THE STEERSMAN.

The fore shrouds bar the moonlit sand; The port rail laps the sea; Aloft all taut, where the kind clouds

skim. Alow to the cutwater snug and trim. And the man at the wheel sings low, sings he:

"Oh, sea room and lee room And a gale to run afore: From the Golden Gate to Sunda Strait,

But my heart lies snug ashore. Her hull rolls high, her nose dips low,

The rollers flush alee-Wallow and dip and the untossed screw Sends heart throbs quivering through and through-And the man at the wheel sings fow;

"Oh, sea room and lee room And a gale to run afore; From the Golden Gate to Sunda Strait, But my heart lies snug ashore.

sings her

The helmsman's arms are brown and hard.

And pricked in his forearm be A ship, an anchor, a love knot true, A heart of red and an arrow of blue, And the man at the wheel sings low. sings be:

"Oh, sea room and lee room And a gale to run afore: From the Golden Gate to Sunda Sirait, But my heart lies snug ashore." ←Bookman.

THE MORTAL COIL.

These two, Allan and David, were brothers; and, what is often more than brothers do, they loved one another, While they were mere boys they had been left orphans, friendless, alone with the world and with necessity. They were industrious and frugal, their purse was common, and working thus together they managed to keep off starvation and debt.

They were now in the period of early manhood. Allan, the elder, was 23 years of age, and David 20. They occupied two pleasant rooms in a respectable lodging-house, lived well, and had some money saved in the bank. "At first I used to be afraid that we could not make it," Allan would say to his brother, when they talked in the evening of their life and their affairs; "It was such a hard struggle. But there is no longer any doubt that we are going to succeed

in the world." To this prophecy, which Alian rejoic ed to speak, David would always assent, with an enthusiasm that came not from any confidence in his own powers. but solely from his belief in his elder brother. The difference between the brothers was more than that of years, as each of them well understood. Allan was strong, keen, and determined. David was gentle and sympathetic, but a little dull. They were alike, however, in their intense devotion to one an-

It happened in the midst of this which they regarded as prosperity that Allan was suddenly beset by a grievous illness. It had been written down in the pitiless law book of nature that he should pay for the sins of some ancestor, of whose very existence he was ig-The disease ran its slow norant. course through many weeks, and there were now and again critical times when the heart of the younger brother, watching by night, stood still.

At last it came to an end. The sen tence of nature was fulfilled. The life of the young man was spared, but the disease left him blind and a cripple. As Allan began to recover his strength, and the dumb consciousness of suffering gave way to active thought, he demanded to know how soon the bandages were to be taken from his eyes. To this and to other questions of a similar nature, the doctor who attended him returned evasive answers. Thereupon, Allan, half guessing the truth, became silent. In the meantime, David, also silent, clung desperately to a fragment of hope.

One morning the doctor, as he was about to leave, motioned across the sick man's bed that he wished to speak with him alone. They went out into the hall, where the physician sat down upon a chair and David leaned back agninst a corner of the wall.

Presently Allan heard the confused murmur of their talk. He climbed out of the bed and dragged himself with difficulty across the floor into the sitting-room. Placing his ear against the hall door, which was not quite closed, he heard all, unseen and unsuspected.

"It is useless for me to continue these daily visits," said the physician; "hereafter I will come only when you send for me."

"Well, what shall we do about itabout his eyes?"

"They will probably not pain him any more. You can take off the bandage whenever you are ready to tell him the whole truth."

David's lips grew very white. "You

mean that he will never recover?" he said. The doctor looked up at him suddenly with a frown. "Really," he said, "I

thought I had made the state of things pretty clear to you."

"Yes," sald David; "I know-but I kept hoping."

"My dear boy, I am sorry, but I cannot even let you hope. If your leg was cut off would you expect another to grow in its place? A part of the eye is gone-and that ends it." "And the lameness?"

