A little page in castle hall
Fair faced, with golden hair,
Who waited his lady's lightest call
And stood at the baron's chair; Or sang, with silvery voice and sweet.

And chanted the evening prayer.

And life in the castle was bright and gay With chase ar I feast and dance, One hundred good knights held courtly play, And tilted with gleaming lance,-

When tidings came of invading foes, And war with haughty France.

Then rode the knights from the cast

gate
In glitter of martial pride,
Ready to meet the marriors' fate Or stand at the victor's side;
And within the walls, save page and serf
There were none, to shield or guide.

In the lady's bower was heard no song, All hearts were chill with dread;
The weary days, how sad and long!
Laughter and light were fled,
And when they chanted the evening prayer
They were thinking of their dead

Darker and deeper grew their woe As Christmas eve drew near;
For the baron's flercest, deadliest foe,
With many a flashing spear,
Rode up and clattered the castle gate

"Good thirty men behind me ride, The bravest in the land ; I come to break your baron's pride, And offer a mailed hand, Will ye be crushed in its iron grasp? Or tamed to my command

"Ye are but women few and lorn; Your frighted menials flee;— Ho, lady! vain thy lofty scorn. Bring down the castle key!
Come down and plead for leave to live,
Upon thy bended knee!"

Then stood she up before them all, That lady brave and true;
So ye besiege defenseless wall,
And war with women few? I will not yield my castle key,

The knight laughed loud in bitter hate "Fine words, my lady bold; To-night, before thy castle gate, We feast and revel hold,

When the matin bells of Christmaschim That night, within the lofty hall, Fair faces blanched with fear : Must we in vain for mercy call

Is there no succor hear?"
What prayers rose up that dear night
Broken with sob and tear. In the cold gray light of Christmas mo They wait the summons grim— What music on the air is borne,

Thrilling the silence dim?

It is the voice of the little page,
Singing a Christmas hymn!

"O Christ, upon whose natal morn When o'er the blue Judean hills Their heavenly anthems rang

"O Christ, to whom with gifts from far Came shepherd, sage and king,— Our choicest gifts on this glad morn, Our hearts, we humbly bring !

"Grant us to follow Thee in love, Nor from Thy path to stray, Thy blessed feet have gone before And glorified the way.

"We join the angel choirs that sing This happy morn again 'Glory to God the Lord most High, Good-will and peace to men!'

There were no faltering tones of fear In all-that joyous song;— The childish voice rang loud and clear The vaulted halls along,
And trembling ones who heard the strain Grew comforted and strong.

But soon below the castle wall Pealed out a trumpet blast, And hoarsely rose Sir Ronald's call:
"Thine hour hath come, at last!
Now yield me up thy castle key;
The respite time is past!"

The cruel words still filled the air When, with a valiant grace,
The little page sped down the stair
The dreaded foe to face.

The castle key gleamed in his belt.
As on he went apace.

Great shouts of taunting mockery came From the armed band below,
"Ha! fallen house and haughty dame End all your glories so !"
But Ronald shrank before the child,

As from a sudden blow; Then sternly spale: "There is no time For quip or parley now:
The matin bells have ceased to chime, And Ronald keeps his vow

Go tell thy haughty lady there Her doomed head to bow."

"My Lord," the voice was low and

clear,"One word to thee I bring; Not from a women white with fear, But from the Heavenly King,— A message which thou well mayest hear Before thou doest this thing !

"But if the holy Christmas hour Brings no kind thought to thee, My little life is in thy power, Set but my lady free, And I will bless thee c'en for death, Nor ask for liberty :

" Do with me as thou wilt, my lord,-Here is the castle key,— Yet give me first thy knightly word

To set my lady free! given me this trust

Spend all th

The knight bowed his haughty head Upon his mailed hand, He who before a fee ne'er fied, Nor failed in fight to stand. Sat faint and white before them all, Unanswering and unmanned!

Slowly stretched forth a kindly arm, The voice grew loud and mild;
E'en haste could find no power to harm
The faithful, dauntless child,
"Live on, my boy, to sing again
Thy praises undefiled!"

