JUST BY CHANCE.

A day and the life of Isaac Rawson were A day and the life of Isaac Rawson were drawing to a close together. The rays of the setting sun stole into the room where the dying man lay, and he watched them intently until they faded away. He knew he would never see them again.

Death had confronted the old lawyer suddenly. His energies overtaxed through a larger of the set of the lawyer and the lawyer suddenly.

Death had confronted the old lawyer suddenly. His energies, overtaxed through a long life devoted to ceaseless money-getting, had collapsed in an instant almost, and left that which we call life without the support necessaryfor its further continuance.

"He cannot live through the night, probably the end is not more than a few hours distant," the old family physician had said but a few minutes before, when the son who now sat by his father's bedside asked what the chances were.

the chances were.

The son sat with bowed head. His features were composed in an expression of decorous grief; his hands were folded upon his lap, and at almost regular intervals he sighed. Had he raised his head, it would have appeared that there was not the suspicion of a tear in his eyes, and that there lingered in their depths a look of quiet satisfaction which the lines of sorrow that were

set upon his face could not entirely hide.

Perhaps the fact that he knew himself to be the sole heir to his father's wealth had something to do with shaping the younger man's inner feelings. Some hearts are ruled by the desire of the sole hearts are ruled by the desire of the sole hearts are ruled. by the desire for personal gain rather than by affection.

Scarcely above a whisper the single word came from the colourless lips of the old man. The man at the bedside started slightly, as one who is suddenly aroused from thought that has carried him far away from present surroundings.

Then he turned and answered-

"Yes, father; what do you wish?"
"I have been thinking of your brother,
Robert. I fear that after all I should not
have treated him as I did."

The old man paused, exhausted by the effort which the words had cost him. An expression that was unpleasant to see flitted across the younger man's features, but in an

instant it was gone again.
"I know that I have but a short time to live," resumed the old man, "and things appear to me in a different light. It was heartless in me to disinherit and disown Jack because he married according to his own wishes instead of my dictates. I shall change my will; there is enough for you both. Each shall have half, and I shall die

Yes, father." The words came gently from the son's lips; the look on his face would have surprised the father could he have seen it. But the gloom was thickening, and his half-closed eyes did not see.

"Draw up the will as I wish it, quickly, while I have yet the strength left me to sign," directed the dying man.

Robert went to a table near by, lit a gas jet and began to write, not at all hastily.

"Why are you so long about it? A few words will certainly be enough," impatiently exclaimed the old man after the son had been busy what seemed to be a very long

"I shall be done directly. There, I am through," replied the son, as he rose and handed what he had written to his father. "That is right," was hall the latter said after he had read the will. Then he took the pen from his son's hand and with a great effort signed his name.

effort signed his name.
"Now call Hannah and Jane, and le them bear witness to my signature."
He called the housekeeper and cook, and

"Now go to my desk and take the old will and burn it. You will find it in the little drawer to the right."

Robert went to the desk, took a folded

Robert went to the desk, took a folded paper from the drawer indicated, held it in the gas flame untill it was well ablaze and threw it upon the open fireplace, where it lay a moment later a charred mass.

"There; it is not so hard to die now," whispered the dying man. "I feel that I cannot live until Jack could be sent for; but I want you, Robert, to go to him this very night and tell him that my heart was not steeled against him to the end. Tell him of the will which—" Isaac Rawson ceased speaking and lay

Isaac Rawson ceased speaking and lay motionless. He was dead.

It is not yet midnight when Robert enters his brother Jack lives; for has not his father with his dying breath told him to go to his brother this very night? Who would fail to respect the last wishes of one now dead? Surely not a son.

The city where Jack lives is not far dis-The city where Jack lives is not far distant; but there is a river to cross on the way. As the train rumbles slowly across the bridge, Robert pauses in the task of trimming his finger nails in which he is apparently deeply engrossed, and looks out of the window down upon the dark waters below in which the reflected, gleam.

A thought comes to him, which, though spontaneous in itself, is but the culmination of what has been passing in his mind ever since his father's death.

since his father's death.

He takes from his breast pocket a folded paper on which the writing is but a few hours old. This he wraps about the handle of the knife he holds in his hand. Then he shuts the blade so that the paper is held firmly. With a careless movement he lays the hand holding the knife upon the edge of the window. When he withdraws the hand a moment later, it is eventy. The knife is a contract of the window. hand holding the ame withdraws the hand a window. When he withdraws the hand a moment later, it is empty. The knife is a heavy one, and will go straight to the bottom, and with it the paper wrapped about it. The waters often give up their dead, but inanimate objects of value they hold within their depths for ever.

