



**The Wife's Secret,  
OR A BITTER RECKONING**  
By CHARLOTTE M. BRAEM

**CHAPTER XVII.—(Continued.)**

The lawyer's ill-timed attempt at a joke gave Mr. Mallett the opportunity he had been longing for, and he turned upon him almost savagely.

"He good enough to remember that this is a business interview," he said, frigidly. "And reserve your humor for a more fitting occasion." The small, shabby creature shriveled up at once, and Mr. Mallett, with a show of surface courtesy, turned to Babetta. "And now, madame, I think the rest of this interview can be carried on between us two; the presence of a third person is unnecessary, as I conclude the proofs spoken of by you are in your possession."

"I must speak this once, and I won't interrupt again," jerked in Daws. "I am a partner in this affair—I would not have taken it but on that understanding—and, being a partner, I submit that you have no right to shut me out; therefore I stay."

Mr. Mallett shrugged his shoulders with an expression of utter indifference. Babetta produced an envelope and took from it the small photograph of a grave, which she had found in her mistress's desk. She drew out a small magnifying glass from her pocket and crossed the room to the dirty window.

"Come and look," she said.

Mr. Mallett did as requested, and then looked at her inquiringly.

"Do you not see the name on the tomb?" she asked, impatiently, for she was so impressed with the truth of her own belief that she was annoyed when others did not jump so readily to the same conclusion as herself.

Mr. Mallett bent down again in the doubtful light that found its way through the disarranged panes, and looked carefully at the photograph. Daws and Babetta stood by, anxiously awaiting his answer.

"I see the name 'Pauline' plainly and the last letters of the second name—'Malling'—What then?"

"Do you not remember that your niece's name is Pauline, and can you not see that those letters which are bracketed out by that mark must be the first two letters of your own name? If it were not for that blot, the name would stand 'Pauline Malling.' Can you not understand that you hold in your hand a photograph of your real niece's grave, and that this woman at Mallingford is nothing but an adventuress?"

"Great heaven!"

He stood staring, first at one, then at the other, and then, in breathless amazement, he looked at the card in his hand. Babetta felt satisfied as to the success of her coup.

"And if that is not enough—I mean the mere name—there is the date, 'May 18—' This woman who has been quietly accepted as the late baronet's heiress first came to light in July of the same year. It is all quite plain."

"I would wish to see Mr. Mallett pass the card across his forehead. He could not yet realize the position in which he stood; he could not grasp what it meant for him—comfort, position, riches, splendor, after twenty years of comparative privation. His head was in a whirl.

"Will you not sit? You look over- come, Sir Geoffrey."

He started on hearing himself addressed by his proper name. Yes, that was just what it meant to him—that he was, or would soon be, Sir Geoffrey Mallingford, of Mallingford Park, instead of a hard-working drawing master, doing his daily round of instruction at so many shillings a quarter, and thinking himself fortunate if, after settling his bills, he was able to put away a few pounds at the end of each term. He dropped into the chair placed for him by Babetta, wondering if he should wake up to find it all a dream. He listened, without, however, gathering much of her meaning, to the French woman's voluble ex- planations.

"We advertised for you day after day in the Times, but could get no answer; and I was in despair when Providence sent you down to Mallingford. Mr. Perkins saw you and recognized you as you went out, and told me who you were. How I prayed that she was not mistaken! I telegraphed to Mr. Daws, and he telegraphed to you this morning. I made an absolute necessity of coming to town for some wedding finery; and so here we are!"

"And now what is to be done? And am I to go down to the park and turn this woman out with a policeman, or how do you propose to proceed?"

"She must not be interfered with until our proofs are all prepared," replied Mr. Daws. "My suggestion is that Ma'm'selle Lestrang should give you the address of the man who took that photograph—which, with a rare foresight, she withheld from me; that you cross over to Paris by to-night's boat, and from there make your way as quickly as you can to this place in Spain; that, when there, you get affidavits, or whatever their Spanish equivalent may be, from eye-witnesses of your niece's death, also the certificate of her death, and any other evidence that may crop up, and that on your return you place said proofs in my hands, and before a month has passed you will be in possession of Mallingford, and ma'm'selle and I will be fingered that five thousand."

"I have no money to meet the expenses of such a journey."

"I thought of that the minute I received ma'm'selle's telegram, and I raised fifty pounds at a big sacrifice this morning. Sign this bill for seventy-five at three months, and the fifty is yours."

