Our table is spread for two to-night. No goods our bounty share, The damask citch is snown, while. The service elegent and bright, Our chins quaint and tare. My little wife precises, And perfect love abides.

The bread is sponge, the butter gold,
The audine rice and hot,
What though the winds without blow and
The walls sittle world unfold
And the storm is comforged
In the stellight's abserted glow
Beans a Faradise below

A fairer p. ture who hath seen s
Soft fights and shadows filent
The central figure of the scene,
She sits—my wife, my love, my queen—
its, boals little bent
And in her eyes of blue
I read my bliss anew

I watch her as she pours the tea, With quiet, gentle grace. With fingers delt and movements tree, She minos in the cream for me. A bright smile on her lace; And as she sends it up, I pledge her in my cup

Was ever man before 30 blemed?
I secretly reflect.
The passing thought sife must have guessed,
For now dear lips on mine are pressed,
An ar m is round my neck.
Dear treasure of my life—
God bless her—little wife!

## A French Detective's Story.

This is how I came to be mixed up with certain detectives of the Rue de Jerusaleme, the Scotland Vard of Paris.

A briend of mine, a solicitor, had among his clients a firm of East India brokers, into which had recently been admitted, as a partner, the son of the soulor member of the house. This young man had by no means turned out well. He had not only been extravagant, but utterly rockless in money matters, and had lately capped his previous offenses by abeconding to the continent, and taking with him £10,000 worth of tureign bonds or securities, that were not only the proporty of the firm, but formed the nestegg on which the partners relied in case of a rainy day. Like most foreign ascurities, these bonds were payable to "bearer," and were therefore all the more seay to negotiste or dispose of. For several reasons the firm did not wish to make the their loss public. In the first place, doing so would have been a severe, if not fatal, blow to their credit in the city 1 and, secondly, the other partners were naturally unwilling to publish the dishonesty of an individual whose father was the head of their establishment. Somehow or other it had been ascertained that the absonded partners had gone to Paris. The affair had been placed in the hands of my friend, who, as I have said was their solicitor, and his plan was to try and recover the securities on payment of a certain sum. As a matter of course it was to be expected, those persons in whose hands they were pledged would ask as much as possible for these documents; and that, if they knew that leadily absorbed in the hands of the process of the security and the partners of the securities of the

would rise in proportion.
To me was intrusted the task of getting back the bonds. It was agreed that I was to start the next day; that I was to pay as little as possible for the recovery; and that I was to keep the whole affair as much as possible in the dark.

possible in the dark.

Some of the peculiarities of the French detectives and their system atruck me very forcibly, even before I landed at Boulogue, On board the same steemer with me there happened to be very few passengers, but among them was an elderly, very gentlemanly-looking Frenchman, who spoke English well, although with a very decided accent.

I am what is called a good sailor, and always onjoy a run across the channel, even in the most stormy days. As I was smoking my cigar in the bow of the steamer, and watching an ironolad in the distance that was toiling up channel, the Frenchman of whom I speak made his way up to me, and bogged the favour of a cigar-light, evidently with the intention of there and then commencing a conversation. He was a spare, middle aged man, well set up, about 50 years of age, with iron-gray hair and moustache, no whiskers or beard, and sud with the omuipresent red ribbon in his buttonhole. He a well-dressed, had good manners, and all the outward and visible signs of a retured officer of the French army. After talking for some time on indifferent matters, he saked me if I was not Monsieur So-andso, mentioning my right name. Thinking he was some individual I had met in Paris or elsowhere on the continent, I replied in the affirmative.

"Ab," said he, "I never torget a face or a rime. Let me introduce invest! as Monsiour X., of the police correctionnells accrete de Paris. I have been engaged in a petite affair in Loudon. Your police wanted some one who could identify a certain individual, and I was sent over for that purpose. I happened to be in the bureau at Scotland Yard when Monsieur came there last Wednesday, and one of the inspectors pointed you out as a gentleman about to proceed to Paris to recovor some securities which had been stolen. If I can be of any use to monsieur over yonder in the Rue de Jerusalem, I shall only be too happy."

