Jack Bender felt very much relieved upon reaching home rather lats one Christman Eve to find that his wife had Christman Eve to find that his wife had accompanied the children to a juvenile party in the neighborhood. The fact was that the poor fellow had been serewing up his courage for weeks past to disclose the unpleasant news that, in consequence of some foolish speculations which he ought never to have embarked upon, he owed a considerable sum of money. If he had only taken his wife into his confidence at the commencemoney. If he had only taken his wife into his confidence at the commencement of his difficulties, it is possible that, by means of her shrewd common aense, backed by rigid economy in domestic expenditure, he might have found himself in a much less desperate position at the present moment. But, chiefly from the desire to concaal his folly, he had never given her a hint of his troublesome secret, and little Mrs Bender had not the slightest idea that anything was wrong Jack was too honest and simple-minded a man to be very worldly-wise, and, cona man to be very worldly-wise, and, consequently, his efforts to retrieve himself
had resulted only in further embarrassments. The only expedient that occured to him was borrowing money from
the Jews at an exorbitant rate of intercet and it is therefore not surprising. est, and it is, therefore, not surprising that his anxieties had increased day by day. At length the fatal crisis had arrived when his creditors' patience was exhausted, and that very morning Mr Lazarus had intimated to him through his lawyer that, unless his debt was paid by two o'clock that afternoon, the long-threatened writ of execution would be immediately put into force.

As it was quite beyond poor Jack's power to avert this dreadful calamity, it was evident that further concealment was out of the question, and he had, therefore, resolved to break the sad intelligence to his wife immediately upon telligence to his wife immediately upon his arrival home. Perhaps his unwillingness to perform this unpleasant task may have had something to do with the unusually late hour of his return, though, to do him justice, he had been fully occupied during the day in running about all over the town endeavoring to raise sufficient money from his friends to obtain from Mr Lazarus the indulgence of a few days' respite. All his efforts, had been, futile, even though, in his desperbeen, futile, even though, in his desper-ation, he had spent some hours in huntwritten a pathetic appeal some days pre-viously. This cousin had just returned from Queensland after an absence of over twenty years, and, as he had left this country when Jack was quite a boy, it was hardly likely that he would take the was hardly likely that he would take the slightest interest in his affairs. But poor Jack, in his infatuation, had gathered wild hope from the equivocal fact that no reply had been vouchasted to his letter. Taking comfort from the delusive adage that silence means consent, Jack had laboriously traced his cousin from the hotel at which he had first staved to his present abode, only to find stayed to his present abode, only to find that he had left town some days pre-yiously, without mentioning his destin-ation. After this Jack had come straight home, utterly weary and broken-hearted, and, had his wife been at hand to greet neatly, and arrayed himself in certain him as usual, he would, no doubt, have articles judiciously selected from Jack's him as usual, he would, no doubt, have carried out his intention of telling her wardrobe, while he produced from his everything.

But his wife's absence, coupled with

But his wife's absence, coupled with calculated to excite remark. the news which he had learned from the servants that no emissary from Mr Lazality of the household, braced up Jack's nerves wonderfully and enabled him to do fair justice to his solitary meal. As he glanced round the cosy room, which looked gay with holly and Christmas decorations, the idea occurred to him that perhaps even Mr Lazarus was human and had refrained from carrying out his threat until after Christmas Day had passed. Such kindly forbearance, Jack thought, would almost reconcile him to ous ground, as my wife knows nothing of my cousin's antecedents or of his branch of the family."

"Royston, you said my name was to be, didn't you?" inquired at the day in the year which should be a day of peace and innocent enjoyment, and Jack felt that, relieved from absolute necessity, it would be short of a virtuous action on his part to keep his secret until at least the day after tomorrow.

