THE MORNING ASTORIAN, ASTORIA, OREGON.

WELFMAN ON THE HELLING

************ A Mystery Solved. *******

[Original.]

"John," said the managing editor. they've got a sensation down at Effingham, and I want you to go there and write it up. It's a mystery, and nothing will sell papers like something no fellow can find out. All sorts of crimes-incendiarism, cattle killing. damaging water mains-are committed at night, and the people of the town can't find out who is the culprit."

I reached Effingham that afternoon and concluded to get the facts incog. None of the people suspected I was a reporter and talked freely with me about the case. They were all very much excited over it. I asked them why they didn't set a watch, and they said they had, but the crimes were committed at such long intervals that the watchers got tired and gave it up.

One of the citizens of the place, a Mr. Harrison Barker, I felt sure I had seen before. That clean shaven face, these arched brows and high cheek bones were certainly familiar to me, but his countenance was serene, and it seemed that when I had seen the man before he had been in trouble. In vain I put my mental machinery in motion to recall the circumstances under which I had seen him. The mental cogwheels worked well enough, but nothing was ground out. I chatted with him and asked him if he remembered having met me before. He looked me over carefully, but said be had no remembrance of me whatever.

Nothing bothers one so much as falling to recall what he is sure he has been familiar with. It makes him feel as if something is wanting in him. I tried to get a starter for my remembrance by finding out all about Mr. Barker and learned that he was one of the most respectable citizens of Effing-ham, had lived there a long while, had an excellent wife and sons and daughters, who were a credit to him. Furermore, he had never been to the city in which I lived, had never been in trouble and had thus far passed an uneventful life. My inquiries gave me no clew whatever.

Why I connected Mr. Barker with the mystery I had come down to write up I cannot even imagine. Perhaps it was something in his eye. But if I noticed anything peculiar in it no one olse did. One of the things I learned about him was that he suffered from insomnia and would often get up when others were asleep and walk the streets. Possibly these two facts taken together may have given me a

I sent in a couple of columns of copy to my paper full of incidents connected with the mystery and wrote that I sould remain at Effingham for awhile with a view to sending some explanation. A detective was expected, and I was curious to know what he would say about it. Meanwhile there was no repetition of the mysterious crimes.

On, I think, the third night of my stay in Effingham I was sitting alone every one but myself was in bed-on the porch of my hotel smoking. I heard footsteps, and presently a light fixed journey she gets along as best she to the porch showed me the face of Mr. Barker, who was walking along the sidewalk. The expression was not only that of one suffering from insomnia; it was a strained look as of one in mental distress As soon as he had passed I arose and followed him.

Not a person except he and I was in the streets. I saw him pass to the outskirts of the town. I lost him in hope unless they place themselves un- governor came down to his office in a the shadow of a barn, and he did not der the care of the skilled psychopaemerge for several minutes. When he did he turned to come back, and I hid myself behind a fragment of a fence. He passed very close to me, and I was about to follow him when I saw a and only then will the evil spirits of Meeting John Allen requesting a pass light in the opposite direction. In another moment a small flame appeared at the base of the barn. Instead of mony with its environment. following Mr. Barker I rushed to the barn, to find that it had been set on fire at three different places. I extinguished the incipient fires, then went to my hotel. The mystery was

Before retiring I telegraphed a stickthat a prominent citizen of Effingham the mysterious crimes and a solution gists. Ask for a free sample. of the mystery would be given in the next issue-Sunday morning.

How Harrison Barker proved to be insane, his insanity appearing only in his insomnia; how he was sent to an litical honors and who therefore feels asylum, so far as this story is concerned, is unimportant, but there is one feature of the case that gives a remarkable ending. Several years before a young man named Gawtry had been tried and convicted of committing these very crimes. He was torn from a him at an early date. young wife and babe and sent to prison for a term of fifteen years. When Harrison Barker came into court I was there. A man standing by me said to panion. another, "He's the image of Gawtry, who was convicted of the same crime." In a twinkling it flashed through my brain where, I had seen or thought I had seen Barker. I had reported Gawtry's trial and had confused the two men. Had not Barker committed the crimes for which Gawtry was suffer-

The first thing I did in the matter was to communicate with Gawtry's wife to tell her that there was a strong probability of proving her husband's innocence, news which she conveyed herself to her husband.

All came about as I expected. I shall never forget a visit to Gawtry's home soon after his pardon—the quickest "Yes; the way some people play it."way of righting his wrong-and listen-

ing to the heartfelt thanks that he and his wife poured out upon me for hav-ing secured the evidence that had reunited them.

HALLUCINATIONS.