Mr. Mallett's lip curled with contempt at the shameless extortion.

"You must feel very sure of this game," he remarked, "to be so—generous, shall we call it?"

Daws listened to the innuendo with placid unconcern.

"Well, I do feel sure of it, and I'll tell you why. Miss Malling called upon me the very first day our advertisement for your address appeared, and she was in such an awful state of fright about it that I saw in a minute she was afraid

of you for some reason or other. Putting what I observed and ma'm'selle's theory about that photo together, I concluded that you were on the right track—that your niece is dead—died six years ago—and this woman is nothing but an impostor."

"Oh, yes, it is sure enough," interposed Babetta. "But let us waste no more time. I must get back to my fine madame, and you, Sir Geoffrey, will have to say good-by to the charming lady, your daughter, and make arrangements for your absence. Here is the address of the photographer who took the picture. That ends the arrangements so far as I am concerned at present; the rest remains with you and Monsieur Daws; he will let me know how you go on in your search. Good afternoon!"

Daws looked after her in surprise. She had not spoken a word about the need for haste if the marriage was to be prevented; he had been expecting it all through the interview, and she had gone without once introducing the subject. Perhaps she had altered her mind; any way, that part of the business had nothing to do with him. Once more he opened his desk.

"Here is the money, Sir Geoffrey, and here is the bill ready stamped to sign. You will send me an occasional telegram, if you come across any news; and if you find another fifty necessary you can have it on the same terms. I wish you a successful search, sir, and a speedy return."

"I shall wire if necessary, not unless; and you may depend upon my earliest possible return."

He put his name to the bill, took up the small roll of notes, bade the lawyer good day and left the room without seeing his extended hand.

"As proud as Lucifer!" muttered Daws, not a bit abashed. "Never mind, the plainer and simpler the better."

Mr. Mallett reached the noisy, bustling street and looked about him for a cab; time was getting precious, if he meant to start to-night; and he would like to do so, if possible—for an intolerable restlessness had come to him, and he felt that he could not spend a moment in peace until he knew everything.

To his surprise, as he looked up and down the long street, Babetta glided from the shadow of a doorway and beckoned to him.

"I want to say a dozen words to you that I do not care that little woman to hear," she said, as he reached her side. "I have only two minutes to spare, and I was afraid you would not leave in time. If you find out that your niece is dead, and that this woman is an impostor soon enough let me have a telegram to that effect by Wednesday morning. I will not ask for my half of that five thousand pounds."

Here was another complication.

"Why by Wednesday?" asked Mr. Mallett, in surprise.

"Because she is going to marry Mr. Dorton at Bishopgate church at 11 o'clock on Wednesday next—all in secret, you know—and I would not only give up the money, but the best years of my life to prevent it!"

"Married to Dorton on Wednesday—the very day after her birthday—at a busy city church! Great heavens, what does it all mean?" asked Mr. Mallett, in perplexity.

"It means she is fond of that young man and will marry him in spite of every one, if you do not prevent it. I must fly for my train—do what you can."

He stood for a moment looking after her retreating figure, tried to make out what the news meant, then gave it up in despair and bestowed his thoughts exclusively on the arrangements for his absence.

**CHAPTER XVIII.**

Sunday at Mallingford Park. The house was full of visitors. Small attics on the top story which had never been slept in since the great doings of thirty-nine years before, when the late Sir Paul came of age, were all occupied now, for Lord Summers having expressed a wish that Miss Malling's majority should be marked by fitting festivities, that lady had thrown herself heartily into the project.

It was a close, stifling day, and there was a faint, white mist on the park-lands, and an intense stillness in the air, which proved very trying to the majority of Miss Malling's guests after luncheon. They sauntered out of the reception rooms by twos and threes, and sought the quiet of their own apartments until the ground floor looked quite deserted.

Pauline's health was generally good; but she, too, felt a breathless languor to-day and determined to enjoy the afternoon in her own rooms. She removed the gorgeous toilet which had gladdened the eyes of the villagers in church that morning, and replaced it by a light cashmere gown.

The last Sunday that I shall be known to the world as Miss Malling," she mused. "Before this time next week Jack and I will be away from here, happy in each other's society, and in the certainty that nothing on earth can ever separate us. Most young women would have numberless love tokens to destroy before their marriage; I have absolutely nothing that I fear my husband's seeing. Circumstances have been against my cultivating lovers as an amusement, and I am spared the farce of destroying the evidences of my past folly."

