# AN AWFUL STORY.

#### H. M. Stanley Reveals the Whole Truth About the Rear Guard.

About the Rear Guard. True to his promise' on arriving at New York, H. M. Stanley seized the first oppor-tunity to answer his enemies, by revealing all he knew about the rear guard. As the matter is of the greatest interest we repro-duce a summary of the lecture, which was delivered in Chickering Hall on Wednesday evening, Dec, 3rd. It will be seen that Mr. Stanley smites and spares not. Mean-time the Aborigines society of Great Britain have resolved upon prosecuting Messrs. Ward, Bonny and Troup for murder com-mitted during the journey of the expedition in Africa.

Mr. Stanley in commencing says :--From time immemorial it has been the custom to regard the dead as free from censure and to bury their misdeeds with them in their graves. But it must be admitted that it is graves. But it must be admitted what it is as cruel and unjust to slander and vilify the living. It happened that on the 30th of August, 1888, surrounded by about 42 dying living. August, men, and grieving over the loss of 164 men of the rear column of my expedition for the relief of Emin, and shocked by the terrible disclosures made by the surviving officer, I wrote in my report to the relief committee that the rear column had here. that the rear column had been wrecked by the irresolution of its officers, the neglect of their promises and their indifference to the This censure seems to have writte provoked and to have occasioned the publi-cation of a libellous book called The Diary and Letters of Major Barttelot and to have cation of a libellous book called The Diary and Letters of Major Barttelot and to have aroused the hostility of the Barttelot and Jameson families and the recriminations and angry accusations of Messrs. Troup and Ward. But the publication of Major Barttelot's diary and letters has caused the publisher to denounce me as cruel and unjust to the dead as well as the living. My life of African exploration has been given up to the service of humanity and civilization. I am proud and thak-ful that my name is known throughout Africa as a just man who desires peace, and as a father to his men. Major Barttelot came to me highly recommended. I sent him to Egypt to enlist Soudanese soldiers. Several days afterwards I was told by Gen. Brackenbury that Barttelot would be sure to give me trouble. I never had a doubt of any one of them until Mr. Bonny poured into my ears the dismal story of the rear column. There are others alive who are far better qualified, if they would, to publish the details respecting the conduct of the rear column or its officers. However, as the public are elamoring for the story, I now proceed to give it.