It is a week later. The will of Isaac Rawson is to be read in the presence of those interested. It is a mere formality, of course, for other than his two sons the testator left no kin. The sons both know what they will hear. Robert at least knows, and Jack may surmise. And yet, who knows what may happen during the few hours that must elapse before the will is opened and read?

"You are early. Mr. Drew will not be here for half an hour yet," are Robert's first words to his brother Jack as the latter enters the house of which Robert already considers himself the sole owner.

"I thought it best to have a few words with you before Mr. Drew arrives," is Jack's reply.

Mr. Drew is the lawyer to whom the ne ary legal transactions in connection with will have been entrusted. but that none but the old one, made fifteen years ago, could be found," remarks Jack to his brother when they are seated a mom-

ent later.

The remark is made with an interrogative inflection, so that Robert feels impelled to

reply.
"Yes; no other will was found, though I searched everywhere. Father's mind must have been wandering when he spoke of another will."

must have been wandering when he spoke of another will."

"Possibly; still you probably didn't think of searching the river," is Jack's next remark. Robert turns pale; then the blood surges back and his face becoms almost purple.

"What are you driving at?" he asks. The words come like gasps.

"Only this. On the night when you came to tell me of father's death, some young men were returning from a fishing trip on the river. Just as they were rowing under the bridge, a missile thrown from above struck one of them on the back and fell to the bottom of the boat. See, this is quite a heavy knife, and if a piece of paper hadn't been wraped about it, it might have hurt the young man happens to be an acquaintance of mine. He thinks the knife was dropped by some one in a train that was crossing the bridge just then. Now I merely wish to suggest that, when Mr. Drew comes, we give into his hands this document which fell into my friend's boat, and that we say nothing about the old will at all. How does the proposition suit Xou?"

Free Education in England.

The proposal to establish free education in England, which Lord Salisbury favors, is not proving to be very acceptable in some quarters, and especially among the Wesleyans. This denomination has three or four normal schools for training teachers in the country, and at one of their annual meetings held a few days ago the projected free education scheme was very strongly opposed. The principal of one of the normal schools, Rev. Dr. Greeves, took the ground that the tone of national education would be lowered by the operation of the system of free schools, the operation of the system of free schools, that parental responsibility would be lessened, and that there would be strikes and demonstrations on the part of the children. As to its probable effects upon the Wesleyans, he believed that it would destroy many of their schools, lower the standing of the scholar and the tone of education in all the best voluntary schools, and reduce enor mously the large amount now received in those schools for the express purpose of keeping them independent of local control. When Mr. Forster's Elementary trol. When Mr. Forster's Elementary Education Act was passed in 1870 the Methodists came to two conclusions, this reverend doctor said, the first of which was Methodists came to two conclusions, this reverend doctor said, the first of which was to stand resolutely to their own Wesleyan day schools, and the other to seek to establish undenominational schools within a reasonable distance of each family in the country. It would have been folly, he said, to part with their schools in 1870; it would be madness to do so now. The principal of another of those training schools, Rev. Dr. Rigg, was not less outspoken in his opposition to free education, partly because of its effect on the schools of the denomination, but chiefly because in his opinion it would be a retrograde step. And in support of this view he quoted a few exceptional extracts from a recent report of the Commissioner of Education at Washington. The President of the Conference also joined in condemnation of the proposed free system and declared that as Wesleyans "they were strongly pledged to the support especially of their own Wesleyan schools." What a pity that on a subject of this importance the Wesleyans of England could not have the benefit of the advice of their brethren in Ontario, where for many years the people have enjoyed a system of could not have the benefit of the advice of their brethren in Ontario, where for many years the people have enjoyed a system of free education, established under the direc-tion of an able Methodist minister. Another view of the matter is taken by Dr. Perceval, head master at Rugby, who stated his con-viction to be that the truly Conservative policy was not to resist the democratic wave cy on the p

THE CONGO RAILROAD.

Two Thousand Workmen Will Be Digging

and other equipment for the road. Several months ago the well-known Zanzibar trader, Swea-Hadji, arrived in Brussels at the request of the railroad company, and signed a contract to supply a large number of workmen for the road. Since then he has engaged 1,200 freemen of Zanzibar for the company, and they have already started for the Congo by way of the Cape of Good Hope. The rest of the force will soon be on the way to the river. to the river.

There are now 250 laborers on the ground There are now 250 laborers on the ground who are engaged on the first section of the route under the direction of the first party of engineers that left Belgium over two months ago. Some of the workmen are native Congoese, and the others were engaged in Sierra Leone and Liberia. The second byigged of engineers with a force of white brigade of engineers, with a force of white assistants, including a dozen miners, sailed for the Congo a few days ago.