When she had taken two or three turns up and down the room, she stopped in front of her desk and looked at it thoughtfully.

"I suppose I may as well destroy it," she said, absently. "It can do me no good to keep it, and it might possibly do me harm in the future. That must have been in my mind all the time."

She unlocked the small bronze box on the toilet table with a key that hung from a gold chain round her neck, and took from it a bunch of keys. Then drawing up a chair to the desk she un-

locked that also, and went slowly through the contents.

She came upon one or two letters that interested her slightly and drew her thoughts away from her original purpose to search the desk, and it was not until both sides were quite empty that she discovered with a sudden heart-quaking fear the absence of that for which she was searching.

A look of wild despair flashed from her eyes and her breath came in short, sharp gasps, as she turned to the heaps of odds and ends which she had already gone through, with a hope that in her absence of mind she might have passed what she sought without noticing it.

Her quick, nervous fingers turned over the papers until the pile had once more been thoroughly searched; and then Pauline Malling sank back in her chair with her hand to her head and a look of despair in her eyes. Horrible thoughts chased each other through her aching brain; and, when 5 o'clock at last struck, she had arrived at only one definite conclusion, that the person who had possession of the missing article and the one who had advertised for the address of Sir Geoffrey Malling were one and the same.

When she rose and relocked the desk, she was haggard and pale, and she looked at herself wistfully in the glass; and an instinctive prayer went up from her heart that her beauty might not leave her until she was Jack Dorton's wife.

In the midst of all that threatened her—loss of name, wealth, position—it was almost touching to note how this worldly woman counted everything as nothing compared with her love for Jack.

Lord Summers was one of the guests at Mallingford. He was staying "over the seventeenth," and the fussy, kindly old man was slightly concerned at the existing state of affairs. He arrived only on the Saturday evening, and he was surprised to find Jack still at the Park.

"And when are my pictures to be completed, Mr. Dorton?" he asked.

This very question had been a point of disagreement between Jack and Pauline. He had wished to carry out the commission for those six pictures, and she had urged the unfitness of his earning another penny by his painting after their marriage. So he hesitated a little before he answered.

"Are you anxious to have them soon? I am anticipating a winter in Rome this year, and I should like, if possible, to devote myself while there to a close study of the old masters. But, if you are particular as to time, I will finish your commission before I touch any other work of course."

"No, I don't think I am exactly in a hurry, if you are not," and as his lordship spoke he thought of the avidity with which Jack had accepted the offer when it was originally made, and his voluntary promise to complete the series by the end of the year. "So you mean to winter in Rome?" he said, pleasantly. "And how does Miss Ethel Mallett like the prospect of so long a separation?"

Jack reddened suddenly, and he hated himself for it.

"I did not know you took enough interest in my private affairs to be led into investigating them," he answered, with a decided touch of displeasure in his voice.

"No, do I. You are mistaken; it is Miss Mallett's affairs I am interested in. I beg you will not credit me with prying into your personal affairs at all. As I have spoken on the matter, and as you seem to resent the liberty—which, believe me, was not intended as such—I must explain how things are. I met an old friend of mine, with his daughter, at the Exhibition of the Royal Academy one day last season. I had known him in years past as an enthusiast in art, and I was delighted to meet so congenial a companion."

Lord Summers paused a moment, and looked carefully round the table; seeing everybody occupied in conversation, he went on, in a slightly lowered voice. "My friend has had many reverses in life, which has necessitated his taking the name of 'Mr. Mallett,' and he has driven him to earn a living for himself and his family by giving lessons in drawing. I see you begin to understand now"—in answer to Jack's start of surprise. "Well, we went through the rooms together and he came to a picture of yours. Miss Mallett's delight at its position on the line was eloquent of many things. I looked the question I did not dare to ask, and Mr. Mallett told me of the engagement between his daughter and you, and expressed his wish that she should remain in the same class of society that she had been brought up in, in answer to my suggestion that she should come to us for a season out of town. Now, perhaps, you will understand my motive in seeking you out to excuse my seemingly impertinent curiosity."

(To be continued.)

**Plaster Better for the Purpose.**  
Customer—Got those "Pillman's Popular Pellets" in yet?  
Rural Drug Clerk—Yes; just come this morning.

Customer—Good. I've been asking for them for a week back.  
Rural Drug Clerk—Gosh! I didn't s'pose they were good for that.—Philadelphia Press.