"He will always walk with crutches." Perhaps it was well that no mortal eye saw the wan face pressed toward the opening in the door. There was a shuffling across the floor, and Allan to wonder that Allan should be writing drewhimself upon the bed again, where to him, but began instantly to decipher he lay motionless and silent, though all the misshapen characters on the paper.

thoughts to ery aloud. Presently the footsteps of the doctor sounded on the stairs and the lower door opened and shut. But nearly an hour passed before the younger brother | Please read it through to the end be- the blind man, aloud. The pencil drop- around, and no chance to spend it!

came back to the room. When he came it was with the belief that he was prepared to speak to Allan and tell him all. He looked for a moment at the figure curied on the bed and shook his head. He would wait.

Several days passed. Then in the evening Allan said suddenly to his

"David, what is the matter? Perhaps imagine it-but is there not something that you want to talk to me about?"

"Yes," said the other, startled. "It is about my eyes and my lameness, is it not?"

Te 1172

"Yes." The time had come. He sat down by he bed and took his brother's hand. His own trembled violently, but that of he sick man was quiet.

"Post, boy," said Allan, as though not he but David were the one upon whom misfortune had fallen. He stroked his brother's arm gently for a ed about me.

David spoke also in a whisper: "I could not bear to think of it-and so I

could not speak to you."

"Poor, dear brother," said Allan, but with perfect calmness. They sat in silence for a few moments, and then Allan said: "Now, David, we have looked the worst of it in the face; let us examine some of the smaller troubles. What about money matters?" "Oh, Allan," cried the other, "don't

ask about that yet." "Yes," said the elder brother firmly; 'you must tell me all. Be frank and

fair, as I would be with you." So David told. The money in the bank was all gone, of course, and there were debts-to the doctor, the chemist, and the landlady. Having explained thus far, David hung back, and it took determined questioning on the part of Allan to bring out the rest of the story. Their friends at the club, knowing the trouble of the brothers, had raised some money-a considerable amountfor their benefit.

"It just paid the nurse," said David. The proud lines in the other's face deepened to harshness. After a momentary struggle he managed to say aloud: "It was very kind of them."

But to himself into his pillow he muttered: "My God! This is the beginning!" "I am afraid," said David, "that it will be some time before we can pay up these debts. Everyone seems to be good about it. The doctor says he will wait years if need be."

"Yes," replied Allan absently. "Of course, you know what my pay continued the younger brother, "and you also know what our expenses Well, they don't fit. I've been thinking about it. We must move into one room and must economize in various other ways.'

"Yes," said Allan. "The worst of it is," David went on, without looking at his brother, "that we cannot get the things you ought to have. It is so hard for you to be all alone here-

"Never mind about that, Davy," said Allan quickly; "what we must think about is how to clear up those debts and how to live on your pay."

After this the old confidence seemed to work he spent with Allan, and they done before the misfortune came. Yet understand, although he studied over it of sight. a great deal. Why was Allan so calm and undistressed? It was not like him,

"Can it be that he does not really appreclate what it means to be blind and nelpless?" thought the younger brother; "he was always so proud, ambitious and full of hope. And he is sensitive, I thought he would suffer."

The slek man's strength gradually returned. Presently he was able to move about the room, and then, accompanied by the landlady's little daughter, he managed to make short excursions into the street. He wore a dark shade over his eyes and walked on crutches.

The various economies which the brothers had talked over were practiced, and yet every day they ran more into debt. David's pay was very small; it was not enough to keep two people in comfort-one of them an invalid with you. That is real and lasting, and needing medicines and a physician's care. Yet Allan remained apparently unconcerned. At last David found my existence, wretched and useless as work to do in the evening. He now carned enough to cover their necessities, but Allan was left alone most of the time.

One evening David had an unexpected vacation. An accident caused the establishment where he worked to close early, and he hurried to the room, eager for the pleasure of a few hours with his brother. When he came to the street door he said to himself: "I will go up quietly and surprise him."

He ascended the stairs with a quiet tread. The door to the room was open. and he saw Allan seated at the table moving a pencil slowly over a large sheet of paper. "The poor fellow is trying to write," said David. Then he noticed that the edges of the sheet were notched at intervals, and that it had not been folded in creases. As the blind man wrote, he felt for these notches, and then ran his finger along the crease in advance of the pencil.