But, alas! poor Jack's apprehension was suddenly aroused to the highest pitch by an ominous ring at the street door bell, which somehow or other seemed to reverberate in his heart. Impelled by an irresistible impulse, he started from his seat and opened the hall door before the servant had time to answer the summons. As he did so, a shabby individual with a small carpet-bag in his hand thrust himself inside the threshold, and Jack's heart sank into his shoes as he instinctively realized who the intrud-

"Mr Bender, I presume," said the visitor deferentially, yet with a somewhat

peremptory air.
"That is my name," said Jack. "This will explain my business," said the stranger, depositing his bag on the chair in the hall, and removing his hat.

"Capt George Alloway! I will remem Jack glanced vaguely at the document ber the name," said Mr Johnson. the other handed to him, which appeared to abound in such outlandish words as phraseology, and then returned it.

"You came from Mr Lazarus, I sup-

the dining-room.

The officer tramped in after him, and,

chedience to a motion from Jack, seated himself upon one of the chairs which were ranged against the wall.

"This is very unfortunate. 1 hope that Mr Lazarus would have shown a little forbearance, and waited until after tosaid Jack, plucking up his spirits a little, and facing the officer.

all parties," said the man, not unsympathetically. "Would it not be possible, upon my giving you a written promise to hold you harmless, for you to leave until the day after tomorrow?' inquired Jack, signifi-cantly putting his hand in his pocket.

"Impossible," said the man.

Jack could not help being struck by the resolute tone in which the men spoke, as it conveyed clearly that he was incorruptible. He was a rough-locking fellow, gray-bearded, with a skin like dried parchment, and very bushy black eye-brows. In spite of his shabby attire, he seemed rather above his occupation, and as though he had seem better days. "Anything I man do to make things pleasant, Pm agreeable to do," said the man. "You can put me anywhere out of the way. I'm used to being put in holes and corners."

"What will my wife say !" exclaimed Jack, half involuntarily, with a desperance of the grant of the say it was a desperance."

ate gesture.
"Doesn't the lady know?" inquired

of his poor wite's dismay at the prospect.

"If I could only put off telling her till after Christmas Day!" he murmured.

"Well, sir that might be managed—couldn't it!" said the man. "You need-n't tell her who I am."

"How am I to account for you then?" inquired Jack dolefully.
"Say I'm a friend come to stay for a day or two," replied the man readily.
"I've known that done before now." "A friend !" said Jack, surveying the

officer doubtfully.

"Well, sir, I ain't much to look at, I know," said the man imperturbably.
"I'm rough, but I know how to behave
myself, and, for that matter, I've known

"Australians, or—"
"Australians! By Jove! That is a good idea!" cried Jack. "I've a cousin who has been twenty years out in Queensland, and I'm told he is a decidedly rough diamond. He has just returned, but my wife has never seen him."
"Just as you like, sir," said the man

with a grin.
"I really think it might be managed, just to help us over tomorrow, and to enable the wife and youngsters to enjoy Christmas Day, at all events," said Jack, inconsciously arguing the matter aloud with his own scruples.

"Christmas comes but once a year, it's true, sir," said the man, "and I should be sorry to make things uncomfortable." "Do you think you could keep up the deception?" demanded Jack.

The man replied so confidently in the

affirmative, and appeared so thoroughly to relish the plan, that Jack raised no further objection. He rang for the serfurther objection. He rang for the servant, and ostentatiously ordered him to get ready the spare room for his ceusis, Mr Royston, and, as the officer readily adopted his suggestions, for improving his personal appearance, Jack began to feel sanguine of the success of the manceuvre. The man looked fairly presentable after he had brushed his hair bag a coat of his own, which, though not of fashionable cut and texture, ,was not

veying him critically, but not without secret misgivings. "I can tell my wife possession and readiness. Instead of ap "And I can say that, having only re-

cently returned. I hadn't had time to go to a tailor yet," added the man, who, by the way, informed Jack that his name

was Johnson.
"Quite so," said Jack. "You had better, though, leave the talking to me as much as possible; still, there is not much fear of your getting upon danger-

