NIGHTFALL

Alone I stand; On either hand In gathering gloom stretch sea and land; Beneath my feet, With ceaseless beat, The waters murmur low and sweet.

Slow falls the night; The tender light Of stars grows brighter and more bright; The lingering ray Of dying day

Sinks deeper down and fades away. Now fast, now slow, The south winds blow, And softly whisper, breathing low; With gentle grace They kiss my face, Or fold me in their cool embrace.

Where one pale star, O'er waters far, Droops down to touch the harbor bar, A faint light gleams, A light that seems To grow and grow till nature teems With mellow haze;

And to my gaze Comes proudly rising, with its rays No longer dim, The moon; its rim In splendor gild the billowy brim. I watch it gain The beavenly plain; Behind it trails a starry train-

While low and sweet The wavelets beat Their murmuring music at my feet. Fair night of June! Yon silver moon Gleams pale and still. The tender tune, Faint floating, plays, In moon-lit lays,

A melody of other days. 'Tis sacred ground; A peace profound Comes o'er my soul. I hear no sound, Save at my feet The ceaseless beat

Of waters murmuring low and sweet.

The Fireside.

NED'S THEFT. BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

Ned had caught the postage-stamp mania, and and so had George Towne and half a dozen other boys of his classes, and they were putting all their extra energy into the work of collecting stamps. I think I would be perfectly safe in saying that they devoted about three times as much energy to their stamps as they did to their books. I know that thoughts of a rare stamp which some one had told them about would come into their heads at all hours of the day and help to make their recitations a good deal worse than usual, and keep their brains busy over schemes by which it might be obtained before any one else had a chance to secure

So far, the chief rivalry lay between Ned and his friends Tom and George, and their collections were about alike. Tom had the largest number, would be glad to give half a dozen of his for one books, and I had a chance to get 'em off a boy of five or six kinds they had. But neither love who had duplicates, and so I closed a bargain with If not, he must die of starvation and sorrow. nor stamps could buy them of them, and Tom him." knew it too well to make any offer for them.

One day George Towne came to school with a Ned felt sure from the way he looked at them ed for him all along. when he came in, that his high spirits had some connection with stamps, and began to feel uneasy at once. What if he had, by some remarkable good luck, taken a short cut across lots, and come four," he said, taking them up one at a time. out a long distance ahead? It made them feel despondent to think of it. They felt something as their fathers probably did when some one got a three," and he began to count them again. "corner" on wheat, or some other article they were dealing in. To these boys "quotations" in the stamp market were of quite as much interest as quotations in the wheat and other markets were to

The minute George got a chance to convey the information to them, he let them know that a cousin of his in New York had sent him seven stamps, and all choice ones, too-something hard to get; and the fact that he had got them placed him in a very important position in the stamp world, as it was represented in Peytonville.

Tom and Ned felt that their rival had left them wealth. They would never feel satisfied until they ful stamp." had got even with him, if they could not get ahead, and for the remainder of the day they were busy laying desperate plans by which they might redeem "but I was glad to know that you could contess which would place them on an equality with the boy who does wrong, and repents it, and

. But a week went by, and neither of them secured a stamp of any kind, and they began to be discouraged. And George reigned supreme where they had formerly reigned with him.

One evening Ned's grandfather asked him to bring him something from the case of drawers where he kept his things, and, in getting it, Ned made a discovery which fairly took his breath from Egypt, and the others equally as hard to get to her mother, "Turn her out to grass." So to ting, writes: "The day is coming when we shall by any Peytonville boy. Why! one of them was grass she had been sent. almost equal to George Towne's seven! and the O, how she enjoyed the green fields and the ly, while the discomfitted flies club together and

position again. his brain full of very busy thoughts. What did through the meadow, and building little houses Not only does a clear sunset presage fair weather his grandfather want of them? Why couldn't he of stones on the bank beside it. Her cousins, Sam but there are other tints which speak with cleartake one—that stamp from Borneo—and thus place and Billey, helped her in this play with all their ness and accuracy. A bright yellow in the even himself at one bound on a level with George? The hearts. Ed and Joe were older, and they had to ing indicates wind; a pale yellow wet; a neutral babilities were that his grandfather would work on the farm, pick up stones in earnest, and gray color constitutes a favorable sign in the evennever know it. Such another chance he should weed the garden. never get. I think the possession of that stamp seemed more desirable to him than the possession Edie was a great pet. Very soon hereity triends soft, undefined and feathery, the weather will be of the Kokmoor diamond would have done.