Full of tender sorrow and pity David crept up behind, that he might put his hand on Allan's shoulder and thus make his presence known, but happening to glance down upon the paper he saw the words, "My dear brother," and he knew that the writing was for him to read. He did not give himself time his body seemed to quiver and his In a few moments he had overtaken

the pencil. This is what he read:

"My Dear Brother-You will find this note fastened on the outside of the door.

fore you enter. Perhaps you will then think it best not to enter alone.

"David, my brother, these words come to you from the dead. I have destroyed the pitiful fragment of life which fate left me. You were wont to be so strong and brave-can you read on calmly now, and try to understand me when I tell you my reason? Can you love me and trust me as you always have done? I believe that you can and will, and that is why I have dared to take this step.

"Several days ago I procured some poison which I have kept concealed his brother out of the room. Presently swift but painless."

David watched the slow, laborious making of the last few words, and it gave him time to think. Where was the poison? He glanced across the room to a chest of drawers. There was ahad used exclusively, and which was you of it also." moment, and then whispered: "You now half open. With noiseless step. negd not tell me. David. I know all. I the younger brother crept over the floor listened when you and the doctor talk- to this chest of drawers. The guess was correct. Hidden under some handkerchiefs lay a small vial, filled with a colorless fluid.

David took it up, shook it mechani- promise,"-Spare Moments. cally, and then turned it over and over in his hands, while he tried to think what he had better do. At any moment Allan might finish his writing and come in search of the poison. It would theft' be necessary for David to speak aloud and explain, and his brother, would, Bensonhurst share Mrs. Johnson's suffer the torture of humiliation, That | view. would not do. Better to carry away the vial and make no explanations, unles they were demanded. He was about to steal out of the room when 'the thought struck him that his brother, 'ff' determined, could secure death by other means than this one bottle of poison. There was a loaded revolver in the drawer-that must be taken away. But what was to prevent Allan from obtaining more poison?

He was accustomed to buy his own medicines, and now he was strong enough to get about. Ah, there were so many ways!

The blind man seated at the table wrote on, feeling his way carefully along the folds in the paper. David crouched upon the edge of the bed,

watched him and thought: No; merely to remove the means of death would not save Allan. The only hope lay in appearing to him, in pleading with him for his own life, in conjuring him by the love which held them together, not to do this terrible wrong. What should be say? David was not easy of speech. His very thoughts were blunt, ill-assorted and confused. Deep in his soul he felt that his brother was about to make a mistake-one of the most awful of which life contained a possibility. This feeling was independent of religion or of superstition; it was a part of David's very existence. But how was he to speak of this to Allan, who seemed to understand everything so much better than he?

And now it suddenly occurred to him that he really did not know his brother. Evidently this desire of self-destruction had been in Allan's thoughts for many weeks, and yet he, nearest to him of all beings on earth, had never been allowed to suspect it. This was why Allan had been so calm and had be restored between the brothers. What accepted his misfortune so lightly. Torsmall part of the day David was not at tures of sorrow there must have been, unspeakable agonies of ruined hope, talked of their affairs just as they had all endured in secrecy and silence. It seemed to David that he himself, and there was one thing David falled to not Allan, must have lacked the power

But what was to be done now? The pencil was still moving slowly over the paper. David rose from the bed, and resuming his place behind the blind man read on:

"This concerns you and me and no one else; is it not so, brother? The world is far away from us: we are alone together."

"Now, what has existence for me? When first I learned I was to be always blind and a cripple there came with the knowledge an impulse for death. But I put it away and said: 'No, let me think of this more fully. The calamity seems now to sweep over all of life. Perhaps when I am more calm I shall find that much remains untouched." So I waited and thought, and in the end I found one thing, the happiest of being for a time I asked myself if it were not enough. But I remembered that it was, meant more of labor and hardship for you, and I thought, too, of what sorrow you must feel for me, and the pleasure of being with you turned to bitterness. There was nothing left.