John, and you had better call me Jack till the day after tomorrow," said Jack

with a grimace.
"It would be as well if you could tell me something about your cousin," sug-

gested Mr Johnson.
"I don't know much about him," said Jack, glancing nervously at the clock, which warned him that his wife and children might return at any moment. 'He was horn at Carlisle and has been sheep-raising in Queensland for twenty years past. By Jove ' a friend of mine, a sea captain, named George Alloway, came across my cousin in Queensland a few years back. It is lucky I thought of that, as my wife may mention his name to you. I remember Alloway telling us a good deal about him once; how he was rather a queer sort of fel low, a little touched in the head, George said, owing to a sunstroke; eccentric, "Capt George Alloway! I will remem-

Jack employed the remaining interval which elapsed before his wife return "bailiwick," "chattels," and other legal ed in giving his companion disjointed "You came from Mr Lazarus, I suppose," said Jack, turning very white and to prove useful. Mr Johnson displayed int.
"I'm the Sheriff's officer," answered for his part, which inspired Jack with the man: "suit of the party you name, 1 great faith in his ability to carry out the deception; but nevertheless he felt uncom "Come this way," said Jack, closing the hall-door, and leading the way into wife, heralded by a noisy advance guard of happy youngsters, at length made her

appearance. "My dear, here is my cousin, John Royston, whom you have heard me speak of. We met by accident, and I nsisted upon bringing him here, and keeping him prisoner over tomorrow,"

wife entered the rocm. It was, perhaps, as well for Jack that 'Can't be helped, sir. Unpleasant for the babel of young voices almost drowned his faltering accents, and it was cer- looking up at the new arrival. tainly lucky that his wife, with natural greeted his friend with all the warmth curiosity, immediately turned to her he could command and resumed his seat visitor without remarking her husband's with blanched cheeks and trembling

THE HURON SIGNAL FRIDAY, JAN, 31, 1890.

It was an unspeakable relief to the state of the state

ceit he was practising upon his wife with reference to the man in possession was, after all, justifiable. At odd moments he was inclined to resent Mr. Johnson's impertinence, when he saw him romping with the children or talking affably with his wife, and remembered his social sta-tus and vocation; but the sight of the innocent happiness around him disarmed his vexation, and reconciled him to the prospect of the possible complications which the morrow would reveal.

He contrived, therefore, to preserve during the day a tolerably unruffled demeanor; though, as the dinner hour approached, he was seized with fresh qualms of conscience on being reminded that there would be other guests at his table besides Mr. Johnson. They consisted of two or three neighbors and maiden aunt of his wife's—none of them persons with whom he need stand upon céremony; but still he felt rather un-comfortable at the idea of introducing a Sheriff's officer in disguise at the same table with them. To add to his discomfiture, he received, late in the afternoon a shock which proved almost too much for his fortitude. It came in the shape of a telegram from his old friend George Alloway, saying that his ship had arrive Alloway, saying that his suip has arrived in the docks that morning, and that he proposed, if he could possibly get away, to join their Christmas party at dinner. There was nothing very alarming at

first sight in the communication, and Jack unsuspiciously handed the dispatch to his wife. But the next moment he started guiltily, as his wife said:
"Cousin John, you will meet a friend of yours at dinner to-night."

"A friend of mine !" exclaimed Mr. Johnson, slightly confused.
"Yes, Captain Alloway. He telegraphs to say he will join us at dinner to-

Jack watched Mr. Johnson anxiously, pessession and readiness. Instead of appearing upset at the news of the arrival of the man who knew the real John Roy. of the man who knew the real John Royston, and would infallibly denounce his impersonator, Mr. Johnson received the announcement with a conventional expression of mild gratification. His cool at the first opportunity and said eagerly "You must make an excuse for not

dining with us to night."
"The worst thing I could do. It would look suspicious," said Mr. Johnson with quiet assurance. "What would you advise then? Shall

I telegraph, or try and stop Alloway?" said Jack wildly.