the details respecting the conduct of the rear column or its officers. However, as the public are clamoring for the story, I now proceed to give it. On June 24, 1857, I delivered a letter of instructions to Major Barttelot. These in structions said : "The reason for detaining the column as garrison pro tem, for Yam buya is the non-arrival of goods and men from Bolobo and Stanley Fool. Bit as 1 shall shortly expect the arrival of a strong reinforcement of men (meaning Tippo Tib 600 carriers), I hope you will not be detained he can dispense with or throw away. I left arrival of Stanley from Stanley Pool in the can dispense with or throw away. I left affor Bolobo, would form the rear column. When from Bolobo, would dorn the rear column. Bartellot, Jameson, Troup, Ward and Bonny were the officers detailed to conduct the rear column prostrated by illness, but many others where weakly and many had small ulcers. A little rest and attention, how ever, to their needs would restrieve the after a six weeks' rest to a perfect health. Surgeon Park examined the supplies of food in the neighborhood. He reported that there was enough food to last the garrison at Yambuya on June 28, 1887, and on August 17, 1885, fourteen months later ware seential for the conduct of the rear column, we then, the advance column in ther examined the supplies of food in the neighborhood. He reported that there was enough food to last the garrison after a six weeks' rest or a perfect health there was enough food to last the garrison at Yambuya on June 28, 1887, and on August 17, 1885, fourteen months later we returned from the Albert Nyanza in search of the rear column, at was essential for the conduct of the rear out from Yambuya on June 28, 1887, and on August 17, 1885, fourteen months later we returned from the Albert Nyanza in search of the rear column in the pitible state already described Messus. Troun and Ward now eriticize with creat out from Yambuya, we found the rear column in the pitible state already described. Messus, Troun and Ward no out from Yambuya on June 28, 1867, and on August 17, 1888, fourteen months later we returned from the Albert Nyanza in search of the rear column, of which no news had been heard, and on arriv-ing at a village, 90 miles east from Yambuya, we found the rear column in the pitiable state already described. Messus Troup and Ward now criticize with creat Troup and Ward now criticize with great subtlety my letter of instructions. In Africa it might have been necessary for me, if such crooked construction as they now use were systematically placed properties. But now this man who ws formerly describ-ed as a malignant savageis made to appear as a Christian officer au gentleman. Mr. Troup, in a sworn affidavit, declared that his book was to prove that the failure of the up and Ward now criticize with great use were systematically placed upon simple orders, to adopt severe measures to compel them to see truly what was intended they should see. But the journey is now over; the calamities belong to the past and there is no necessity for me to do otherwise than be disappointedly just. Major Barttelot was a volunteer officer. His motives for entering on the service were good and noble. He sought opposities good and noble. He sought opportunities to distinguish himself. Mr. Jameson. to distinguish himself. Mr. Jameson, for the privilege of joining us, and led by his ardor to make a collection of natural history subjects paid over ±1,000 toward the relief fund. His motives were also the relief fund. His motives were also noble and good. Mr. Troup applied for a noble and good. Mr. Troup applied for a position with us, probably from a want of something better to do, but demanded re-muneration for his services. Mr. Bonny was a hospital steward, and offered to accom-pany us for £100 per annum. Mr. Ward was met as we were journeying up the Con-go, and volunteered his services on the same terms as Barttelot, Stairs and Nelson. His motives appeared to be also manly and spir-ited. Despite the prognostications of some of the committee, I had no fault tofind with any of these gentlemen as far as Vambuya of the committee, 1 had no fault tofind with any of these gentlemen as far as Yambuya of such an nature as to induce me to resort to dismissal. It was not until August 17, 1888, 14 months after separating from them that I discovered reasons for publicly cen-suring the officers of the rear column. These reasons were made manifest by the official report and oral accounts of the surviving officers of the rear column to the starting cers of the rear column ; by the testimon of the colored men, Zanzibaris, Soud concers of the rear column; by the testimon-ies of the colored men, Zanzibaris, Soud-ancese and many Manyuma belonging to it, and by the awful state in which 42 men were found by us. It, therefore, devolves upon me now to explain the reasons of this Imagine William Bonny telling me that is leader had been so violent in his conduct as to bein the habit of perpetually stalking as to bein the habit of perpetually stalking about in camp, terrifying the poor people out of their senses by his demoniac conduct, flogging two men to death, striking a Many-nema's brains out, kicking a boy so seri-ously that he died, shooting a soldier for stealing a piece of meat, and then telling

me that while in the act of hitting and kick-ing a chief's wife he had been shot by the infuriated husband; imagine him telling of another officer having bought a little 10-year-old grl, and surrendering her into the hands of the cannibals, who had slaugh-tered her on the spot, in order that his curi-osity to see an act of cannibalism might be gratified; imagine the Zanzibaris and Sou-dancese followers of the expedition empha-sizing these terrible stories with gestures, danese followers of the expedition empha-sizing these terrible stories with gestures, looks, sighs, heartrending ejaculationshow-ing their scarred and ulcered backs and pointing to their thinned numbers and 42 miserable men even then dying in my pres-ence; imagine me thearing that Ward, Troup and Bonny came up to this swamp at Yam-buya with 130 healthy men, and after read-ing the instructions coming only to one con-clusion, that it was better to stay at Yam-buya, that a forward movement was imposlugine in that it was better to stay at Yam-clusion, that it was better to stay at Yam-buya, that a forward movement was impos-sible. It issaid that Messrs. Troup, Ward and Bonny had some misgivings that things were going wrong ; but if Bonny suggested to Troup and Ward that they should demand an ex-planation from the major as to his inten-tions. The other two held back. I have not charged these gentlemen with being dis-loyal or disobedient, but that they were in-different to the written instructions, that is that they put them aside and followed their own inclinations. But if it be true that Mr. Ward publicly proposed that my in-structions be cancelled and Barttelot's ideas carried out would I not be justified in sup-posing there was something more than incarried out would I not be justified in sup-posing there was something more than in-difference? And, in the case of Mr. Troup, would I not be justified in using a stronger word than indifference? He himself admits that Barttelot refused him medicine and did not darken his door while he lay on a sick bed for six weeks. Granting that Bartte-lot had been so offensive in his manners as to cause Troup's retirement, surely it takes two to make a quarrel, and probably Troup two to make a quarrel, and probably Troup was too obdurate to make the first move for the restoration of harmony. If they had been earnest in the wish to leave Yambuya they could easily have done so. buy a they could easily have done so. The track was clear before them, and inasmuch as we had proceeded on without retreating it was a guarantee to them that the road was clear. Their reputations were in their own hands a territoria The it was a guan .... was clear. Their reputations we own hands to make or mar, own hands to make or mar, own hands to make or mar,