I thanked my new soqual itance very much, and told him that though I had a letter of introduction from the French Embassy to the chief de police correctionelle in Paris, I should be very glad indeed to avail myself of his services. We then had a little refreshment together, and agreed to travel in company with each other is Pa-

In the train, as well as in the steamer, my friend talked a good deal about our English police system, and more particularly about our English detectives. The latter he declared to be "dee excellents gens," and "des braves hommes;" but was not a little astonished at their way of doing work, which, as he said, would never suit Paris or France. "Your secret police," he said, "are no more secret than the police in unform. Everybody knows them, and they seem dress so exactly alike that they might as well wear the blue tunio with the number on the collar. This is not the first or second time I have been in London, and it has always struck me that your reacals and vagabonds know far more what your detectives are doing than the detectives know about the rescale."

"We," he continued, divide our police into two great divisions— la polloe politique and a polloe correctionella. Of the former you have none at all. So much the better for you. The police correctionelle we sub-divide into two categories, those who wear The police correctionelle we subuniform and those who don't The former are for keeping order in the atreets, at the doors of public buildings, and other places where there are crowds; also, they have to deal with ordinary thieves, nouse-broakers, and rogues of the lower orders. For instance, if I happened to be passing through the streets of Paris and saw a right, a tu-mult or other disturbance, I would not dream of mierfering. It would be the busi-ness of the sergents-de-ville to do so. This part of the London police duty is admirably performed. Your policomen do their work in the streets, and whenever there is a orowd or a crush, with a good temper and forbearance that is beyond all praise, But it must be admitted that this is very inuch owing to the English people them-selves. With the exception of the lowest of the low, the English are a people who love order. And if a policeman is doing his duty, niue Englishmen out of ten would step forward and assist bin if he were in difficulty or were outnumbered by what you all the roughs. Now, in France, it is quite different. With Frenchmen—or at least with the wast majority of my compatriots the authorities, or the government, or the executive, call them what you will, are certain to be in the wreng. This is why France has never flourished unless governed by a hand of iron. I love my country, and I love my countrymen; but this does not prevent me from seeing the faults of the latter. And their can be no doubt that, in their heart of hearts, ninoteen out of twenty Frenchmen think that they are fully capable of making their own laws, being their own executive, their own police, their own clergy and their own doctors. And this is our sergents-de-villos have often to be assisted by the gensdarmes, and the gensdarmes have frequently to be supplemented by the military. Now in England it is quite different. Everyone believes that in ciety there are different grades and ranks; and so no one, except the most abandoned variationals, would lift his hand against what is done for the general good. This is one reseen why your risible police have in easier time than ours."
"But," said I, "do you not approve of

"But," said I, "do you not approve of our secret police, or detectives?"

"No," said the Frenchman, "I do not. I may be wrong, but they don poest to me to know the very commence of their work. For instance, as your Lendon detectives go along the street the policemen on duty speak to him, or give him a nod of recognition, or, if he is a superior, salute him. You saw me a little while ago at Bonlogne"—way were then in the train on our way to Paris—"pass a number of sergents-de-ville when we disembarked. Did any one of them make me a sign of re-

cognition."

"No," said I, "they certainly did not.
I was close behind you, and observed that
not one of them appeared ever to have seen
you before."

"Bon," said the Franchman; "and yet the wife with the bill at Dinew my experiors in Paris. But, in fact, even you, monsieur," he said, addressing me, "have only myword for it that I have anything whatever to do with the police. And it you were to take off my clothes, search all my pockets, and cut out all the linings, you would not find one scrap of paper which would show you that I have anything to do with Rue de Jerussiem."

"But," said I, "after a time people must got to know your appearance, and must mark you down as Monsieur So-and-so of the police force, in the same way that any banker, merchant or other private individual would be noted down by his neighbours."

"Ah, mon cher monsieur," he replied, "How little you English know of the working of our secret police, of what you call detectives I If my appearance and my constion were known, even to my laudlord and my concierge, I would be no more use to the secret police of Paris than a pair of boots without soles would be to an infantry soldier.

"You don't suppose that I always go

about n, the same costume? It is true that I leave my house every morning in the same dress; and if you were to ask my concease, or any of my ne gibours, who and what I am, you would be told that my name was so-and-so-que ye suis decore, et que je suis dans les offaires—which :: equivalent to what you English call 'something in the city.'"

"Do you ever, if I may ask the question,

use disguisce or dresses so as to make yourself pass for something else than what you really are?"