"It would be too late. Don't agitate yourself. Leave me to act my part. "You mean to meet him then !" ex

claimed Jack, quite taken aback. "Yes, and to dine with him. Trust to me, and keep calm. Here are some of said Mr. Johnson. your guests,

It was all very well to be told to kee calm under such circumstances, but Jack was in a state of nervous apprehension which rendered him almost frantic. Unfortunately, the guests were already beginning to arrive, or Jack would probab-ly have adopted the alternative plan of confessing everything to his wife, and relegating Mr. Johnson to his proper obscurity. But he was forced, from sheer helplesaness, to acquiesce in the man's suggestion, though it appeared to him to have only one recommendation, and that was that he was not called upon to do anything. But that it would inevitably lead to a disagreeable scene, involving painful disclosures, seemed a foregone

The only ray of hope was that Captain Alloway might be prevented from fulfilling his intention. Poor Jack clung desperately to this, and it sustained him during the arrival of his other guests. He plucked up his courage a little when they all seated themselves at the table, though the Captain's non-appearance went for nothing, as he did not know "How much are your toothpicks?" the dinner hour, and might turn up at any time. Still a glass or two of wine said the girl. and Mr. Johnson's complete assurance revived him considerably, and he was just carving the turkey, with no distracted thought in his mind at the moment to divert his attention, when a heavy hand

was suddenly laid upon his shoulder. "Jack, my boy, how goes it?" cried a familiar voice, and the host realized that his friend stood by his side, his entrance cried Jack, in great trepidation, as his having been unnoticed amid the mirth and uproar.

Jack glanced nervously at Mr. John son, who, like the rest of the gueste, was confusion. Mr Johnson behaved with tolerable self possession, and repeated his lesson of excuses and apologies with laudable seriousness. It was evident that the place laid for him, when Mr. John-

This piece of familiarity jarred upon Jack, especially as it recalled to his mind unpleasant realities. He swallowed his indignation, however, and proceeded to unroll the tisue paper, wher, from the folds, there fell out upon his plate an ominous-looking slip of blue paper. Jack started from it as though it had been a viper and then, with a cri meon face, hurriedly picked it up and glaced at it. It bore his own signature, and was the acceptance upon which he had been sued by Mr Lazarus.

Jack stowed it away in his pocket, with a frightened glance at his wife and at his neighbors at table, none of whom, fortunately, had observed his action.
Then he looked across at Mr Johnson,
too much dazed and startled to realize
the significance of the incident. But Mr Johnson at the moment, engaged in conversation with Capt Alloway. "I saw you did not recognize me," the

former was remarking.
"My dear fellow, you have grown a beard, and you have got gray since I saw you," cried the Captain is hearty tones. "I was startled at the first glance; but, of course, I recognized you perfectly the next moment."
"Recognized whom?" cried Jack rais-

ing his voice almost involuntarily in sudden excitement.
"Why, Royston, your cousin whom I met in Queensland," was the emphatic

reply.

Jack turned his head sharply toward the soidisant Mr Johnson, and was about to utter some remark. which the latter checked by a warning gesture. Jack had just sense enough left to hold his tongue, but he sat open-mouthed and silent with blank amazement for the next few minutes, until the ladies of the party left the room. As then did to the second of the party left the room. next few minutes, until the ladies of the party left the room. As they did so his cousin moved from his seat and dropped into a vacant chair beside him. into a vacant chair beside him.

in a whisper. "I am still in the clouds," murmured

"I received your letter, and I bought ness irritated Jack, who took him aside your bill from Lazarus, on condition that he would make arrangements to enable me to personate the representative of the law," explained John Royston.

"I wanted to judge for myself what sort of fellow you were, and to see what your wife was like. I never intended to keep up the joke, but I thought you were such an ass to have a secret from such a charming helpmate that I couldn't resist prolonging your punishment a bit. "Served me right, my dear John— served me right!" cried Jock quite heart-ily, entirely forgetting his past discomfort in the pleasant consciousness that

that dreadful acceptance was safe in his waistcoat pocket. "I'm afraid I've spoilt your Christmas Day, Jack," continued John Royston, contest that constituency in the Provinsmiling; "but I'll endeavor to make cial elections. amends. I like you and I like your wife, and if I can be of any service to you to

the extent of a thousand pounds or "My dear John! spoilt my Christmas Day!" cried Jack ecstatically. "Why, my dear fellow, thanks to your generosity, this will be the happiest Christmas Day I have ever spent!