as each acted. Nature had given them health, society had educated them. A large force of men and abundance of sup-plies had been given them. One thing only was wanting, and that was the spirit to act and to persevere in their work. What better opportunities could have been found men for beautiful and noble deeds and to prove themselves thorouch men? prove themselves thorough men?

nity to himself and his severity to others, but now this man who ws formerly describ-

mind rises to the emergency. In the same manner I never felt prouder than when on returning from Africa I heard educated men call the relief of Livingstone a fraud and an

one white man was to be found in all that vast belt neighboring the African equator except the aged and impoverished Living-stone, and now I see the upper waters of the Congo churned by the paddles and screws of a fleet of steamers, its banks studded by stations, political, commercial and religious. There are over a thousand Europeans labor-ing within that late neglected area, forging in various always those bonds which shall unite civilization with the end of time. There are over \$25,000,000 invested in legi-timate and noble enterprises, and if you timate and noble enterprises, and if you will examine into the causes of this great change by which the Ethiopland is being redeemed you will find that they are the outcoming of unflagging zeal in the perform nce of my duties.

#### Marriage and Prosperity.

A high marriage rate and national pros A high marriage rate and national pros-perity are generally supposed to go hand in hand, says the Newcastle, England, *Chron-icle*. For this conclusion, the latest quarter-ly return of the Registrar General seems to afford ample warrant. In that interesting and useful compilation, it appears that dur-ing three months ending with June last, there entered into the bonds of wedlock in England and Wales, no fewer than 118,088 persons, representing an annual rate of 16.1 England and Wales, no fewer than 118,088 persons, representing an annual rate of 16.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This is 4.5 per cent above the rate in the second quarter in the preceding year, and 6.6 per cent above the average rate in the corres-ponding quarter of the ten years 1880-9. With the exception of 1882, when the rate in the second quarter was also 16.1, it is higher than that recorded in the second quarter of any year since 1876, the rate having higher than that recorded in the second quarterofany year since 1876, the rate having then been 16.9 per 1,000. The birth record reaches a later date, the return showing that during three months ending with Sep-tember last, the bir ths registered in England and Wales numbered 220,304, correspond-ing to an annual rate of 29.7 per 1,000 living. This was lower than the rate recorded in the third quarter of any year since 1847, with the exception of 1888, when the rate was also 29.7.

### A "Cobweb" Party.

A "Cobweb" Party. A lady yesterday showed me an invitation to attend a "cobweb party." I was curious to know what sort of a party that was, says a writer in the New York Star. "A central point in a house is selected," I was informed, "say the chandelier in the front parlor, and to this a number of strings are attached, according to the number of guests who have been invited to take part in the game. There may be 25 or 50, or even more. Then these strings are twined about chairs, around table legs, through keyholes, downstairs into the dining room, out to the kitchen, upstairs again, into the about chairs, around table legs, through keyholes, downstairs into the dining room, out to the kitchen, upstairs again, into the bedroom, and, in fact, all over the house. These strings make the orbwob. At the end of each is a prize, which acts as a stimu-lant to the guests, to each of whom a string is assigned, to follow his or her thread to its termination through its many devious and provoking intertwinings. In Chicago the cobweb party has become so popular that man are employed to prepare houses when one is announced, and it sometimes takes three days to get a large house ready. When the guests get to following up the strings there is plenty of fun, as they meet in all parts of the house, cross and recross each other's paths, get their feet tangled up in the threads, and have a great many funny experiences."

