolly little house party of my own.