He stood before the wondering boy, And raised the massive key;
I give three Christmas cheers and joy
Life for thy friends and thee;
The lady hath her liberty,
Thy hand hath set her free!"

The maidens cowering in the hall Hear a loud trumpet blare, And thirty horsemen from the wall Ride off in order fair. The little page with the castle key Comes slowly up the stair.

That night, at chime of vesper bell, Pealed forth an anthem choice; But far above the organ's swell Rang out a childish voice:
My soul shall magnify the Lord,
My heart in him rejoice!"

## A CHRISTMAS CARD.

By William Allson

It was Christmas Day, and little Agnes was sitting at the window, watching the snowflakes as they fell, and wondering to herself where they came from, and what became of them after they had melted. As she watched them they fell into a sort of walking doze, which in its turn gave way to a sound sleep.

All of a sudden she heard what sound-

ed like a clap of thunder, the floor opened, and down she fell, right through the house, until she reached the kitchen.

But to her great surprise she was not hurt a bit, and soon began to look around her, when, to her intense astonishment, the lid of the pot in which the pudding was being cooked slowly rose, and-wonder of wonders the pudding itself walked out on to the floor.

He peered cautiously round, and see-

The sirloin at these words gave a great right hand, as befits your rank."

bottle jack that was spinning him round, The pudding jumped into the pot, the falling down with a splash into the sirloin hooked himself on to the bottleever, and going to the table took a large goose, and others scurried back into the bunch of horse-radish, which he placed ed it into a sort of cap
"Now we are quite ready," said the

floor of the kitchen.

ormous turkey, and on the other by a her dream. fat goose, both of whom held her fast There was the pudding, with his little that so many have tried and failed. He with their beaks, while a number of body and thin legs and the turkey and keeps it up until his nose gets ded, his mincepies brought up the rear.

but she did not dare to move or utter a ence was that the pudding was seated on let up, but he laughs at them with his sound, as the pudding seemed to be ex- a gorgeous throne, and had no rolling good-natured laugh, and tells them that ceedingly angry, and was rolling his eyes pin for a sceptre. about in a most ferocious manner.

ashamed of yourself, Mary, and that He was soon cut up into slices, and in say, "I told you so," and they sit up at you have repented of yoursins; but even the portion that came to Agnes glistened nights with him and drive away snakes, that won't prevent you being punished. a bright new shilling, and I think if he and just before he dies it suddenly oc as this, since I am to be your judge. I he would have quite forgiven Mary for beat two-forty with a three-minute

ought to be your accuser, as I am the putting it in .- [Gathered Sheaf of Gol. horse. A man who is poor and wants victim of your wickedness ; but my sense den Grain. of justice prevents my acting in that capacity, so I am going to be judge, in order that I may have the pleasure of pronouncing sentence unto you."

"But, please your lordship," Mary, "I don't even know what I have duty impart that information to all." it and obtains a divorce, and marries a

"Silence!" shouting the pudding; and turning to the turkey, he added,-"Swear in the jury."

The turkey, who acted as counsel for the prosecution, then proceeded to state that Mary was accused of putting a sixpence and a shilling, as well as sundry

The secret of beauty lies in pure bloop and good health, without the one the other is impossible. Burdock Blood Bitters is the grand key that unlocks all beat of the fire from the grate of his former wife's situation of the fire from the grate of his former wife's situation of the fire from the grate of his former wife's situation of the fire from the grate of his former wife's situation. other similiar articles, into the pudding, the secretions, and opens the avenue to had not attempted to beat two-forty thereby injuring his constitution, and health by purifying and regulating all thereby injuring his constitution, and causing great danger to the people who were likely to eat him. He argued that the crime was a most atrocious one, and the organs to a proper action. It cures all Scrofulous Diseases, acts on the Blood Liver, Kidneys, Skin and Bowels, and brings the bloom of health to the pallid pair of eyes that would have always wound up his speech in such a pathetic cheek. way that every one was moved to tears,