#### No Beauties in Circassia.

Some recent visitors to that part of the Caucasus known as Circassia have declared that the reputation of Circassia for beautiful women is entirely undeserved. Among them is Mr. J. Guthrie Watson, who has recently returned to England from a long sojourn in the Caucasus. He says the books and newspapere he has read convey the impression that the whole of the Caucasus abounds in

## CHARLES DICKENS AND CHRISTMAS.

There is really no such thing in the intel-call the relief of Livingstome a fraud and an imposture and the expedition around the great lakes and the decent of the Congo an act of piracy; or when, returning from the rescue of Emm Pasha from the hands of his rebellious soldiery and a slave's doom, I hear myself called a man who had kidnapped him, and the deliv-ery of 300 exiles to their homes in speculation. Twenty-three years ago not one white man was to be found in all that vast belt neighboring the African equator except the aged and impoverished Living-

on that Christmas night, the event stands in history and upon canvas as "Washington Crossing the Delaware," about six thousand patriots being omitted. A sin ilar necessity of condensation and brevity makes Lord Bacon bring into the world the inductive philosophy, and Luther bring in the Reformation. The more exact historic fact is that the form of philosophic thought was changing when Bacon came:

bistoric fact is that the form of philosophic thought was changing when Bacon came; and religious belief and inquiry were in a great commotion when Luther appeared Things hung in equilibroic, and the heavy step of Bacon or Luther determined which end of the beam should be the heavier. Charles Dickens thus came and helped give the world a new and more tremendous Christmas. A pair of bare feet in the snow, a hut without fire, a mouth without food, were scenes that become unendurable after Charles Dickens had made the wrongs and griefs of children visible. The large folks of Europe and England had a habit of keep-ing their eyes shut when they were anyof Europe and England had a habit of keep-ing their eyes shut when they were any-where near a suffering boy or girl. When these eyes did open it was to see how best to administer a kick or a blow. In those ante-Dickens days even the church could see the naked and ignorant people of Africa and India more clearly than it could discern any bleeding feet and hungry faces in Lon-don. don

The drama of Charles Dickens opens with The drama of Charles Dickens opens with quite a stage full of facts. His parents were dresdfully poor. They were as dull and cold as they were poor. Their little boy was one of the brightest, most sensitive of all the poor urchins in all England. When he was only nine years old he was forced to go out to work for 6 shillings a week. He was compelled to associate with a bad order of boys. He was so sensitive and ambivas compelled to associate with a bad order of boys. He was so sensitive and ambi-tious that his work and associations were a daily humiliation, but his parents seemed to want nothing of the boy except the money he could bring home on each pay-day. This hardship worked well in the end, for, when the grub turned into a butterfly, there was not in all boyhood a form of wit or wisdom or laughter or crying or toture

or wisdom or laughter or crying or torture that was not well known to this mature toilthat was not well known to this mature con-er when he came of age. His case seems one of those in which an Oxford or Cambridge long course of study would have destroyed the natural riches of a mind. What a loss of ten years in Greek, Latin, and mathema-tics had interfered with the nature of this the shad interfered with the nature of this poor boy and had separated him forever from the world's Tom Pipers and Bob Sawyers ! A college graduate might possibly have writ-ten the books of Charles Dickens, but it is ten the books of Charles Dickens, but it is rather well that the world was not com-pelled to run such a risk. The law of aver-ages makes a college one of the most reason-able institutions that can be founded, but whoever will read the biographies of eminent men will be glad that some books have been written by what is called "native talent"— talent in the own mative air.

