

THE DYING YEAR.

Ring, solemn chiming, ye midnight bells,
As o'er the land your music swell,
Reminding man that his career
Shall end, just like the dying year.
Ring softly, life is but a dream,
Or, like an ever-dwelling stream,
That hurries on its mighty way,
And time is impotent to stay.
Ring as a muffled bell doth peal,
The dying year sad memories seal,
Memories of sorrows, joys and peace,
And noble deeds and bad must cease.
Ring, for the tones prophetic are,
They bring glad tidings from afar,
The year may die midst grief and pain,
Yet from its womb is born again.
When ring your softly solemn chiming,
Make men forget their losses and gains;
And as your music fills the skies,
Let nobler aspirations rise.

GEO. W. ARMSTRONG,
London, Ont.

CHRISTOWELL

A DARTMOOR TALE

BY R. D. BLACKMORE.

The sheep-stayer, under his burden,
walked with a long heavy stride,
which prevented him from hearing any light
sound of pursuit; so that, although the
night was very dark and still, and though
he kept his eyes very well in view, with
the help of the white body hanging on his
back. And it is not likely that a man
with such a load would depart from the
downward track if he could help it. For
the ground was uneven, though not bould-
ery nor morassy, and a strong man had
as much as he could do to get along with
a weight like a bag of potatoes to stoop
to, and small opportunity of picking every
step. And sure enough, before very long
this began to come hard upon the wind of
Mr. Wenlow. Mr. Short heard him begin
to pant a little; and then he could see that
the sheep upon his back was swaying
about, as if the dead had been a dream,
and it were trying to get up to graze
again.

"Now I will have him as he had Mother
Aggett, and over him fast to his own dis-
tress." Meditating thus, and with presence
of mind in every quick point of his body,
the vicar of Christowell, who was a won-
derful hand at knotty subjects, came
swiftly behind the sheep-felon, and flung
a running noose of well-scented rope
leather over his head and down his arms,
and then tightened, and turned it on the
backbone of the sheep. "Halloo!" cried
Mr. Wenlow, "Halloo!" replied Mr.
Short, but paused for no further conversa-
tion. In a second he had lashed his run-
ning line, and passed the silk rope of his
entails round the knees of the man who
had landed his sheep-felon, and knotted
it so that the man could not get up, and
it sat fast in the crampy pith of the
human system. Down went Wenlow with
his foul deed on his back, and fatter words
issued vainly from his mouth, which was
stopped by the soft obstruction of a clump
of moss of the sphagnum order.

"To swear is as futile as it is wrong,"
the parson remarked, while he tightened
up his knots, and proceeded to add to the
embarrassment of his prisoner by knocking
some strange amount of mud and dirt into
his eyes, and his nose, and his mouth, and
his ears, and his nostrils, and his throat,
and his chest, and his stomach, and his
back, and his sides, and his arms, and his
legs, and his feet, and his hands, and his
fingers, and his toes, and his nails, and his
hair, and his skin, and his bones, and his
flesh, and his blood, and his veins, and his
arteries, and his nerves, and his muscles,
and his tendons, and his ligaments, and his
joints, and his bones, and his flesh, and his
blood, and his veins, and his arteries, and
his nerves, and his muscles, and his ten-
dons, and his ligaments, and his joints,

"My no means, my friend. You put him
there yourself, and it is not fair to blame
him. However, hold up your nose a mo-
ment, and I will give you more room to
breathe." With these words the parson
drew forth his own knife from the sheath
at the side of the noose, and cutting the
oddness of the situation, moved the
moss around his prisoner's face, who moved
nervously about from this novel mode
of shaving. "My hand is very steady,"
kept until said. "There, now you can see
nicely," continued the vicar, "and can sat-
isfy express any gratitude you feel."

"I don't feel much," replied Mr. Wen-
low.