"But you-you love me and you have a right to my life. It is for your sake that I have spent these long weeks in silent, solitary debate, after every other doubt was cleared away. At one time I had almost decided to beg my life of you, as I might any other favor, but I dared not. Yet I am begging it now-

after I have taken it. "Dear brother, I know that you are unselfish. I believe that for my sake you would give up the greatest happiness which life affords as I would for you. Can you not, then, allow me the little that I take when I deprive myself and you of my existence? If, now, the conditions were reversed-if I were the one to be strong and well, while you were crippled and blind-I try to think of it in that way, in order that I pounds. Mr. Merriweather, who is a may understand it better and judge | more fairly-I should, of course, feel

an Intense sorrow-What was the matter? The pencil was moving slower and slower. At last it stopped. David looked up at his brother's face and saw it working with strong emotion. Then, after a moment the pencil went on:

that you should suffer so, and it would be an unspeakable happiness to help, to work for you-you would be dearer to me than, a thousand times, than If-"

"Oh, what am I saying!" exclaimed

ped from his fingers and he threw himself back in his chair. "I could not let him go," he cried; "It would be crue! in him to leave me. But I-what will he-oh, Davy!"

He leaned upon the table with his face resting in his open hands, while David stood watching almost breathless in the struggle to keep silent. At last Allan caught up the sheets of paper on which he had been writing and tore them to fragments.

"It is over," said David. He restored the bottle to its place and crept past from you. Through it death comes Allan heard the street door noisily open and shut and David's tread sounded upon the stairs.

That night, as the brothers were about to retire, Allan said:

"Devide there is something that I want to promise you. I have already small drawer at the top which Allan promised myself, but I want to assure "Yes," said David; "what is it?"

salahik I had better not tell you what it is, "You would be distressed, perhaps. But I promise you.' "Very well," said David; "let it re-

main a secret, then. But I accept the

A Thrilling Feat.

Colley protests that it was nothing at all; Mrs. Johnson insists that it was a daring feat, of which few would be capable. Residents of Bath Beach and

«Mrs. Jay S. Johnson's home in Bay 35th street, Bensonhurst, is one of the finest in that place. Her horses, behipd which she and her daughter Mignon take the air each merning, could them into ten blocks to the mile. The be driven by no less expert horsewom-

*Charles Colley, of No. 11 West 16th street, this city, who is working at Bath Roads were named in as long lengths Beach this summer, is a practiced bicyclist. He was wheeling up 18th ave- living residents were not used. Some nue in Bath Beach yesterday morning landscape feature, some historical aswhen Mrs. Johnson's handsome turn- sociation suggested the name. Bear out came in sight. Mrs. Johnson was Creek road, Lime Ridge crossing, Lake driving, and beside her sat her little Connex, Mountain drive, Walnut way, daughter.

Colley dismounted from his wheel and ley local are examples. A list of the stood at the roadside to watch the dash- roads was made, beginning with those ing equipage as it swept past. Hardly going northward from the county seat, had the carriage rolled by when the followed by those going easterly, southhorses broke into a run. In an instant erly and westward. Complete records Colley saw that Mrs. Johnson was pow- as to local objects are kept and guide- lay eggs in the calyx of the blossom erless to control them.

Leaping on his wheel, the bicyclist put forth every energy in a race to overtake the horses. Fast as they went in their mad run, the wheelman went faster. Soon he was even with the carriage, then alongside one of the plunging horses. A burst of speed, and he was at the animals' heads.

Keeping one hand on the handlebar, the bicyclist shot out his arm and seized the bridle of one of the horses. Still mal, he called to the terrified woman and child not to be alarmed, but to sit perfectly quiet,

Riding in this fashion, Colley saw that he was powerless to check the speed of the runaways. Grasping the bridle with a firmer

hold, with a mighty effort he kicked his bicycle from under him, rolling it to one side.