"Maia, comment !" replied the policeman, "that is one of our special duties. A member of the special police who could
not pass himself off for what he is not
would not be worth twenty france a month
in the way of salary. I have at different
times disguised myself as a priest, as a
dragoon, as an infastry officer, as a carpenter, as a printer, as a cocher de fiscre.
I have waited at a table in a restauant as
a garcon of the establishment; I have
wheeled a truck with luggage on it from
the Chemin de Fer du Nord to the Grand
hotel; I have sinuggled cigars, passed myself oif as a commissaire, and assisted in
taking tickets at the station. In fact there
are few situations and fewer trades to
which I have not for a time belonged, and
to which I hope I have done a certain amount
of honour."

of honour."
"But," said I, "surely in a large city
like Pa us there must be somebody, and I
should say not a few people, who knew
you, and who cannot be deceived by your
different costumes."

"Look here," replied my companion,
"this is Thursday; we shall arrive in
Paris about 7 o'clock this morning. If
monitour will make me a bet of a dinner
for four persons at any restaurant the loser
pleases, I will wager that before Sunday
night I will apeak on three separate occasions to monsionr, that he will not on either
occasion recognize who I am until I duelose
myself, and that at each time I will speak
to him for at least five minutes."

Thinking it impossible that any one person could by change of dress, or what not, deceave me as to his identity three timer in four days. I at once agreed to make the bet. In due time we arrived at the station of the Chemia de Fer du Nord; I betaking myself to my hotel and my companion to his

After breakfast I set off to present my credentials at the Rue de Jerusaleme; which, as most people knaw, is the headquarters of the l'aris police. Upon sending up my letter and card, I was shown to the soon of the "sous-chief de police correctore" which, as I have mentioned before, is a totally distinct department from that of the political police. The gentleman into whose presence I was shown had very little the appearance which in Logland we perceive in our policelinspectors. He was a well-diessed, clean-shaven man of shout 50 years of age, and looked more like the manager or head of a banking establishment than as if he had anything to do with the detective police. He was seated at a large writing-table, upo... which were a multitude of letters and other papers duy docketed Within reach he had three or four handles of electric-bells, and half a dozen elastic speaking tubes, by which he could communicate in an instant with any part of the building. On one side of the room was a large glass door, beyond which I could perceive quite plainly som three or four sergents-levile were sitting, so that they could see all that passed in their chief a room, and be ready to content at a moment's notice, although they could not hear what was said.

was said.

The sous chief received me not only well, but courteously. He heard my story, and, without expressing an opinion as to whether I could carry out the views of my employers, and recover the bends, said he thought he knew the man who would suit me—quifers soire affairs. He then touched one of the bell-handles, and immediately spoke through one of the tubes to some person or persons in another part of the house. Having received a reply to his queries, he told me that the man he wanted would be with us in a minute, and then began talking on invitionent subjects. In a very short time some one knocked at the door, and, upon being told to come in, there entered quite a young man, almost as well-dressed as his superior, and who, if I had been asked the question, I should have put down as one of the ordinary flaneurs on the boulewards. The sous-chief introduced me to him, saying he was an individual well up in all the rescality—exerceptive was the word he used—of connected Paris; and that if I would go with him and tell him my whole story he could, no doubt, help me, and, if it were possible to do so recover the boads. He then took me by the hand, wished me

He then took me by the hand, wished me "boune chance," said he would be glad to see me again, and hoped that I would be able to give a good accent of the Paris police on my return to London. I then went forth with my new guide, thinking how utterly unlike both he and his chief were to anything I had seen in the way of police de-

tectives in London.

My experience of Frenchmen, extending over a period of many years, has taught me that, if you really want one of them to help you, the first thing to do is to ask him to breakfast—to that meal which is eaten at 11 or 12 o'olock, and which bears a strong likeness to an elaborate English luncheon. I accordingly asked the individual under whose care I had been put, to come with me to breakfast at a certain restaurent in Place da. Have, where having a weekness for sole a is furnished. See of the prediction of the house, I usually eat my midday meal when staying in the pleasantest of European capitals. My companion promptly accepted the proffered civility, and, as we jogged thiner in a flacre. I explained to him the na-

when staying in the pleasance of the great of the profilered civility, and, as we jogged thitner in a flacre, I explained to him the nature of my business in Paris, and how anxious I was to recover the lost bonds for my friends without letting the puolic know that the latter had been robbed.