Some Singular Instances of This Form

of Mental Disease. In "The Riddle of Personality" the author, H. Addington Bruce, analyzing the hypnotic treatment of hallucinations or irrational fears that often end in madness or suicide, says:

Few people are aware of the extent and variety of this form of mental disease. There is, in truth, no predicting the strange obsessions that may invade the human mind, haunting it with vampire-like insistence. One man, terrifled by he knows not what, may find himself unable to cross an open space; another be afraid to venture outdoors alone; another to sit in a room with closed doors; another may feel that every one he meets is eying and criticising him; another asserts that he is made of glass and must exercise the greatest care to prevent himself being smashed to fragments. Such fears would be indicrous were they not so

Particularly pathetic is a case that came to Professor Janet's notice some years ago. Mme. P., a dyspeptic, had been put on a diet of toast and water and, rebelling, was wont to indulge in secret in coffee and rolls. These she found did her little harm, and gradually the habit grew upon her until finally she passed her entire time wandering from one Parisian restaurant to another, drinking from twenty to thirty cups of coffee a day and consuming incredible quantities of rolls. At night if she chanced to wake and could find no coffee and rolls in the house she would pace her room in feverish anxlety until the restaurants opened in the

Somewhat similar is another case reported by the same authority:

"Here is a young woman, Que, twenty-six years of age. In coming to see us she brings with her a large bag, and her pockets are filled to overflowing. What is she bringing with her in coming to us for a consultation? It is simply provisions for the journey. She has in her bag and in her pockets several pieces of bread, a few slices of ham, some chocolate tablets and some sugar. One would say that she was going to cross a desert when it is simply a question of crossing a few streets. The provisions are indispensable to her, for, especially in the open air and in squares, it is absolutely necessary that she should take something to strengthen her. At the end of several steps she feels dazed, becomes dizzy, chokes and is covered with cold sweats. The danger would be great if she did not know the remedy. All she needs is to strengthen herself. She eats a piece of ham, puts a piece of sugar in her mouth and is thus able to take a few more steps. But very soon it all begins again, and it is only with the aid of rolls and chocolates that she is able to cross a ter, C. Q. M. square. One can therefore understand her miserable plight when her provisions run short. She is obliged at all costs, with unheard of efforts, to cross the de that is, a bakery. During this terrible can. She may pick up a raw potato, bakery. In general she prefers to reprepare and eat food all day long."

thologist, the savant accustomed to ex- day. Those familiar with the storm plore the vagaries of the mind and signals quietly backed off and waited able to touch the hidden springs of for an explosion. It came. One of the thought and feeling and action. Then first letters opened was from Camp obsession be exercised and the strick- for "self and wife." The secretary en mind find itself once more in har-approached his chief with some hesita-

A Pleasant Physic.

When you want a pleasant physic give Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets a trial. They are mild fossing the letter to the astonished ful of news to my paper, merely stating and gentle in their action and always produce a pleasant cathartic effect. was the guilty person in the matter of Call at Frank Hart and leading drug-

> The Only Digestible Kind. young man who is striving for pecalled upon to do considerable public talking was recently waited upon by a delegation of men residing in one of

> the poorer regions of his district, He was greatly pleased when their pokesman requested a speech from

> "What kind of a speech?" he asked. "An after dinner speech," replied a wag in a shabby coat.-Youth's Com-

A Nice Friend. "You're a nice friend to have! Why didn't you lend Borroughs the sovereign he wanted?"

"Why should I?" "To save me. You must have realized that he knew if he didn't get it from you he would from me. You've practically robbed me of that amount."-London Telegraph.

Criminal. The religious editor was struggling with the query, "Is it a sin to play poker?" After much prayerful consideration he wrote the following reply:

Philadelphia Press.

EDNA KIRK.

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OFFICE OF C. Q. M., VANCOUver Barracks, Wash., March 10, 1908 -Sealed proposals, in triplicate, will be received here until 11 o'clock, a. m., April 10, 1908, for furnishing fuel, fuel oil, gasoline, dogfood, mineral oil at posts in this Department for the year ending June 30, 1909; for furnishing forage and bedding for posts in Alaska for year ending June 30, 1909, and for furnishing a three months' Commercial St. supply of forage and bedding for posts in Department of Columbia embraced within boundaries of United States, for period commencing July 1, 1908. Deliveries of supplies to commerce July 1, 1908. Information furnished here or by Quartermasters at posts. United States reserves the right to reject or accept any or all proposals, or any part thereof. En- BUSINESS DIRECTORY. velopes containing proposals should be marked: "Proposals for " addressed John E. Baxat

HE RODE FREE.

Reason Camp Meeting John Allen Got a Maine Central Pass.

Camp Meeting John Allen was one of the most picturesque characters of capture an onion or a few green his time in Maine. Apropos of railroad leaves. This hardly sustains her, but passes a very interesting story is told. gives her enough strength to reach a It occurred when Governor Morrill was president of the Maine Central. main at home. That is less danger- Allen's applications were refused a ous, and so she does nothing else but number of times, because if there was one thing above all others which Mor-For such unfortunates there is little rill disliked it was to issue passes. The somewhat brusque frame of mind that

"Here is another letter from Mr. Allen asking for a pass," be said and laid the missive gingerly on the governor's

The governor read it through and secretary, he said, "Make it out." The young man retired and began to

fill in the various blank lines, but when he came on "what account" the pass was issued he was puzzled and ventured to seek information. "On what account, governor?" he

asked.

The chief looked irately over his spectacles.

"Account, account? Account of persistence. Be sure to put it in, too," and he growled as the young man passed out, "These Methodist parsons may have to get us all passes on the road to heaven, and I want Maine Central to have good connections with Camp Meeting John Allen's route."-New York Tribune.

ALMOST 100 YEARS OLD.

NEW YORK, March 10.-Mrs. R Miller, said to be the only actual Daughter of the Revolution in this state, died at the home of her daughter in Mount Vernon, yesterday. She was born at Stamford, Conn., April 12, 1807, and her father was Colonel Seth Webb, who served as lieutenant of coast guards. The children, grand children, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren of Mrs. Miller number 75.

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