**Strenuous Hint.**  
She—I don't like your first name, Mr. Slowboy. Cornelius is so long drawn out.  
He—Well, suppose you call me Nell for short. Several of my friends do.  
She—I'd call you Corn if—if—  
He—If what?  
She—If I thought you would pop.

**A Generous View.**  
"They say that sneaky-looking man across from us in two-faced!" whispered the first boarder.  
"Well, I hope he is, for his sake," said No. 2 generously. "It would be too bad to be reduced to the one he has on, wouldn't it?"

**Just Before the Ceremony.**  
Clarence—I told the minister he mustn't kiss you.  
Cordelia—And what did he say?  
Clarence—He thanked me and said under those circumstances he would only charge me half the usual fee.

**A Child Fancy.**  
"What are stars?" said little Mary.  
"Are they the nails that hold the sky up?"—Philadelphia Bulletin.

**IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS**

**Thursday, December 21.**

The senate was in session but a little more than an hour today. Of this time only about a half hour was legislative in character.

The credentials of Gearin, of Oregon, were presented and the senator sworn in.

The bill extending for one year the time allowed for building the Council City & Solomon River railroad in Alaska was passed.

Adjournment was taken until January 4.

There was but a ten-minute session of the house today, when the holiday adjournment until January 4 was taken. Two speeches, one attacking and the other defending the cotton crop estimates of the government, were to have been made, but permission was granted to print these speeches in the Record.

**Wednesday, December 20.**

The senate adopted a motion recalling its confirmation of canal commissioners. It is understood that the object of the move is to permit a protest against Chairman Shonts holding a position on the commission and the presidency of the Clover Leaf railroad at the same time.

The only notable feature of the open session today was a brief discussion on the question of railroad legislation by Foraker and Culberson.

The house continued to "shoot clay pigeons" today, as one member remarked, and debate on several topics continued for five hours. The general debate which has been in progress for several days ended with today's session, and tomorrow the session will be brief.

The house agreed on the conference report on the Panama canal appropriation bill.

Just before adjournment a bill was passed extending until 1909 the time in which the 50 miles of railroad from Council City to Solomon, Alaska, may be completed.

Payne gave notice that the Philippine tariff bill will be called up for consideration January 4.

Needham, of California, introduced a bill providing for the repeal of the Cuban reciprocity treaty. He said the treaty had resulted in serious loss of revenue, as the Cubans buy extensively in the United States, and does not give Americans an opportunity to get anything in return for the reductions in tariff on Cuban products.

**Tuesday, December 19.**

The senate today accepted the Panama canal emergency appropriation bill as originally passed by the house.

Heyburn made a new move in his fight on forest reserves by introducing a resolution calling on the secretary of agriculture for a statement of receipts and expenditures made by the forest service, also the amount of school land included in forest reservations.

Fulton introduced a bill to relieve bona fide settlers on Northern Pacific lands where such settlements were made subsequent to January 1, 1898.

A large list of appointments were confirmed.

Senator Dolliver introduced his rate bill today. It authorizes the commission to fix and enforce a maximum and reasonable rate, to go into effect 30 days after notice. The commission also provides for seven members.

The house continued debating the insurance question today. The day was passed without legislation and ended with an amusing debate on the question of the appointment of a janitor at \$60 per month to the reception room on the minority side of the chamber. In the end the janitor was not appointed.

The house committee on ways and means favorably reported Payne's bill admitting all Philippine products into the United States free, excepting sugar and tobacco, which are to pay 25 per cent of the Dingley rate until 1909, when they are also to go on the free list.

**Monday, December 18.**

The canal emergency appropriation bill was received in the house from the senate. Discussion of this was followed by another debate on insurance matters. The house disagreed to the amendments to the canal bill and sent it to conference.

Hale and Teller were named as the senate conferees on the canal bill. The senate in the afternoon took up

**Preachers on Canal Payroll.**

Washington, Dec. 20.—Senator Lodge today presented to the senate, in amplification of his denial made on Friday of the charge that women had been taken to the Isthmus of Panama under the authority of the canal commission and distributed among laborers for immoral purposes, a letter from Secretary Taft and all of the correspondence that has been on this subject. The secretary denies this and says that already there are several preachers of different creeds on the isthmus in the pay of the commission.

