

Poetry.

NOT AS I WILL.

Blindfolded and alone I stand,
Less than a shadow on a pane,
The darkness deepens as I grope,

Blindfolded and alone I wait,
Less than a shadow on a pane,
Too heavy burdens on my load,

Blindfolded and alone I stand,
Less than a shadow on a pane,
The darkness deepens as I grope,

Literature.

A DELICATE SITUATION.

I must commence this narrative with a
most painful admission. My wife is a
confirmed kleptomaniac. In all other re-

I solemnly affirm that she has no notion
of wrongdoing. She pilfers with the in-

I first discovered her malady during our
honeymoon, which was spent in the north

There never a less nervous woman than
Maria; herein, I fear, lies the hope-

"Night after night, when she is asleep,
I have long made a practice of searching

About a year ago Mrs. Arbuthnot, an
acquaintance of ours, lost a valuable

At last I hit upon what struck me as a
really good idea. Like other like, I ad-

WANTED—A kleptomaniac, who must be
pleasing manners. She will be required to

Notwithstanding the frequency with
which such articles as books and umbrel-

There remained just five, who bashfully
said they were considered by their friends

Two of them—if I recollect right,

for I have mislaid their
elderly spinsters whom I
treated badly; the other

In the end I decided to
five, that being the only
could discriminate between

When the morning in question arrived
I tried to bundle Maria out of the house

When Miss White appeared I was vexed
to see that it was already 7.30, so that

Her intellect, I imagined, was a little
dull, for she apparently mistook the seat

"Ahem," I said, "Miss White?"
There was a knock at the door, and

"Don't mind me," said Miss White,
humbly. "Since the death of my poor

"Your parents," said I, making a fran-
cose attempt to get to business; "were—"

I knew quite well he was thinking of
my wife. I knew, also, that her appear-

Miss White had a clearer idea of the
situation. She looked at me in the same

By the time that my fifth visitor arrived
an event which happened very shortly

I went through the letters with great
care, putting aside all that tried to recom-

terms of this proposal were
objectionable. It was eventu-
ally, Mrs. Heslop strongly pro-

Notwithstanding the flood of tears which
she held in reserve somewhat, I saw

"No; by no means. It is an excel-
lent conjuring trick, but nothing more."

"Please don't apologize," she whimper-
ed. "Nobody ever apologizes to me, no

"Excuse me one moment—only one
moment," said I, and literally ran from

"Here," said she, bringing out the
paper which I had already seen in her

Strangely enough too, she was the only
one of the five who displayed the least

"Looks fishy, don't it?" said Mrs.
Dark, scrutinizing me from head to foot.

"That's all right. But stolen!" The
abandoned woman was actually winking

"Five, including yourself."
"Then you'll carry off every stick of furni-

"I jumped eagerly at this suggestion,
hoping to come to terms with Mrs. Dark

"I'm not a thief," said Mrs. Dark,
smiling complacently. "are you you—

ad scarcely finished speaking
door opened, and to my horror

"I see you are engaged," she said at
length, and was about to withdraw.

"I was too confused to speak or move,
but Mrs. Dark begged her to remain

"And now it's my turn," said Mrs.
Dark, pleasantly.

When they were gone I interviewed
Mrs. Dark, for her behavior had

"I thought so."
"Here," said she, bringing out the

People are apt to think that the hard
times, and which they experience are

"I'm not a thief," said Mrs. Dark,
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Are very prevalent in America, and it is not a matter to be

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Absolutely Pure.
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