Why They Don't Speak Now. "Why Lizzie, where have you kept your-lf so long?"

self so long?"
"We haven't seen each other for a long "No. I was inquiring about you the other day and I was told you were married, but, or

rse that's nons "It's the truth, my dear."

"Gracious me? "Yes, dear, and my husband is very rich."
"Very rich? Then he must be very old."

A community is in a hopeless condition when its dead men refuse to be buried.

Death of an Ex-vizier.

Death of an Ex-vizier.

Turkey has lost a distinguished statesman by the death of Khereddin Pasha, who held the seals of office of Grand Vizier in the troubled period of the Russo-Turkish war. His life was one of those romances only possible in the land of the "Arabian Nights." Khereddin was born a slave, about sixty-six years ago, and, after a series of remarkable adventures and struggles entered the Tunisian civil service, and eventually became Minister of Marine. From 1873 to 1377 he officiated as prime Minister, and then he transferred his services to the Porte, where he soon received high preferment. Towards the end of 1878 he became Grand Vizier, and attained office for over a year.

A Little Off.

Smith—Ah, one moment!
Jones—What is it, Smith?
Smith—Yesterday I took off my hat to a young lady whom I took to be your sistah.
If—ah—if it was some body else, please express my regets to your sistah.

Famous Women.

It is a significant fact that most women who have achieved fame in art, literature, or "affairs," have enjoyed vigorous health. This shows that the mind is never capable of the expression. This shows that the mind is never capable of the severe and continued application necessary to creative work, unless the body is at its best. The woman who aspires to fill an exalted place among her associates, must be free from nervous debility and female weakness. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescripton will banish these, and it is warranted to restore those functional harmonies which are indispensable to health. As a specific for all those chronic weaknesses a specific for all those chronic weaknesse and ailments peculiar to women it is un equaled.

Dime museums that advertise for midgets are in mitey small business

Great Little Men.

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The Common Let.

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There is a time no voice can teach,
There is a chain no power can break,
There is a sleep no sound can wake.
Sooner or later that time will arrive, that
place will wait for your coming, that chain
must bind you in helpless death, that sleep
must fall on your senses. But thousands
every year go untimely to their fate, and
thousands more lengthen out their days by
heedful, timely care. For the failing strength
the weakening organs, the wasting blood,
Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is a
wonderful restorative and a prolonger of wonderful restorative and a prolonger of strength and life. It purifies the blood and orates the system, thereby fortifying it st disease. Of druggists. invigorates the s against disease.

When a man's ignorance bears testimony he believes that which contradicts it to be a lie.

young, old, or middle-aged, who find themselves nervous, weak an exhausted, who are broken down from excess or overwork, resulting in many of the following symptoms: Mental depression, premature old age, loss of vitality, loss of memory, bad dreams, dimness of sight, palpitation of the heart, emissions, lack of energy, man in the heart, emissions, lack of energy, pain in the kidneys, headache, pimples on the face or body, itching or peculiar sensation about the serotum, wasting of the organs, dizziness, specks before the eyes, twitching of the muscles, eye lids and elsewhere, bashfulness, densits in the urine loss of will power. head master at Rugby, who stated his conviction to be that the truly Conservative policy was not to resist the democratic wave, but so to meet it as to ride upon it safely rather than be overwhelmed. He felt that if the system of free education was to be adopted, undenominational schools should be placed within the reach of all parents, and he expressed a hope that the clergy and other supporters of church schools might see the advisability of adopting a conciliatory policy on the point.

muscles, eye lids and elsewhere, bashfulness, deposits in the urine, loss of will power, tenderness of the scal pand spine, weak and flabby muscles, desire to sleep, failure to be rested by sleep, constipation, dullness of hearing, loss of voice, desire for solitude, excitability of temper, sunken eyes surrounded with LEADEN CIRCLE, oily looking skin, etc., are all symptoms of nervous debility that lead to isanity and death unless cured. The spring or vital force having lost its tension very function wanes in consequence. Those who through abuse committed in ignorance may be permanently cured. Send your address for book on all diseases peculiar to man. Address M. V. LUBON, 50 Fron St. E., Toronto, Ont. Books sent free sealed. Two Thousand Workmen Will Be Digging as Soon as the Favorable Season Opens.

Work on the Congo Railroad will be pushed vigorously as soon as the favorable season opens, when there will be gathered at Matadi and its environs about 2,000 workmen under the direction of forty to sixty white men. Le Mouvement Geographique says that the railroad company has already selected its type of rails, switches, locomotives, and other equipment for the road. Several months ago the well-known Zanzibar trader,



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