**May Compensate Idaho.**

Washington, Dec. 20.—As a result of a conference with Governor Gooding the president and Gifford Pinchot will probably advocate the passage of a bill permitting Idaho to relinquish to the government all school sections embraced in forest reserves and select in lieu a compact tract of equal area. In case the state wishes for timber land, Mr. Gooding asks that it may take a slice of the best timber out of some forest reserve.

**Warships Prevent Riots.**

London, Dec. 22.—According to official advices received here today from Shanghai, it is believed that the situation, while most unsatisfactory, can be controlled by the warships already there. The only danger is that disaffection may spread to the interior. It is thought that it will not be necessary to send troops, as the Chinese government is taking precautions to prevent an uprising. The foreign office has disapproved the action of the British assessor in confining Chinese women prisoners in a foreign jail.

**Million Dollars for Dowry.**

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—A grand-daughter of Senator W. A. Clark, of Montana, was born this morning at San Mateo, the parents being Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Clark, the mother having been Miss Celia Tobin, of this city. When informed of the birth of the baby, Senator Clark announced that he would immediately give the little girl a dowry of \$1,000,000, following the example set by himself at the birth of his first grandchild.

the house ship subsidy bill, which makes it the unfinished business before that body.

A joint resolution was adopted providing for adjournment from December 21 to January 4.

Dolliver has a new rate bill which he will introduce soon as a substitute for all measures now pending.

**Committee Places Filled.**

Washington, Dec. 20.—Northwestern senators were assigned committees today. Files, in addition to the chairmanship of coast and insular survey, goes on interoceanic canals, pensions, territories, Canadian relations and examination of the civil service. Heyburn, in addition to his old committee, goes on immigration and public buildings. There are several minority places vacant, from which assignments will be made for Gearin. They are forest reservations, pensions, industrial expositions, national banks and claims.

**Oppose the Joint Bill.**

Prescott, Ariz., Dec. 20.—At the close of the annual banquet of the Northern Arizona Bar association, a strong resolution was unanimously adopted declaring its unalterable opposition to the joint statehood bill and instructing the secretary to forward a copy, with the signature of each member attached, to Speaker Cannon, Delegate Mark Smith and Congressmen Hamilton, Tawney, and Adams, and Senators Foraker, Flint and Perkins. Strong speeches denouncing the bill were made.

**Charter for Alaska Cable.**

Washington, Dec. 20.—Senator Fulton today introduced a bill authorizing the North American Telegraph & Cable company, incorporated in the state of Washington, to construct telegraphic cables from the coast of Washington to Alaska, the Aleutian island, Siberia, Manchuria, China, Japan and the Philippines and requiring the operation of the cable within five years. Among the directors of the company are prominent Northwestern men.

**Abandon Malheur Project.**

Washington, Dec. 20.—Secretary Hitchcock today called on the Reclamation service to show why the Malheur irrigation project should not be abandoned. It is believed that this is a preliminary step to be followed by the withdrawal of engineers from that county, leaving Malheur county to private enterprise.

**Take Duty Off Ship Material.**

Washington, Dec. 20.—Representative Williams, of Mississippi, today introduced a bill to place on the free list beams, angle-irons, rivets, shavings, propellers, castings and other material imported for use in construction of American ships.

**No Interest in Black Sand.**

Washington, Dec. 20.—The house today refused to consider a resolution to ask the secretary of the interior the results of experiments in ascertaining the mineral value of black sand.

**NEW BUILDINGS IN RUINS.**

Two Great Railway Terminals on the Hudson River Burned.

New York, Dec. 22.—The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, which a few months ago suffered the loss of its Hoboken terminal buildings by fire, sustained a still heavier loss today, when the new ferry terminals of steel frame and supposedly fireproof construction, at the foot of West Twenty-third street, Manhattan, were burned to the ground. Workmen were putting the finishing touches on the building when the fire started, shortly before the noon hour.

The flames quickly communicated to the new ferry house of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, which, with the Lackawanna terminals, was considered the finest ferry building in the East, and this structure also was almost totally destroyed.

**Japan Will Pay Off Bonds.**

New York, Dec. 22.—S. Uchida, consul general of Japan in New York, received today a cablegram from the Department of Finance at Tokio to the effect that \$50,000,000 of the fourth exchequer bonds, bearing 6 per cent interest, will be paid off as follows: \$20,000,000 in March, \$20,000,000 in April, and \$10,000,000 in May, 1906.