As painters spring up sutside of schools, singers away from Paris or Berlin, and statesmen come from cornfields, thus came Mr. Dickens up to a wonderful authorship with poverty and abuse as a base. Boys out of college and left to themselves for amusement extract more from mimicry, fun, and ridicule than from all other sources. The mind of young Dickens was thus train-ed by the joking crowd. He became won-derfully capable of seeing such youth sat Sam Weller. The Pickwick Papers came very naturally from one whose college had been found in his own eyes and ears. The "Christmas Carols" were a direc

The "Christmas Carols" were a direct The "Christmas Carols" were a direc aid to an eniarged and rejuvenated holiday, but all of Mr. Dickens' writing, in the memory and commiseration of the neglected boys, were powerful blows dealt the stony heart of the world. He made very, visible the humbler classes. He disclosed the soul that lay under the ragged clothes, and he made more noble all the men and women who would become the friends of the poor. Had upt Mr. Dickens langhed even while

Had not Mr. Dickens laughed even while

tended it. This author has now become tended it. This author has now become so far removed from the day of his truimph that few realize how great was his fame. The zeal over recent writers has been quiet in comparison with the enthusiasm which once burst forth over the name of Charles Dickens. Fifty thousand copies of some of his publications were sold within a few days He was for some years the autocrat of the book trade.

If that wonderful blare of fame has burnt down not a little, the impulse given to phil. anthropy by that fam : remains acting still. Worlds once set in motion do not still. once set in motion do not stop easily The maxim once uttered over slander,

Worlds once set in motion do not stop easily The maxim once uttered over slander, " word once spoken is irevocable," is as true of a good law or a good sentiment as it is of a malicious insinuation. The neglected children of earth having been led around to the front by means or wit, irony, laughter, and sympathy of a most popular writer, they will never pass around to the rear of the army of educated men amd women. To in vent the steam engine was a difficult task, but to forget it is impos-sible. To discover liberty was diffi-cult, but now that it has come it can never be blotted out of men's hearts. If our na-tion was slow to unchain its slaves, it will be slower still to forge new chains for the Africans. What if Wilberforce and Garri-son are falling into neglect, the neglect will be slower still to forge new chains for the Africans. What if Wilberforce and Garri-son are falling into neglect, the neglect will not soon blight the truth they unveiled. Thus the poor schoolboys, the newsboys the bootblacks, the little Tims, the little Madges of the western nations will always happen upon a better Christmas than came to the world before the books and sketches by Charles Dickens had been read amid uniby Charles Dickens had been read amid uni-

by Charles Dickens had been read amid uni-versal laughter and tears. It is not known that, in order to see well any piece of ground or blade of grass or drop of snow, one must get down into it mentally and do away with all distance which renders all objects obscure. The difficulty between science and the moon is that man is compelled to stay too far away from the moon. Thus the church, the state, and all the lofty and haughty genius of society stood too for away from child-life to see its wonders. Nature com-pelled Charles Dickens to live with, eat with, sleep with, talk with, the indomitable little Fags, Dicks, Teds, Tobys, Dodds, and Toms. He saw their souls, and at last wrote them down. What Bunyan did for each Christian,

What Bunyan did for each Christian, Dickens did for each child. Bunyan gave form and voices to religious doctrines. He

form and voice to religious doctrines. He transformed graces into ang als and sins into old grim giants. He personified all the good and bad experience of men and women on their way to good and bad destinies. Re-ligion was made into a picture, with sin as a swamp or as a pack for the shoulders, with airtue as a neat gate on a hill. Thus, under the touch of Mr. Dickens, all the details of the tender years of children assume the form of amazing external realities. Scenes, sounds aghosts, and animals are pressed into the ser vice of a broad charity. vice of a broad charity.