Eminent physicians everywhere remmend Ayer's Cherry Pectoral as most reliable remedy that can be had for colds, coughs, and pulmonary disorders. Ask your druggist for Ayer's Almanac; it is the best publication of the kind, and full of information.

She Lost Herself. A stout and aggressive woman elbowed her way up to the silver counter at one of the big stores the other day, and said pompously to the clerk, who was waiting

"We don't keep them at this counter," The portly and haughty woman crushed the girl, or tried to, with a look of

scorn, and repeated: "I asked you how much are those toothpicks?" The girl was evidently mystified, and

replied again:

'You don't keep them? Then what are those? exclaimed the woman, with a haughty gesture toward a little velvet-lined box containing a dozen little sharppointed implements four or five inches

long.
"Those are nut-picks, madame," said the girl in a cruel distinct voice.

The haughty woman lost herself in the crowd with neatness and despatch—New York Sun.

Burdock Pills cure sick headache by regulating the stomach, liver and bow

one of his humble parishioners.
"I should have been greatly pleased to go with him," he said, afterward, "but you see I had promised old Thompson to take a walk with him, and of course he

take a walk with him, and of course he came first."

"Why should you thank a servant?" asked a father, who was fond of the Socratic method of teaching, and loved to question his little son, until the lad reached wise conclusions by his own wit. "They are paid for what they do. Do you owe them anything but money?"

"I owe them money," said the lad somewhat perplexed, in expressing what he really felt, "and I thank them because—because I owe it to myself to be

He had learned the meaning of the old, grand motto, "Noblesse Oblige."—Youth's

cause—because I owe it to myself to be

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Gents.—I certify that MINARD'S LINIMENT cured my daughter of a severe and what appeared to be a fatal attack of diphtheria after all other re-medies had failed, and recommend it to all who may be afflicted with that terri-

JOHN D. BOUTILIER. French Village, Jany., 1883.

Lord Provost Stewart opened a bazar ertson, the antiquary; Philip, the painter; Thom, the poet, and other notable

Minord's Liniment is used by Physicians

has been released on \$5,000 bail. A dime museum manager signed the bonds, and Kunze will appear in his museum.

First Help for the Wounded.

In all cases of wounds, bruises, sores, cuts and sprains prompt action is neces-sary and the wisdom of those who keep Hagyard's Yellow Oil on hand is demon strated. It is a prompt, effectual and reliable cure for all injuries, croup, heumatism, sore throat, etc. Used in ternally or externally.

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Chronic Coughs and Colds And all Diseases of the Throat and Lungs can be cured by the use of Scott's Emulsion, as it contains the healing in-tues of Cod Liver Oil and Hypophosphites in their fullest form. W. S. Muer, M.D., L.R.C.P., etc., Truro, N. S., says: "After three years' experience I consider Scott's Emulsion one of the very best in the market Very excellent in Throat affections. Sold by all Druggists, 50c. and \$1.

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It is given on authority that the en terprise to build a railway from Quebec Labrador is a substantial one and has packing.

A Business Report.

Mr James McCarty, of Rounds & McCarty's Collecting Bureau, Drumbo, Ont, states: — "Have used several bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters for kidney disorder and find it a wonderful remedy. Previously I had been taking pills, thinking I had liver complaint, but now I am quite well and will always praise B.B.B."

Canadian Baptist: Principal Mac-Gregor is now in the New York Hospital, where he will have the benefit of treatment probably as skillful as can be had in the world. The eminent specialists regard the case somewhat hopefully. They will use a general treatment for about a month. If no improvement is then manifest, the question of a special surgical operation will be con-

1890. Harper's Magazine HALUSTRATED.

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Bound volumes of HARPER'S WEEKLY, for three years back, in neat cloth binding, will be sent by mail, postage paid, or by express, free of expense (provided the freight does not exceed one dollar per volume), for \$7 per volume.

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HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE Postage Free to all subscribers in th United States, Canada, or Mexico.

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