**Conference at White House.**

Washington, Dec. 19.—Senators Allison and Hale, who are members of the committee on appropriations, and Chairman Shonts and Secretary Bishop, of the Isthmian Canal commission, were in conference with the president at the white house tonight. It is presumed that the case of Secretary Bishop, whose duties as agent for the commission has been the subject of discussion in congress, was among matters talked of, but no statement was made.

**General Strike is Improbable.**

London, Dec. 19.—The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at St. Petersburg, in commenting on recent events in Russia says he is still optimistic and is convinced of the impossibility of an organized general strike, because public opinion and the peasantry are strongly averse to it. He insists that the military outbreak at Moscow is in no way an indication of general disaffection in the army.

**Furs Go Up in Smoke.**

New York Dec. 19.—Two hundred thousand dollars' worth of furs were destroyed by fire today in the establishment of Max Paiecki & Co. wholesale furriers and manufacturers of automobile garments 37-39 East Twenty-first street. Other tenants in the building will suffer heavily from water.

**MADE PLAIN TO MR. SHONTS.**

Panama Canal Affairs Discussed at White House Conference.

Washington, Dec. 19.—President Roosevelt tonight took up the matter of the Isthmian canal scandals as developed by debate in the senate during the past three days. He is determined to prevent further criticism of the character put forward by Senators Tillman, Culberson and others. Senators Allison and Hale, both members of the appropriations committee, were present. The president made it plain to Mr. Shonts that the literary bureau in charge of Secretary Bishop must be at once discontinued, and Mr. Bishop confine his service purely to administrative matters. He also discussed the advisability of reducing his salary from \$10,000 now paid to \$5,000, or some other moderate sum.

It was also made apparent to Chairman Shonts that if he still has an official connection with the Clover Leaf railroad, it must be severed immediately. Senator Tillman declared that Mr. Shonts is still active president of the system, and neither Mr. Shonts nor any of the administration senators have entered a denial of the declaration.

The president further gave Mr. Shonts much advice regarding the conduct of affairs on the isthmus. It is prescribed in the president's order that the canal commission must leave at once for that place.

The bill appropriating \$11,000,000 for the canal work, passed by the senate on Saturday, provides that within 90 days the secretary of the treasury must furnish estimates to the senate and house appropriations committees of all salaries paid those employed on canal work, except laborers and unskilled workmen. This feature of the bill was discussed with Senators Allison and Hale.

It is believed that many reforms will be instituted in the administration of the canal before another appropriation is requested from congress. This work of reform must begin at once, as Secretary Taft says the \$11,000,000 now being obtained will last no longer than April 1 at the outside.

In the meantime Senator Tillman will begin a strong agitation after the holiday recess for a thorough investigation of the entire canal situation. He will be opposed by the Republicans, but supported by the Democrats. Even some of the Republicans favor an inquiry, and Mr. Tillman threatens to cause much trouble unless matters are put on such a basis as to prevent just criticism.

**TRADE WITH PHILIPPINES.**

Great Increase Shown Over Last Year by Department of Commerce.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Estimates made by the bureau of statistics of the department of Commerce and Labor, based on the returns for ten months ending with October, are that the aggregate commerce between the United States and the Philippines for the calendar year 1905, will amount to about \$20,000,000, against about \$15,000,000 in 1898, \$1,000,000 in 1900, \$4,000,000 in 1898 and a little more than \$4,000,000 in 1897, the year prior to the American occupation.

Prior to 1899, the exports from the United States to the Philippines, the bureau reports show, had never exceeded \$250,000, while in the present year they will aggregate nearly \$6,000,000. Imports from the islands, which ranged between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000 per annum prior to 1899, were in 1902, \$10,000,000; in 1903, \$12,000,000, and in 1905 will be about \$14,000,000, according to the bureau estimates.

The imports in 1905 are chiefly hemp and sugar. Hemp imports for the first ten months of 1905 amounted to \$10,376,528, and sugar \$2,212,249.

**Connecticut Safe Looted.**

Suffield, Conn., Dec. 19.—After binding the railroad watchman, W. Jones, and his 12 year old son to chairs in the railroad station here this morning before daylight, six bank robbers pried their way into the Suffolk Savings bank on Main street, blew open the safe after a fourth attempt and escaped with \$50,000 worth of registered bonds and stocks not negotiable, according to President Newton, of the institution. They overlooked \$3,000 in cash and negotiable bonds in a drawer nearby.

Conference at White House.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Senators Allison and Hale, who are members of the committee on appropriations, and Chairman Shonts