the bonds had been pawned or pledged in Pans, he could find without much difficulty where they were, that no respectable firm would take in pleased bonds from an indi-vidual they did not know; that those firms who did business of this sort would advance a very small portion of the actual value, and that if I was prepared to pay a little more than had been advanced the bonds would no doubt be recovered. Thus talking we arrived at the Place du Havre, and both did full justice to the excellent brackfast placed before us. After roffee, cigars and chasse, we separated, my comrade walking down with me as far as the Grand hotel, whore he took leave, promising to see me about 5 o'clock on the afternoon of the next day, at the hotel where I was lodging, the Bedford in the Rue de l'Arcade. During our walk between the Place du Havre and the Urand hotel I was auxious to see whether my companion was recognized by several sergents de-ville that we met on the road; but nothing of the kind took place. No one, whether of the police or not, appeared to have the slightest idea that this individual was anything more than one of the well-dressed anything more than one of the west-dressed lotterers who may be counted by the thousands in Paris. He was well-dressed, but not in any way dandified; and from the crown of his het to the sole of his boot there was nothing whatever about him that spoke of his profession. If I had been asked to guess who he was, I should have said he was a olerk in some merchant's office or a bank, and that although not wealthy, he was tol-erably prosperous and well-to-do man. He manners were good and free, without being presuming; he spoke to me as being quite my equal, and yet with nothing but what aavoured of true French politeness. His willingness to help me was expressed more as if he was anxious to show kindnose and civility to a foreigner than as if he expected to be in any way rewarded for what he did He never in any way so much as hinted at money or money's werth being needed to carry out his work, and when I spoke to him of his expenses he would facur in making this inquiry, and ofmy willingness to place funds in his hands for that purpose, his answer was, "Those are matters which you will arrange by-and-by with the chief. I am only acting under his

After leaving the detective's officer whose services were thus placed at my disposal. I walked back by the boulerards to the Medeleine, on my way to the rue de l'Arcada. Happening to pass a lineadrapar's shop, and noticing some socks which took my langy, I want in to look at them. Net being or as a shout the size and whether or not they would fit me, the women of the shop very civilly effered to send round some pairs of different sizes from which I could releast. I gave her my address at the hotel; which was but a short distance off, and I had hardly arrived at the Bedford before

one of the waiters tapped at my door and announced that a man had brought me some socks to look at from a shop on the boulevards

I desired that the men should be shown up. He brought his parcel in with him and stood facture me as he inclided, talking about the weather, of the few strangers that were in Faris shopman. I did not look at him very fixedly, but noticed that he was a man of about 30 years of age, with full black best and moustache, black and somewhat long hair and respectably, tithough not fashionably, dressed. He showed me several pairs of socks, which I measured with some of my own from my portmantear. I selecte a dozen pairs but demurred at the price he asked me much was more than double what he and have had to pay in the most fashionable west end shop in London. We argued the point amicably togother, and, when I produced a 100 france note wherewith to pay him he said he had no change, but

argued the point amicably together, and, when I produced a 100 frano note wherewith to pay him he said he had no change, but would go down to the bureau of the hotel and sak for what he needed. I state these particulars to show that the man was some time in my room, and that we had a contiderable amount of conversation together. The was turning to go out of the door, he at once pulled off his eig, his beard and whiskers, and atood revealed to me as my travelling companion from Dover to Paris. He grinned with delight as having scoredone of the three points he had to make to win his bet. For my cown part I was so astonished I could havily speak. The disguise had been perfect, and the manner in which he had followed me from the shop—into which a short half hour before I had no idea of entering—was sy actounding that I told him at the time he deserved to win the game from what he had already done. But this would not satisfy him. A Frenchman, no matter what his occupation may be, invariably takes pride in his work, and this detective was as proud of having outwitted me as a general rould be of having gained a great victory. He resumed his wig and beard so as not to excite surprise in the people of the hotel, and going with him to the bureau I procured change for my note and paid him for the socks. The latter, it appeared, belonged bona fide to the shop where I had been. But how Monsieur X, had got possion of them, or why the woman a shop had allowed him to bring them 1 my hotel, are mysterice I have nover yet emable to solve.

