

## Died Standing on His Feet.

"ABOUT an hour before sunset last evening, Mary Gunsoly, a servant in the employ of John Roach, a farmer living near Searsville, started out to drive up the cows. She had gone but a short distance along the road when she saw a man standing up against the stone wall, or fence. The perfect quiet which he maintained, with the ghastly pallor of his face, attracted the woman's attention, and on closer observation she was horrified to find that he was dead.

"She at once gave the alarm. The neighbours assembled, carried the body to a house near by, and summoned Dr. Condict, who pronounced life extinct. The name of the dead man was Patrick Burke; he was thirty years of age. It is supposed that he was taken suddenly ill while passing along the road; that he leaned against the wall and died instantly, his body being supported in an erect position by the wall. After the inquest the coroner's jury rendered a verdict of death by heart failure superinduced by gastritis, or catarrh of the stomach—an acute form of dyspepsia."

The foregoing is quoted from the Middletown *Argus* of November 4th, 1892—an American newspaper.

Now let us see what lessons the untimely demise of poor Pat Burke has for some other people who, no doubt, fancy themselves safe from such a sudden taking off.

Mr. Thomas Hatt, of Windmere End, High Wycombe, Bucks, was a healthy enough man up to April, 1886. Then he began to weaken and fail. Why he should be ill he couldn't conjecture. So far as he could remember, he had done nothing to bring it on. He felt surprised, as a man does at receiving an unexpected blow from behind. His nerves were all of a jangle, he had a bad taste in the mouth, and a sort of all-gone sensation as though the very life were ebbing out of him. His hands and feet were cold and clammy, and he often broke out into cold sweats. Dark spots were all the time floating before his eyes, his appetite left him, and when he did eat anything it lay upon him heavy and dull, and seemed to cause a gnawing, grinding pain.

"After a time," says Mr. Hatt, "I had pain and palpitation at the heart, which I was told was heart disease. At night my heart would thump so hard I could get no sleep; it pounded like a muffled drum. After a while the heart trouble got so bad I was afraid to go to bed, and used to sit up nearly all night long. Later on I became so melancholy and nervous that I trembled from head to foot as I went about. I worked a little when I was able, but was always in pain. A doctor in Frogmoor Gardens treated me for some time, but gave me no relief. I thought I might die any day, for I looked upon my complaint as heart disease. I seemed to be walking in darkness on a narrow footpath between life and death.

"Yet the days, weeks and months dragged by; I could only wait. It was in October, 1886, that I first read of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. I can't say I had any faith in it, but there was so much reason and sense in the published accounts of what it had done, that I got a bottle from Messrs. Lansdale & Co., chemists, Queen's Square, and began to use it. Expecting little or nothing, I received much, for in two days I felt the welcome relief, and after having taken three bottles I found myself in good health; and have been so ever since—that is, for six years. You are at liberty to publish this letter if you think it might be useful to others, and I shall be glad to answer inquiries. I am a chairmaker by trade, and in the employ of Mr. Gibson, Slater Street, High Wycombe. Yours truly (signed) Thomas Hatt, November 15th, 1892."

Well, you say, how does poor Pat Burke's case connect with Mr. Hatt's? That's what we are going to tell you. The inquest showed that Burke had no organic disease of the heart at all. When the doctors cut the heart out of his body they could find no signs of disease about it. What killed him so quickly then? Listen and learn. The heart derives its motion from the same set of nerves (the pneumogastric) that move the stomach and lungs. These nerves, poisoned and paralysed by the acids bred by indigestion and dyspepsia, ceased at last to have power over the heart,

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Then what? It collapsed in a minute, and the man died before he had time even to lie down on the ground. What a terrible thing! Yet everybody is liable to a like fate who doesn't watch out against indigestion.

We congratulate Mr. Hatt on his escape. But it was long odds against him at one time.

Let those who are appointed to judge of the character of others bear in mind their own imperfections, and rather strive by sympathy to soften the pang arising from a conviction of guilt, than by misrepresentation to increase it.

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