## THE Sleeping Murderer.

The wind whistled without, the The wind whistled without, the rain fell heavily, and the cold was increasing every hour. With a shiver I drew my chair nearer to the fare and remarked to my companion:

'What an awful night!'
He assented, adding:
'I don't think I'm superstitious, but I can't help regarding this night, the 17th of January, as under a sort of curse.'

of curse.'
(Why so?' I question d. Thereby hangs a tale, he replied, lighting a fresh cigar.

'Let's have it,' was my laconic re

joinder.

Now, this companion of mine was something of a character in his way. His name was Bill Brentford, and we had been inseparable friends, until at the age of eighteen we parted—he to enter his uncle's store in London, and I to cultivate the farm in Suffolk, which had been in my family for eight generations. From that time we saw but little of each other. Bill soon tired of the monotonous life of a clerk and, following the bent of his own inand, following the bent of his own in-clinations, he entered the detective force; At the time of which I am writing he was one of the next effici-

ent officers.

During my rare and hurried visits to London, I always stayed with Bill. He had never married, but he had kept up a bachelor's establishment in two snug rooms, next door to a firsttwo snug rooms, next door to a first-rate eating house, from which his meals were sent to him. A luxurious fellow was Ball, when off duty, but in the pursuit of his business, nerves and frame alike seemed made of

but to return to the night of which I was speaking. Bill enjoyed teiling a story, and told one admirably; so I, too, lighted a fresh cigar, and leaned comfortably hack in my chair; to listen with a feeling of delightful agus.

Bill smoked a few moments, in

silence and then:
'Did you ever hear of the Rutland murders, Dick ?'

'Well no,' I replied, 'I can't say that I did,'

that I did.

'Of course not. You country fellows never do hear anything.
Jupitor, what a life!'
Jupitor was Bill's favourite expression, and he always said it very slowly, and with great energy.

Well, the first of these happened in 1859, ten years to-night; and the second in 1867. They were both committed on the night of the 17th of January, between the hours of eleven and two.

and two.

There was an oldman by the name of Clark Rutland, who owned a tell, rather gloomy-looking house, out toward Paddington. He was a widower, and very rich, and his child having married against his will, he had disinherited her and adopted a nephew, a feeble, indolent, good-looking sort of a chap.

nepnew, a receie, indirect, good-now-ing sort of a chap.

This tellow, David Rutland, was married at the time his nucle adopted him, and had one child, a boy of five

married at the time his nucle adopted him, and had one child, a boy of five years, the handsomest little creature I ever set eyes on. The mother had gipsy blood, they said, and she looked it. Just after they came to live with the old man, a robbery was committed in the house, and I had charge of the affair; so that's the way I came to know all about them. It was when the child, Mark Rutland, was sixteen, that the first of the murders took place. David Rutland had been dead long ago, and young Mark was looked upon as the old man's so'e heir. I had been to the North on some business, at d when I got back the first piece, of news I heard was that old Mr. Rutland had been found dead in his bed, with a wound through his heart, made by some sharp slender instrument which must have let out the life instantly. His servant testified that he always when the with a long, this His servant testified that instantly. His servant testified that he always slept with a long thin dagger beside him which he had brought from Spain in his youth, and valued very highly. This dagger was missing and could not be found though the strictest search was made

The case was a very dark one and not a trace of the murderer could be found. I was too young then to have anything to do with the manage-ment of the affair but I was greatly interested in it. At length all search after the nurderer was given up and
Mark Rudand under the guardianship of his mother entered by will
into possession of everything.

Now nothing in the world hurts
meso badly as to be baffled in a cuss
control that it is instance it is

ne so badly as to be bamed in a disase even though, as in this instance it is not my own. I hated to give this one up, so I took careful notes of it and laid them aside for future use, it I should ever be so fortunate as to get hold of a clue to the mystery

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