Then, with all the strength that was fir him, he swung to the horse's back. 3 1-10 miles by road from the court-Once astride the animal, the rest was house, is 31 blocks distant, and is in the easy, and in a short time the animals 32d block. Hence its road number is were standing still. Dismounting, he 64, or twice 32. A gate just across the stood by the borses until he had them road would be numbered 63. Half the perfectly quiet, then discouraging Mrs. even numbers of a block divided by 10 Johnson's protestations of gratitude, he always gives its extreme distance from returned to his bicycle, mounted and the beginning. Each house has the

rode home. Not so much as a harness buckle had gate or entrance is located, as 64 for suffered in the runaway.-New York the first house. Other houses, built on the same block take the numbers 64a. Herald.

Tea et \$175 a Pound,

Tea at \$175 a pound! If a grocer and the divisions between blocks. On should ask the average housewife that the right is 64 | 62. On the left is kind of a price she would be likely to marked 61 | 63. At the end of each drop dead. Yet there is such tea, and mile (ten blocks) an X is painted inside G. N. Merriweather, a tea merchant a circle. The half-mile is marked by of Cincinnati, has some of it. A little a V in a semi-circle. There are 20 road of this goes a long way and five ounces numbers to the mile. The ten-block of it constitutes his stock.

system works as well with houses miles Very little of this tea is ever brought apart as with those closer, even to 20 to this country. Indeed, little of it is feet apart. The distance between any marketed anywhere, as it is extremely two house numbers in the country can rare, and millionaires, even, if the price be easily reckoned. The homes of was no object, would have difficulty in farmers can be quickly found. Strangers can be given clear directions. The

getting hold of it. This \$175-a-pound tea is known as mileage of officers can be quickly calcuthe Ceylon golden bud. It is the pick- lated. Road work can be accurately ings of the first tips of the blossoms, located by its block number. A coun-The greatest care must be taken in the ty directory could be printed with farm picking, and nothing but the bright names and road numbers of every citigolden-hued tip taken off the blossoms, zen. A former postmaster general has All the picking of this grade is care- declared that the ten-block system of fully done by hand. The process of numbering country roads would remove drying these tips is as delicate as the the only obstacle to rapid and accurate picking. The annual output is esti- free postal and telegraph delivery to ter. mated at 12,000 pounds, valued at farmers, Contra Costa farmers expect to secure free delivery at once, under

\$2,100,000. But five pounds of this tea has ever the new appropriation by Congress for been known to have reached the United this purpose. States, excepting a few pounds placed on exhibition at the World's Fair. A to Mr. Marr, the agent of the Coylon apples, especially those of sweet varitea-growers for America, at Chicago, and asked him to try to procure for her if possible five pounds of this remarkable and expensive tea. Mr. Marr was successful in securing six pounds of the precious article. The New York lady gave a check for \$1,000 for her five personal friend of Mr. Marr, received five ounces of the extra pound procured.

Beware of Tight Garters.

Bicyclists, male and female, should in feeding grain to animals of any beware of tight garters and of stock- kind. ings which are too thick. A garter which is wide and has little pressure is just as effective as a narrow one very tight. The result of wearing the latter is bound to be bad, it being a fertile producer of varicose veins.

How tantalizing heaven will be to the women, to see so much gold lying



Much of the isolation of the farmer is

caused by the time consumed in finding

his residence, says Farm and Home.

A certain numbered house on a cer-

tain named street makes one at home

in town, but the farmer is a stranger,

in a strange land when seeking a fel-

low farmer in an adjoining county.

The wide-awake agriculturists of Con-

tra Costa County, California, a few

years ago set about to remedy this un-

fortunate condition and adopted what

has since been known as the ten-block-

system, that is, the naming and meas-

uring of all country roads and dividing

enactment of the plan was secured

from the county board of supervisors

and work under it was begun at once.

as practicable. Names of towns and

Vista Rio, Granger exit and Happy Val-

number of the block upon which its

64b to 64z. On the fence, or a post, a

line is placed showing the numbers

Feeding Apples to Hogs.

There is a good deal of nutrition in

eties. Where they are plentiful and

cheap, as sweet apples are almost sure

to be when the crop is abundant, they

are good feed for hogs. But they are

not a full ration, and should always be

fed cooked and mixed with some kind

of grain or meal, which should be put

in while the cooked apples are hot,

and thus cooked with them. The ap-

ples make the grain much more digest-

thle than it would be without them.