The next morning, while I was still discussing an early breakfast, a visiting card, on which was inscribed the name "Archille on the content of the content of the

Dubrac," was handed to me, with the intimation that the gentleman of that name
wished to see me. Anxious as I was to obtain news of the lost property, and thinking
that "Archille Dubras" might be the name
I had not caught when introduced to the
detective at the Rue de Jerusaleme, I was
not a little disappointed when my visitor
was unhered into the room. He was an elderly man, with short-cut, erisp hair,
white, drooping mustache and a very pale
face, and began a long, rambling statement
about being assistant or clerk in a certain
financial firm, to which firm, upon a day he
named, some foreign broads payable "to
bearer," and worth 250,000 fraces (\$12,000),
hadebeen pledged. A security for a flowing
one twenty-lith of seir valuat a The principal facts of the mail's statement were easy
anough to understand, but what between
his rambling voice and his evident desira
to conceal certain details I could not exactly make out his story, and ended by asking
him whether he would accompany me to
Rus de Jerusaleme and state there what he

Rue de Jerusaleme and state there what he had told me. The detective said he did not think there "Avec le plus grand plaisir," replied he, would be any difficulty about the matter. He hoped, and, indeed, he believed that, if she hoped had had been able to the hoped his mustache, sat revealed once my travelling companion, Monsieur X! I had certainly been taken in, if possible more completely than the first time, and I again offered to pay my bet as fairly lost. his, however, my friend would not hear of and said he must either win a third time or pay for the dinner he had lost. In the meantime he must tell me that he had really been sent by the chief de burcau in the Rue de Jerusalem, to announce to me that a part, if not the whole, of the bonds had on discovered, and that they were in the hands of a very discountable firm in Rue Notre Damo de Nazareth. "And now, mon ami," said the Frenchman, "all you have to do is to remain quiet for the pre-sent, and not to move in the allair. In two or three days we hope to carry through your wishes. And se to our little bet, gar hand a shake and disappeared, chuckling to himself behind the thick white musteche be-

fore going down stairs. During the next two days, which I, nothing loath, employed in looking up my friends, visiting the theatre, and other-wise killing time, I regarded with suspicion, every Freachman who approached me, thinking to discover, in every strange face, the i right, twinkling oyes and tri-umphant smile of my olever enemy. On the evening of the second day I went to see a friend off from the Masas station, and strange to say, that, although I had only at the eleventh hour made up my mind to accompany him, it was here I leet my third and last point in my bet with Monaicur X. As our flacro drove up, one of the regular-ticketed porters came forward to take my companion's trunk. In lifting it from the roof of the carnage he let it fall. Upon this I spoke to him somewhat angrily. Frenchman-like, he returned my abuce, and, for at losst five minutes, we stood fare to face, slanging each other in the chacest of French language. My friend, who was an Englishman, stood by anxious to put in a word to help me, but not knowing exact's how to do so. All of a sudden the porter jut down the trunk, and asked me to speak to him in the street. Taking me under the gaslight, and looking cautiously around, he pulled off his cap and a outrous sort of skin-mask which covered the forehead, nose, and upper part of the face, fitting closely like a glove, and there

stood Monsiour X.

I at once declared that I had fairly lost the bet and invited him and any other two friends he liked to bring to dine with me, the next day at my favourite restaurant in the Place du Havre. We then returned to the most central part of Paris, my companion having in the meantime changed his clothes at the house of a frienu in the misshbourhood.

neighbourhood.

The history of the finding of the bonds is little soon told. In three or four days after my in."

arrival in Paris the police had the whole attair at my finger's ends. It was just as they suspected. The securities had been pledged to a very low money-lending tirm for something under five hundred pounds, they being worth twenty times the amount. A little—or I should say not a little—prescure year put upon these "hylocks, who, for a premium of two thousand france (190) were made to disgorge what may truly be called their plunder. They managed these things, if not better, at any rate more promptly in Franco than in England. The Paris police gave the holders of the bonds the chance of restoring the bonds to me, or of appearing before the jude d'instruction. Both individually and collectively, this firm could not be said to have had a clean bill of health. It was not the first, nor yet the second, nor third time, that they had been mixed up with money affairs which, to say the least of it, were excessively shady. They consented at once to give up what they were told was stolen property. The result was that within ten days of my leaving London, I returned there, having fulfilled my mission my expenses being all paid, and a check for a hundred guiness handed to me as a remuneration for my trouble.