"From long experience I never expect
much," the vicar answered pleasantly.
"But how long can you stay here without
inconvenience?"
"Either murder me at once, or take that
weight off me."
The prisoner uttered this with such a
pained groan that Mr. Short was really
afraid to leave him so while he went for
the needed help to deliver him to justice.
Humanely, but unwisely, he relieved him
of that burden, and took away the moss
from his face, and released him from the
noose to release his arms or legs. Then
feeling that his fastenings were all secure,
and knotted out of reach of any twisting
power, the parson sat down to receive his
breath for he had been sitting numbly,
as well as to consider how to carry on his
work. It had been a very hard job to
catch this fellow, and now it seemed a
harder one to dispose of him when caught.
Here he was, sitting on the ground, and
away from any inhabited house that he
knew of; and though the tall man could
have carried him with ease, it was out of
his power to carry the tall man. If he
could have set him up, to begin with, his
head would have come down over like a
gargoyle, with his heels dragged on the
ground like the hoppers of a seed-drill.
Meditating thus, Mr. Short, with joy,
heard a squaky little voice, and behold
the sage. "You are a brave boy," he
said; "and here is a brave boy for you."
Then giving him careful directions, and
promise of a crown-piece, if he deserved
it, the vicar set off for a long trudge
across the moor.

CHAPTER XXIX.—PAST BIND, FAST

PIND.

Mr. Arthur and his guest Mr. Tucker,
sat up that night far beyond the usual
hour of bed-time at Larks' cot. When a
man begins to tell the story of his life,
however concise he may attempt to be, he
is pretty sure to wander into many side
issues, and get entangled among incidents
that require explanation. The timber mer-
chant, though accustomed to an early night,
had listened with scarcely a yawn to the
long and rather strange narrative of his
host, and made him repeat some parts to
be sure of them, so much at variance did
they seem with the ordinary course of
human nature.

"Whether you are right, sir, or whether
you are wrong, it is not for me to judge,"
he replied at last; "all depend on the
thing that should be ascertained when two
big principles run counter to each other.
But whether you are right, sir, or whether
you are wrong, there is not a man in this
countdown would have done as you have
done."

"I have not been three hours in this coun-
try."

Above All Things

Avoid trashy teas; it not only mars the pleasure of the
supper table, but ruins your digestion.

MOONSHON

INDO-CEYLON TEA
IS PURE. 25c. 30c. 40c. 50c. 60c per pound.

TORONTO.

Supposed Suicide—Death of Miss Kathleen Sullivan.

Dr. O'Connell's New Year's Greeting to the
Epworth League—The Commercial Travellers.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—The Police Iron Works
(Co.) will this winter construct a large pas-
senger steamer for the Brockville Naviga-
tion Co. The boat is to be one of the
best equipped on the St. Lawrence.

Miss Kathleen Sullivan, second daughter
of Bishop Sullivan, rector of St. James'
Cathedral, died at her father's residence,
38 Grand street east, at 9 o'clock this
morning, after three weeks' illness from
typhoid fever, contracted while nursing
her brother, Allan Sullivan, mining en-
gineer, at Portage, Ont. Her brother re-
sided in Toronto, Canada.

The deceased was 23 years of age,
and was a prominent worker in St. James'
parish.

The general superintendent of the Meth-
odist Church, Rev. A. Carman, D. D., has
issued a New Year's greeting to the
Methodist members of the Epworth
League within his Dominion. In it Dr.
Carman says: "This world offers you
splendid prizes. It offers you a crown of
life, with power, with success, with
honor, with glory, with eternal life, and
blessedness. With you, my friends, and
Leaguers, by soul winning, shine as
the brightness of the firmament, as stars
forever and ever."

The apparently about 25
years of age was found on Huntley street,
in Rosedale, tonight about 9 o'clock. Death
had been caused by bullet wound just
under the left nipple. Deceased was just
built, well dressed, clean shaven, and
for a moment. In his coat pocket was
found a handkerchief, initialed "T. W.," and
a parcel check, No. 4721, issued at G.
T. R. station, Hamilton, on the 23rd or
24th of December, 1897, for \$200.00.
No one saw the act of shooting or heard
any sound of the bullet. The body was
barely dead when found, the body being
warm. His coat and vest were open,
further suggesting that the shooting was
done by the dead man himself.

The 25th annual meeting of the Com-
mercial Travellers' Association was held to-
day, President R. J. Orr occupied the
chair. The annual report of the association
showed the total membership to be 4,325,
an increase over the previous year of 167.
The annual dues for the year were
\$21,450. The accident payments were raised
by minor accidents to \$2,800. The assen-
sion of the association was taken to extend
the powers of the association in affording
life and accident insurance to its mem-
bers. Negotiations were still in progress
with various trading companies, and a
proposal to organize regulations. The maximum
mortuary benefit was fixed by the board
at \$1,000. The financial statement showed
a balance of \$277 in the bank. The assets
of the association were set down at \$277.
The report of the association was read by
the president, and the association then
went into session for the day.