Thus the appetite is kept from being

cloyed, which is the greatest difficulty

Good Futter in Winter.

With care in making the proper ar-

rangements, good butter can readily be

ined by the quality all seasons. Gutters and Supports.
Thousands of barns throughout the country are without gutters, and the rain from the roof washes down upon

making, and with these essentials,

good butter at only a slightly increased

cost per pound can be made. But, the

quality must be good to make the most

out of it, as the consumer demands good

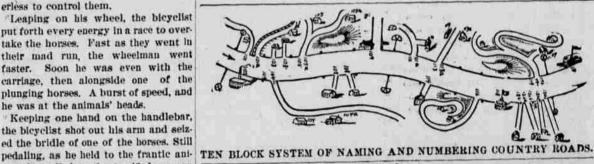
butter in winter, the same as in sum-

mer, and the price is largely determ-

manure heaps, robbing the latter of more than half their richness, Gutters from a solid stick of timber are best, but these are expensive, The V trough is apt to lerk after a little. To prevent this, coat the inside

SECURE GUTTER. with concrete, made by mixing sharp sand and the best cement, as shown in the diagram, or a mixture of sand and tar can be used. Instead of the wooden supports cut from a piece of board, that are constantly splitting, use an iron strap bent by a blacksmith into the shape suggested, and screwed to the side of the barn. Such supports will, of themselves, keep the V gutters from opening at the joint, even if not coated in-

Work of the Codling Moth. The injury and loss occasioned by the codling moth has been very keenly felt in almost all fruit-growing regions, and many of the fine crops raised the past year will show the appearance of the worm unless spraying was resorted to in early spring. The female begins to



boards erected. The measuring begins about two weeks after the blossom at the center of the street just in front | first appears. From the egg hatches a caterpillar which pierces the skin of of the courthouse and proceeds along the fruit and eats its way toward the the nearest line of travel. The village center. It feeds upon the pulp around streets have the customary 100 numthe core until it finishes its caterpillar bers to the block, but outside the limits the country house numbers are used, growth, at which time it is about threequarters of an inch in length. Then it two to each block of 528 feet (32 rods) usually leaves the apple to find a crevof road. Odd numbers are on the left hand, even on the right. A gate on the lice in the bark, where it spins a silken cocoon and enters the pupa stage. Two right-hand side, with its right post weeks later it emerges as a moth like

the one that laid the original egg. The



A MOST DESTRUCTIVE APPLE INSECT. that the injury caused by this insect can only be averted by careful spraying.-Farm and Home.

Poultry Pointers. Preserve the fallen leaves for the scratch pen in winter.

Get the poultry accustomed to roosting under shelter before cold weather sets in. A good thing for the chickens is to

char a lot of corn occasionally and let them pick at it. Don't fail to have gravel and road

dust in goodly quantities put away for use about poultry quarters during win-It is claimed by many that a hen will

lay more and better eggs during an en-

tire year if she is allowed to raise one lot of chicks. Eggs upon which a fowl is sitting are not all of the same temperature; those upon the outside are cooler than

those on the inside. Eradicate the chicken lice by cleaning out and burning out old nests, and whitewashing frequently. Spray the roosts and inside of the poultry house

freely with coal oil and carbolic acid. If charcoal and sulphur are burned in a poultry house we will guarantee that the house will be rid of lice. Sprinkle the sulphur on the charcoal and

shut the house up tight. Nothing can live in the fumes. The Apiary.

The dark brown color of combs is caused by the bees using bits of the old wax. When the sections are too near the brood combs, the bees seal it partly with old black wax. The use of

thick top bars prevents this, it is said. made in winter, and the cost be not materially increased. There must be Each frame of comb in a bee hive fresh cows. Good, warm, dry shelter, should occupy about one and a half inches of space, and in spacing the plenty of good feed and water, proper arrangements for handling the milk frames it should be done with exactand cream so as to secure the desired ness, so that the frames will be one temperature for cream raising and but- and a half inches from center to center.