## The Lornes Learn Tobogganing.

Here is an extract of a letter from Canads, published in the London Truth, which gives an account of tobograping: Governor-General tried his hand at it, and bit of his coat loose somehow under the which is always fatal. Over he went in the steepest part of the accordulutes, but luckily the anow was too soft to hurt. Then he took it into his head to try going down a shorter hill with a jump right on to the skating-rink. We tried hard to disausce him, for if persons are shot. off with such an impetus on, the loe is a very off with such an impetus on, the ice is a very different landing to the soft snow, and we knew what would happen if the Princess caught sight of him. However, off he went; the toboggan ice straight in the snow as a horse does to a fence, abot on the ice and right across the rink all safe. Then several gentlemen followed him. By this time up arms the Princess, who, we had hoped, was came the Princes, who, we had hoped, was safe at the hottom of the big slide, and too busy hauling up her toboggan to notice us. Of course nothing would suit her but that she must try it at that instant berself, so all that could be done was to level the anow-hank a little, an as make the teboggan jump a little less vicinity, and put some to catch her on the other side, and put some to eatch her on the other side, and off she went. Luckily she kept the toboggan quite straight and sat like a rock, so so she spun across right to the curling rink, where the long-stop, as he was christened, careht and broke her shock, which might otherwise damaged the tologyan. She is wonderfully placky, but His Excellency would not let her try it any more. You have no notion how popular the Princess is. She and His Excellency and her ladies go out on a snow tramp on Sunday aftersoons, and she has in-vented such a retty walking costume. It is a dirk blankes ocat, with hood lined and plated with red, red sash round her waist and nethicost to match; and the gentlemen than a differ secretic sike it walk without. tam petticoat."

## A Fighting Band.

(From Chambers' Journal)

The bend, whose strains inspire courage even in the timid, is generally placed bu-hind the troops in action, so as to be sheltered from the enemy's fire; but when the battalions separate and advance in troops, sometimes flight alone may save them. In the battle of Koniggratz it happened that the band of the Sixty-seventh Regiment (Prussian) was cut off from their battalions and discovered to the enemy, who immediately attacked the defenseloss musicians. They were almost unarmed, and, in the desperate struggle which arose, some lought with their musical instruments for weapons. Many were wounded, several killed—among the letter two intimate friends, one a married man; the other one charged by the enxions wife of the former to take good care of her husband and to watch over him. His promise that either both or none should return proved a true prophecy; the faithful friend was killed when endeavouring to eard off the blow which an Austrian soldier was about to deal on the other man's head. He sank down, calling out: "I do sot surrender!" and expired. The Austriana challenged the surviving men to lay down what arms they had; but Germendorf was intent on revenging his friend; refusing te surrender he fought like a lion, till several stabe from the bayonets and a shot in the side laid low the hero.

## A Model Statue of Faith.

Monaignore Anzino, King Humbert's Chaplain-in-ordinary at the Quirinal, is a man of ready wit. He was intrusted with all the arrangements of the recent memorial service for King Victor Emanuel, which was celebrated in the Pantheon, where the body of the first King of Italy is resting, on the anniversary of his death. The splendid catalaque was adorned with a variety of embleme significant of the human virtues and Christian graces of the Re Galantuomo, and its summit was or whed with a startle of the grace which is supposed to be most characteristically Christian-Faith. A vi-sitor called the attention of the Royal Chaplain to the smallness and meanness of this symbolical figures he observed that, as it was destined to be placed[at so great an elevation, the artist should have supplied a much larger statue. "Its size is most sp-propriate," replied the Monaignore. "I was very careful on this point, and gave the the expot measure of the figure which I required." "And why, is it so small?" re-plied his interlocutor. "You see," answer-ed Ansino, with his Italian smile, "it is a modern statue of Faith, and I thought that it ought to correspond with the very magne proportion of modern Faith. When Faith grows bigger she shall certainly have a big-ger statue, if I am alive, and have the ordering of the business."

Popular song in England.—"By, Baby Bunting, Dizzy's gone a-hunting, to get a little Alghan skin to wrap the british lion