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WHO IS YOUR MILKMAN?

SEE HOW HE FARED ON THE
INSPECTION.

D. Hutchinson's Report on Herds and Dairies for
the Past Six Months—The Standing of the
Dairymen—Something Which Interests Every
Householder in the City.

At the meeting of the Board of
Health last night, Medical Health Of-
ficer Hutchinson presented a report of
the inspection of herds and dairies and
of the quality of milk supplied to Lon-
doners during the past six months. Dr.
Hutchinson stated that the general
condition of the herds was good—bet-
ter than it has ever been—no diseased
cows having been found. Of 157
samples of milk taken from vendors,
one was adulterated by the addition of
water and one had cream added. The
average per cent. of butter-fat of the
dairies are classed in the order of
merit—A, B and C, and the milk 1, 2
and 3—that is, milk giving a percent-
age of 4 and upwards, is placed in No.
1 class; that having a percentage of
from 3 to 3.5 in No. 2; and that with
a percentage of from 2.5 to 3 is placed
in the 3rd class. In the month of Oc-
tober typhoid fever was found in the
family of a milk vendor in London
township, who was promptly ordered
to cease selling until all danger was
over.

James Warden, London township.

W. J. Walker, Westminster town-
ship.

Chas. McMurray, Westminster town-
ship.

Geo. Riddle, Westminster township.

Kanes Bros., Westminster township.

Sells to A. Pack.

Hugh Ross, Dorchester township.

A. Supplies Hy. Mossop.

S. W. Hurd, Westminster township.

Bl. John Rogers, Adelaide street, Bl.

Jas. McLaren, London Gore, Bl.

Supplies J. L. White.

Jas. Learn, Westminster township.

Webb Bros., London township, Bl.

Samuel Robb, London township, Bl.

Chas. Duff, London township, Bl.

J. W. Wilkinson, London township.

Wm. Stevenson, Nilestown, Bl.

Supplies John O'Brien.

J. B. Ingamells, London township, Bl.

J. L. Swartz, London township, Bl.

Supplies R. Markham.

A. Higg, London township, Bl.

W. W. Wilkinson, London township.

Bl. John Griffiths, Westminster town-
ship, Bl.

Jas. Carroll, Westminster township.

G. H. Summers, London township.

Bl. C. Cattnach, Adelaide street, Bl.

S. E. Edwards, city, Bl.

H. Kilbourne, South London, Bl.

Jas. Malloch, city, Bl.

Wm. Hunt, South London, Bl.

Thos. Hill, Westminster township, Bl.

D. Ferguson, Westminster township.

Chas. Gorton, Westminster Tp., B.

Supplies Jos. O'Brien.

R. H. Collins, Wellington street, 1.

Bl. R. H. Collins, Wellington street, 1.

Thos. Davidson, London Tp., Bl.

Generos Bros., Westminster Tp., Bl.

Wm. Patten, London Tp., Bl.

John Gibb, East London, Bl.

Job. E. Smith, London Tp., Bl.

Kernohan Bros., London Tp., Bl.

Andrew Hogg, London Tp., B. Sells
to John Clark.

Bl. Rogers, London Tp., Bl.

Robt. McConkey, Crumlin, B. No
sample.

Wm. Rogers, Crumlin, B. Supplies
H. Brownlie.

R. H. Reid, Crumlin, B. Supplies R.
McCallagh.

Bl. Redding, city, Bl.

John Lashbrook, city, B. Cream
added, Bl.

John Davidson, Westminster Tp., Bl.

Kettwell, Westminster Tp., B. No
sample.

A. Marshall, London Tp., B. Pro-
tested, Bl.

Beattie Bros., London Tp., Bl.

Geo. Blanchard, Komoka, B. Sup-
plies Geo. Blanchard.

Jas. Blanchard, city, 1.

John Burton, Hyde Park Bl.

H. Brownlie, 1. Buys from Wm.
McLeod, London Tp., 1. No
herd at present.

Jos. McLeod, London Tp., 1. Buys
from Chas. Gorton.

Jas. Byers, London Tp., B. Supplies
Wm. Phoenix.

S. S. Johnson, city, 1. Buys from
Jas. Warden.

Bl. Wm. O'Brien, 1. Buys from Ker-
nahan Bros.

John Alda, Pottery, B. Supplies
G. Tappin.

G. Tappin, 1.