THE DYING STREET ARAB

BY MATTILIAS BARR

Taint them as does nothin' but prayin,
I reckons, as is the best.

aint had on father nor mother A-tellin' me wrong from the right,
The streets cint the place—is it, parson?—
For sayin' your prayers of a night!

I never knowed who was my father, And mother she died long ago; The folks here they brought me upsomehows It aint much they've teached me, I know

Yet I thinks they'll be sorry and miss me, When took right away from this here, or sometimes I catches them slyly A-wipin' away of a tear.

And they says as they hopes I'll get better I can't be no worse when I'm dead; I aint had so jolly a time 't'— A-dyin' by inches for ead.

I've stood in them streets precious often. When the wet's been a-pourin' down, And I aint had so much as a mouthful, Nor never so much as a brown.

I've looked in them shops with the winders Chokefuli of what's tidy to eat, And I've heard gents a-larfle and talkin, While I drops like a dorg at their feet.

But it's kind on you, sir, to an by me. I aint now aform o your face, And I hopes, if it's true as you tells me, We'll meet in that tother place.

I hopes as you'll come whom it a over, And talk to them here in the court. They'll mind what you says, you're a purso There won't be no tarkin not sport.

You'll tell them as how I died happy. And hopin' to see them again,
That I'm gone to that land where the worry
Is freed of his trouble and pain.

Now, open that book as you give me —
I feel as it never tells nee—
And read me them words—you know, guv nor-As is good for a chap when he dies

There, give me your hand, art, and thank ee For the good as you've done a poor mu, Who knows, had they teached me some better I mightn't have growed up so bad!

CURIOUS CRIMINALS.

On the 6th of Becember last a young man of

On the 6th of December last a young man of talents and education was guinterined in the presence of a great multipole of people, its was a "dre-long," and during the two or three months preceding his espiture that at the akrea of an Normandy with the light of burning vilins, tarm-nouses, hay ficks and barns. There was nothing to his character or position to attach suspiction to him. He was an assistant teller in the Usen Dranch of the bank of France, and was noted for the decorum and blamelessness of his life. An intrigue with a stock-jobber, the pivot of which wigge with a stock-tobber, the pivot of which dule' and spare the blogs of stock seconistions on the park engined tim to account that the former reformation which pieces that he stock seconistions are bloss on which pieces are presented to the property of the property quire, and share the profit of stock speculations founded thereon, led ultimately to a quarret. After the quarret the young man took five glasses of absinthe, and when night came on he act fire to the stock jobber's villa, destroying it and all its contents, including the wife and infant child of the occupant. Although on the following day, when told of the occurrence, he manifested more smotion than a Fronchman small with the histograph house and manifested more emotion than a Fronchman usually exhibits when his neighbor's house and wife burn up—he was no more suspected of a having occasioned it than the Emperor or Bishop lunganioup. From this time forward an irresistible morendary manis possessed him. He resigned his position at the bank on a piece of ill health and set off on a journey through Normandy, leaving the night-skies behind him red with the glare of the dames he had secretly kindled. Nobody suspected him. He was an invalid banker, pare, interesting, well-attired, with plenty of money, and irreprochable credentials. One night a farm laborer, sitting at a rear window of a farm-house making love to one of the maids, saw a flicker of fire at the foot of one of the straw ricks. He was courting economically in the dark, and this strange dash, darting mysteriously out of the night, made his girl scream and his personal shock of hairstand up like an electrified mop. But he rushed out courageously, and caught a man whom he proceeded to pound with much energy and constancy, at the same time raising an slarm of the. His furnous bellowings immediately assembled all tits inmuses of the farm-house and usually exhibits when his neighbor's house and fire. His furnous believings immediately as-sembled all the inmutes of the farm-house and the neighbors. They found their captive to be a well-dressed person, with his pockets full of patent matches and divers ingenious and mys-terious appliances for exciting combination. When two helors the major of the neighboring village the "fire-bug" immediately made a frank and full confession, and the sequel there-of was, as we have related, the execution in the

market-place of Osen amid the curses and exeerations of the citizens. He had destroyed twenty-one houses and fourteen lives.

twenty-one houses and fourteen lives.

Doctors and lawyers, as well as newspaper readers, are familiar with many phrases and manifestations of monomanis, but it is not often that so striking a sample of the motive-iess and irrational "fire-bug" is offered to their inspection. The destructive mania of, for instance, a Brinvilliers, does not altogether exclude the idea of sanity. It is true that the memorable woman poisoned the siek patients in the hospital, which she attended in the guise of a charitable religious devotes, against whom she could have no enmity. But she wanted to poison her father, who had locked up her lover in the Bastile; and she was auxious before commencing this fills! work, to test with precision the strength and operation of the poisons. She destroyed her brother and sister, but the motive of this was not obscure. She wanted their patrimonies. She tried also to destroy her husband, but this is easily explained by the rabushand, but this is easily explained by the ra-tional aversion which every French woman bears to her lord. She poisoned a large family, with whom her acquaintance was not suffi-

places in the streets, rushed forth upon passing girls or women, and inflicted stabs upon them with a penkinte or some other pointed instrument. He could give no account of his demoniac possession. He wept on the policeman who captured him with such coplousness as to seriously dampen that official, and was contrite and remorably beyond his years.

A similar case came to light a few mouths ago to Boston, in which a youth was likewise the agent, though his victims were boys instead of girls. Nothing in his lineage, education, or previous habits, afforded an explanation of this strange propensity.