After Mr. Dickens has listened to a chime of Christmas bells, then the common mind can also hear the words he heard. Indeed, it can lament the stupidity that had to wait for a book to come along and endow them

with language. The chimes said: Toby Veck, Toby Veck, waiting for you, Toby' Toby Veck, Toby Veck, waiting for you, Toby' Come and se u . come and see us: Drag him to us, drag him to us, Haunt and hunt him; haunt and hunt him; Break his slumbers, break his slumbers, Toby Veck, Toby Veck, door open wide, Toby Veck-

Toby Veck-And upon reading these words with a solern jingle, it becomes perfectly evident that all those December bells have been say-ing kind words for ages, but saying them into stupid ears. Never since this literary artist lived and died has any gray church tower uttered its voice upon the eve or night that commemorates the cradle of Jesus with-out saying, amid storm or cold : Feed the children feed the children

Feed the children, feed the children. Think of Tim, think of Tim-

Nor will bells or chimes ever be wordless again. A great laughter, a great joker, a great satirist, an acute reasoner, a powerful vriter, all combined in one name, has fought a good fight for all the children; and hence-forth for them there will be a better fire on the hearth, more fruit upon the Christmas tree, and more music of love in the wintry air. DAVID SWING. air.

She Kissed the Paper.

A rich old man, according to the Sun, took it into his head to girl. She seemed devoted to her lord and

rear column was altogener due to Major Barttelot; to an Americal reporter at Cam-bridge, Mass., he attributed the wreck of the column to ne. The English papers hav published Bart-

The English papers hav published bart-telot's statement in his dary that I hated Barttelot. I should like bask why I should hate Barttelot. Was it pt in my power as his chief to dismiss him a a moment's notice

hate Barttelot. Was it bt in my power as his chief to dismiss him a moment's notice if I hated him? Does a chef allow himself to be associated with the hates? Mr. Andrew Jameson calls me his brother's worst enemy. May I as in what manner I have manifested the enmity? Was it in the attempt to shiel him from the con-sequence of his terrible ct? The conduct of the Jameson and Barttept families has been es unwise as that of the relatives in Africa. as unwise as that of the relatives in Africa. Mr. Walter barttelot ws advised by all of Mr. Walter bartetot ws advised by all of my late comrades in th advance column to let the matter rest. M. Bonny has stated publicly that he also indered the same ad-vice. Sir Walter Bartelot, the father, was

vice. Sir Walter Barcelot, the father, was not ignorant that the terrible acts were charged against his ded son. How can these people dare to say not that they did not know of the abominale crimes alleged to have been committed Major Barttelot and have been committed v Major isartleiot and Mr. Jameson? I deck now that the only charges which I have nde are that the rear column was wrecked bithe irresolution of its officers, the neglect opromises and their indifference to their writen orders. I main-tain that these charges a true in each and over a wationlar. every particular.

Troup and Ward clm to have done the best they could i furthering the object of the expeditia, I frankly ac-knowledged, as far as it was possible object of the expeditia, I frankly ac-knowledged, as far as it was possible without incurring pernal danger or disturbing that blissful site of mind which

from the eastern end of the Black Sea where these beauties have been reported to live in considerable numbers, and he is convinced that nine men out of 10 would travel through those districts without noticing them at all. those districts without noticing them as the He says they are mostly poor peasant girls. He says they are mostly poor peasant grist. They have handsome eyes, but have no expression in any feature. Up to the age of 14 some have rather attractive features, but later their faces become very course in

but later their faces become very course in Air. appearance. There is a particular region known as books Loogdidi, where the Sultan of Turkey has been in the habit of buying girls for his harem. Watson declares, however, that these women are beautiful only to the native eye, and Europeans find nothing to admire in them. At the age of 13 or 14 these girls marry, and by the time they are 20 years old they appear to be middle-aged women. the a

## Science and Religion

I am grateful to science, both physical and historical, for the great services it has ren-dered to belief by the establishment of truth, or the rational acceptance of pro-positione, in its own domain. I feel that positions, in its own domain. I feel that science is not responsible for any errors of scientists, either in the misconstruction of the Bible, or in offences which their share of human frailty may have led them occaof number from the second seco

having assisted, or for having compelled those who believe to correct errors, which, having assisted, or for having compelled those who believe to correct errors, which, in the wantonness of power, they may too long have cherished, and to submit all their claims to free and critical investigation. The retreat from an untenable to a tenable position is in itself an unmixed good. But, giving all the conditions of human feeling, thought, and action, it is an operation of in disturbing that blissful site of mind which was oblivious of duty an deaf to the call of suffering humanity. With unblushing effrontery and brazen implence they lead that tribe of writers whoelight in scandal and from lecture platfons undertake to censure and denounce me thecause of their pitiful failure. In presce of imminent danger or with great tablefore me I some-how never fee so conscus of a soul as how never fee so conscus of a soul as hanced in proportion, the difficulties of the day.-[W. E. Gladstone.