Mary endeavored to defend herself by obtain a relief you cannot find elsewhere, and thus thousands of people who make a failure saying that her "Missus" had told her All Druggists have it. J. Wilson Godeto put the things in, but the pudding got ric

so angry at this remark, which he de-acribed as "a frivolous excuse, unworthy of the attention of a British jury," that

t has never been my lot to meet with. can approve of, I will take out all your 2:40 with a three-minute business? The

it seemed as if he would fall to pieces. At last they became silent, and the

pudding asked in an awful voice,-"Gentlemen, are you agreed in your

great credit, gentlemen! Now then, Sir Loin, help me to put it into execu-

dragged her to the pot, forcing her in and

jamming down the lid. "Now then !" cried the pudding, "having done our duty, and vindicated the sovereign right of puddings, let us proceed to enjoy ourselves. Ladies gentlemen, stand up for a dance."

The cricket, who had been sitting the hearth watching the proceedings with the greatest interest, now struck up a lively tune, and away they all went, dancing as hard as they could go, whirling round and round in the most aston-

ishing manner. They seemed to busy that Agnes though she might venture to creep round to the chimney corner to see if she could But this was not the strangest part to get there without being noticed, and for he now had a body, legs, and arms, on lifting the lid of the pot, away flew let the poor prisoner out. She managed and the pudding neelf only formed his Mary right up the chimney ; but the lid head, although of course it was out of all was so hot that it burnt Agnes' fingers, proportion to his body, and it looked as and she dropped it on to the ground if its weight was enough to break his with a crash, so that the pudding turned

He pushed up to her with a pleasant ing no one but Agnes, he sat down on a smile on his broad tace, and said, "Aha, chair, having taken possession of the my little dear, I'm very pleased to see rolling-pin, which he held as a sceptre. that you have awoke up; now you must "Noble Sir Loin," he cried to the joint of beef that was roasting before the waist, and whirled her round and round fire, "come and take your place at my until she was quite giddy, and fell down

Suddenly the clock struck, and as if ump, and unhooked himself from the by magic away ran the whole company. bunch of horse-radish, which he placed pantry, while Mary came down the chim- up an old rookery and fills it with on his head, after having cleverly form- uey, looking none the worse for her guests who are seeking comfort, and

pudding in a loud voice, "and the cul- the ceiling opened, and Agnes shot up empty house next year and say the prit may be brought in," As he spoke again to her nursery at the top of the season is backward, and when the guests he struck his sceptre three times on the house, and awoke up to hear the bell do not come with dog days, he will sudringing for dinner.

By this time Agnes felt that nothing She ran quickly down stairs, and found a fool of himself last year, in trying to would astonish her, and so she was not on her plate a number of Christmas cards. beat two-forty with a three-minute in the least surprised when the door was They were all very pretty, but one was horse. The whole souled, good fellow, burst suddenly open, and Mary the cook most extraordinary, for on it was pictur. everybody's friend, gets to drinking too entered, escorted on one side by an en- ed almost exactly what she had seen in hard, and as he is healthy, he gets an

the goose bringing in the cook between eyes bleared and his voice shaky, and Mary was evidently dreadfully fright- them, while mincepies were cutting cap- he has a whisky cough, and his friends ened, and Agnes felt quite sorry for her, ers all over the room. The only differ- try to reason with him and get him to

Presently the real pudding appeared, and that nothing can burt him, and he "I hope said the pudding, in a very but of course he had no legs or arms, fat and greasy voice, "that you are but for all that he looked very tempting. he gets the jim-jams, and all his friends But perhaps I should not say as much could have known how pleased she was, curs to him that he has been trying to

Worthy of Praise. tent Medicines, but when we know of treating her like a dog, gets worse and one that is a public benefactor, and does strikes her, and after she gets enough of duty impart that information to all.

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Of all the ills that flesh is heir to kid- gait, but which eyes will never look and the juice from the pudding came out at his eyes and ran down on to the out at his eyes and ran down on to the sufferers, we can only say, take Dr. Van upon him except in pity. O, there are BUREN'S KIDNEY CURE at once, and thus thousands of people who make a failure

she dare not say another word.