It is only a few years since that a middle-aged man was arrested in a neighboring city, and sent to jail, for stealing ladies' slippers and galters. He invariably took them from the feet of the wearers. He would dart upon a lady as she walked along the street, tear of her shee, and disappear as rapidly as possible. He "worked" the street ears and omnibuses regularly, and once took a slipper off a bride at the church door. So great was his skill in timing larly, and once took a slipper off a bride at the church door. So great was his skill in timing his depredations, and so instant his retreat, that he long escaped arrest. He was finally taken,

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ciently intimate to justify such a liberty, because of her tender sympathy with a daughter of that family who was shut up in a convent, and, as she deemed, oppressed by her kindred. In all these acts, and others innumerable committed by this historic woman, some ghost of a motive may be traced. It was not a purposeless impulse of destruction which impelled her. Nor were the procedures of Mrs. Lydis Sherman incompatible with such soundness of understanding as may be held to create responsi-

man incompatible with such soundness of understanding as may be held to create responsibility. She poisoned a large number of husbands, some neighbors, and a few children. Motives of hatred, reverge, cupidity, or a desire to be released from annoying associations or domestic care, may have wrought with her narrow and darkened understanding, and rescued her crimes from the list of these which are merely purposeless.

Cases of this sort, when a possible though inslequate motive may be assigned for a criminal act, present to the legal mind comparatively little difficulty. The responsibility of the actor is clear furt there are other aspects and manifestations of monomanis, which, without involving all the conditions of insanity, seem out of the category of crims, and deserve to be treated as phenomens of such mental disease that its victim is not morally responsible. Some of these manifestations are destructive, some that the inconsiderable intellectual flaw does not seriously impair the general integrity of the inconsiderable intellectual flaw does not seriously impair the general integrity of the motions of monomania, which, without involving all the conditions of insanity, seem out of the category of crime, and deserve to be treated as phenomena of such mental disease of these manifestations are destructive, some or these manifestations are destructive, some merely impulsive and ir diculous.

In Williamshurg, a year ago, a boy was capured, who had for months lain in wait in lonely conditions take their rise in marked organic.

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Herefocuer and Esqui of these manifestations are destructive, some merely impulsive and in thous, some grotesque

and his apartments were found to be crowded with female shoes. They were of all sorts, from the dainty little slipper to the most fashirom the cainty little slipper to the most manionable bootec. The man was a respectable person, and among his immediate neighbors bore the repute of being a quiet, worthy clizen. He could not tell what impelled him to these fantastic acus of spoliation. It was an irrelistible impulse, and in ridiculousness and fatnity was about on a level with the propensity of a was about on a level with the propensity of was addit on a lovel with the propensity of a well known London surgeon who had a fancy for cutting the table-cloth in two, in every house to which he was summoned. He kept a lancet for that especial purpose, and in the course of an extended professional career pro-bably destroyed more drapery than any other practitioner in Great Britsin.

practitioner in Great Britain.

These morbid tendencies and phenomena are obviously salient points of a great breadth and depth of mental disease. When aberrations are slight and solitary, when a person seems sane in all except some trivial particular, it may be that the inconsiderable intellectual flaw does not extend in the considerable intellectual flaw does and salients.

changes of the nervous system, such as are traceable in epilepsy or melancholis. The manis of vanity, of fear, of ambition, of super-stition, of homicide, of any sort of wanton and stition, of homicide, of any sort of wanton and causeless destruction existing in minds which betray no other evidence of unsoundness, may yet be traced to distinct and accurately ascertained lesions of the brain. Much has already been done in this direction, but much remains to do. It is neither humane nor intelligent to punish disease as if it were felony, and at the same time scalety has a right to be permanently protected from the dangerous and plantible lunatic, as well as from the same and sapient criminal.

THE NAMING OF CHILDREN.

One of the most common, foolish, and mischlevous habits is that of naming bables after historic characters, or perrus who have achieved contemporaneous sinction. The smaller the chance the calidren have of ever achieving any resemblance to those with whose title they are crushed from the first, the greater the likelihood of the bestewal of such titles. A narrow and ignorant man, living in some strail and semi-civilised region, is more inclined to call his boy, born under every disadvantage of circumstances, after some celebrated poet or scholar, than a wealthy and cultivated citizen would be on whom fate has been unkind, whom poverty and toil have vulgarized, blindly reaches out toward the ideal by stamping her graceless and commonplace daughter with some name acquired from a popular romance. It may be said that fair names may exercise a favorable influence, and serve as models and patterns for the namesake. So they may, if there he say similarity or concord between the two, but when there is not, when the two natures are opposite, perchance antagonistic, the heavy capital overweights and weakens the column. Names, to be beneficial and inspiring to their bearers, must either find or beget corresponding tendencies.

The injury William Shakapeare, John Milton, George Washingtoh, Daniel Webster, and a hundred others have done at the baptismal font can never be reckosed. It is doubiful which would have been better, they should not have been born, or that the nominal wearers of their honors should not have been.

? am sure hundreds—nay, thousands—of promising and naturally elever boys have been spoiled by indiscretion of nomenciance. How can a sensitive and competent youth, with an ardent proclivity to and many inclinations for ilterature, obey the bent of this inclination when everybody is aware that he is William Shakapeare, John Singer and naturally perfect and momentous of mortaler. Who shall say how many retiring, cloistered natures have been emittiered by discovering in their first thinking years how ridge con

How THEY DO IT.—The following conversa-tion between two clever lawyers was overheard:

"How doos your client like it?". "Not over much; begins to complete of the expense."— "Mine is ultright, bound to fight it out. Can we manage to get the jury to disagree again?"— "Don't know; we must work for it."—"You get beat, of course, in the end; but you'll appeal, of course?"—"Of course."

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THE FAVORITE 13 printed and published by George E. Describate, 1 Place d'Armes Hill, and 319 St.