that the whole of the Catcasts abounds in lovely women. This he regards as a mistake. He enumer-ates the towns and neighborhoods not far from the eastern end of the Black Sea where these beauties have been reported to live in considerable numbers, and he is convinced serious volumes. The lessons against abuse and cruelty are taught amid roars of laugh ter, the lesson being often only a kind of side-play is soon found to be an important part of the drama. After the laughter had ceased the lesson of love remains.

Ceased the lesson of love remains. Mr. Dickens was not a believer in the "unities" of plot and person. He began books without looking ten pages ahead, but the reading world does not care anything about the "unities" if only it has lots of fun. The writer saw to it that the fun the unit for the main proint forward some fun. The writer saw to it that the fun should, in the main, point toward some betterment of the humbler millions. The prisons, the courts, the private schools, the cir-cum-locution offices, the self-righteous, the icy-hearted, were all well cared for in the argument, even if the love affair of the novel at times crew thin. novel at times grew thin.

That Christmas carol, in which old Scrooge undergoes such a conversion from being an old sniveling growler about the "Christmas humbug," is an essay from reading which nearly any human being living would rise a better man. Scrooge is so set in amid fun, puns, jokes, tears, and ghosts that the piece acts upon the reader like a stage coverep with great actors. Humor is never absent, pathos is never absent, wisdom is always on hand, and in the end one of the meanest of misers becomes a great heart that would love to have Christmas come many times each winter. When in the opening of this r carol, Mr. Dickens leads out his star actor he holds the audience to the play thereafter. "Hard and sharp as a flint from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire, the the the teater of a continue and sharp as a flint from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire, the the teater of a continue and sharp as a flint from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire, the content of the teater of a content of the struct of the solution of the struct of the play thereafter. " Hard and sharp as a flint from which no the content of the teater of the solution of the solut That Christmas carol, in which old Scrooge "Hard and sharp as a flint from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire, secret, self-contained, and solitary as an oyster, the cold within him froze his old features." Such lines give us the face of Scrooge, but when the carol is done this old, mean miser is seen scattering his smiles to all people, high and low, and saving a group of families from ruin.

took it into his head to marry a young girl. She seemed devoted to her lord and master, who was a genuine Pooh Bah of re-lationship, being husband, father, uncle and friend all rolled into one. She was con-gratulating herself upon the success she was achieving as an old man's darling, when she observed a marked change in his manner. From being jovial, almost jolly, he be-came silent, solemn, saturnine. She saw what the matter was. He was so jealous that his fresh, ruddy complexion became sick-lied over with the yellow hue of melancholy. Strong in her innocence, she determined to bear his coldness in silence, and wait his good pleasure to explain his conduct. The fact is the husband thought he had good cause for his jealousy, for time and again he had, upon entering his wife's room, detected her in the act of pressing the most impassioned kisses upon a sheet of rose-tint-ed paper. It was awful, indeed, to tire so quickly of her aged lord, and his heart sans within him when he caught her in the very act of covering one of those rosy epilesst with long and oft-repeated kisses. One afternoon, as he approached the door leading into her dressing-room, there she stood before her mirror with one of those detestable love letters in her hand, and engaged in almost publicly and openly pressing it to her lips, over and over again, with a great show of fervor and feeling. He burst into her presence with the words : "This is infamous !" The sheet of rose-tinted paper fell from the poor woman's hands, and she stood

ment. "So," he blurted out, "your lover uses sympathetic ink ! Not visible until de-veloped. Oh, but I'll develop it ! I'll get at the heart of this mystery ! I'll submit this love letter to the best chemist in New York eit, ment way way in the state of the set o

Tree " the December feast receives more real help than literature had ever before ex-