"Gentlemen of the jury," said he,
"you have heard the case, and I must
say that a more same and paltry defence
minute horse. How many people in all branches of business are trying to beat regular dollar-size bottle will do. Call early. (3) can approve of, I will take out all your mincemeat and throw you into the dustbin!"

The mincepies and blancmange began to walk amongst themselves, and presently one of them said something that made all the others laugh, and the blancmange began to shake his sides, until it seemed as if he would fall to pieces.

2:40 with a three-minute business? The man who has a small business that is paying him, and goes into debt and tries to spread himself over too many eggs, is trying to beat 2:40 with a three-minute housiness? The best salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Jas. Wilson. cream and perfumery and neckties than he earns, is trying to beat 2:40 with a three-minute horse. The girl who is the world, and one of the most foolish calculated by nature to be the wife of a mechanic, and gets above her business and looks with soon world. Now we know that Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Catarrh, werdict?"

"We are," replied the blancmange, in a very shaky tone; "and the sentence is that Mary shall be put in the pot from which your Lordship has just come, and he boiled over the fire."

"Hooray" shouted the pudding, "a splendid sentence; one which does you great credit, gentlement Now the sentence; one which does you great credit, gentlement Now then the pudding and gets above her business that Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Catarrh, and all Chest, Throat, and Lung Trough at an old maid in the glass a few years from now, and realize that she has been trying to beat 2:40 with a three-minute is no remedy equal to it. It never fails. Sold everywhere in large bottles at 50c. For sale by Geo. Rhynas. voting for him for charity, and who ution now and stick to it. Vote for the thereupon aspires to a big office for best men who run, and get the best men voting for him for charity, and who So Sir Loin and the pudding took poor which he is unfitted, will be nominated in town to come out. The good of the Mary, who struggled vigorously, and for the big office some day and be benten higher than a kite, and he will then government. feel of his aching head, examine his empty pocket-book, look around at the debts he has contracted, and the enemies he has made, and it will suddenly come to him that he has been trying to beat 2:40 with a three minute horse. The man or woman who leaves a profession or employment to which they can be prosperous and happy and have friends, and goes upon the stage to compete with empty pocket-book, look around at the and goes upon the stage to compete with men and women who have been brought

up to it, and who have made success by a All persons wishing to test the merit of a great remedy—one that will positively cure Consumption, Coughs, Colds, failed to beat 2:40 with a three-minute horse. The young man who has been left a fortune by a dead father, who has worked a lifetime to accumulate the riches, and who cheares forms. that was good enough for him before, to ar-size bottle will do champagne, and plenty of it, and who can't find places enough to spend money without sitting up all night, and who finds old sledge and peanuckle too tame, and adopts draw poker and faro, and who forgets that his sisters are splendid company, and gets acquainted with the quick girls and buys them diamonds as big as pieces of alum, will in a few years be walking on his uppers, and having fur collars pixned on to linen ulsters for winter, and he will wake up some morn

ing with the almightiest headache on record, and come to the conclusion that trying to beat two forty with a threecharges them Fifth avenue prices for smoky journey.

Then came another clap of thunder.

Smoky journey.

Charges them Fifth avenue prices for Bowery accommodations, will look at his denly scratch his head and say he made idea that he can beat whisky-a game

he has got a constitution like a horse. to live on the fat of the land, marries a pretty little rich woman, and begins to squander her money, and when she tries As a rule we do not recommend Pa- to persuade him to stop it, he gets to So eleven mincepies and a blancmange where all other remedies fail. We know the word where sworn in, and walked into a recommend them to all.—Exch.—Sold for the refuse that drops from the table of his former wife, and when he but-fifty cents a bottle by J, Wilson. [6] winter's night, and walks around a block for a wind pudding, and looks into the The secret of beauty lies in pure bloop windows and sees the light of the fire with a three-minute horse, he could looked their love for him, if he bad

been contented with a three - minute

minute horse. Peck's Sun

A convict in the Indiana penitentiary hit the nail on the head when asked how his downward course began. He said it began in trying to beat 2:40 with a three-minute horse. How many people in all horse horse how many people in all horse horse. How many people in all horse hors

There are many foolish things done in

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