sleep for thinking of it. I don't know why he did her waist so large that she looked like a Dutch usual hues betoken wind and rain; while more not think of proposing to buy it of his grandfather, clipper. So said Uncle Lot, as he took her on his quiet and delicate tints bespeak fair weather. but I think such an idea did not once suggest it- knee in the evening after supper.

self to him. that it was wicked to steal, and he knew that wash dishes and feed chickens and help her taking that stamp in the way he did take it was mother "a good bit," as she said, so she could not stealing. But he took it! He crept into the play all the time. But when she did play she was room where it was as slyly as any burglar could splendid, Edie said. have done, and all the time he was about it his "Mattie," said Edie one day, "I want to have a face felt hot with shame. He pulled out the tea-party on our rock. Aunt Mercy will let me drawer, and selected one stamp, and hastily shut have Susie's dishes." the drawer to, and ran out of the room full of guilty fear. He was a thief, and I think a thief is always afraid of detection. But no one had seen him, was dead, her toy dishes on the top shelf of the and he breathed freer when he was outside the closes were very dear to the mother's heart, gate, with the stamp hidden safely in his pocket.

He couldn't zet rid of a very disagreeable feel- might make her cry," ing of self-condemnation as he walked on to school He had done a dishonest thing, and he had lost dishes, child?" said Edie. his own self-respect, and it is a bad thing for a "We'll make 'em ourselves. We'll take clam- with mashed potatoes, and bake in a sharp oven boy, for the child is father of the man; and if we shells and leaves, and I've got two whole broken half an hour, or until the potatoes are well brownbegin to lose our respect for ourselves when we are saucers, and they'll do. I think it's more important ed. children, unless something happens to prevent our to say, 'What'll we have for tea?"

is nothing left about us worth respecting.

at rost. " And he won't miss it."

Just as if that made the fact of his having stolen t any the less disgraceful! We get up such ridiculous arguments in trying to persuade our- "Why, Edith Horton. If you're going to have selves that wrong is right, and we never succeed. | them you needn't expect me !" It made him forget his qualms of conscience began to think of how he had resorted to dishonest up her flat from the ground. means to obtain the triumph, and before noon he wished the stamp was back in his grandfather's on Edie's brow. "I'm going home,"

where except in his pocket. Every time he show- ask anyone I like." ed it to the boys, and of course all of them had to "Of course," said Mattie, going off in see it, it seemed to have "Thief!" written across | dudgeon. it, and Ned felt that he must look guilty. He was "Those girls," meanwhile, were lolling over the tempted very much to tell a lie to conceal his fence on the opposite side of the road. They were theft, when the boy asked him where he got it. ragged, unkempt, and dirty. Their father and But he determined not to commit himself, and so mother were the plagues of the place, and their he kept up a dignified and mysterious silence re- big brother was a very bad boy indeed. Edie garding it when questioned on the subject, which knew they were the sort of children who ought to excited the curiosity of the boys wonderfully. When Ned went home from school that night school in Valleyville, and the Sunday-school didn't he felt so miserable over the affair that he resolved | want such little black sheep. At any rate, it had to put the stamp back. But his grandfather had never tried to save these little wanderers. Christi-

gone away on a visit, and had locked the drawer anity in Edie's person was about to go to them for from which Ned had taken the stamp. So he was the first time. thwarted in his attempt to make good his theft by restoring it. He began to think that after a person had become a thief he must stay a thief. afternoon. I'd be glad to have you come." The thought wasn't a comfortable one. He dreamed about breaking into a bank, and finding great to answer. They were surprised at being noticed sheets of stamps, and getting caught at the burg- by so fine a little lady. But their mother, sitting lary, and being sentenced to States Prison for life. by her door in a tattered gown, spoke for them. He woke up in a shiver of terror and wished he had never got the stamp fever. He lay awake and thought of what his father and mother would | Edle. say if they knew what he had done, and the more he thought of it the more uncomfortable he got. Mattie Holden, surveying them from the apple tree He had heard his father talking about thieves not | into whose crotch she had climbed, wished she was long before, and now he was one, and all that his there. Her pride kept her away, but she went in father had said about them would apply to him cross to her tea. Then he tried to satisfy himself and excuse his | Edie and her cousins were very polite to the theft to the dignity of a crime. But he couldn't Billy even privately going home for more. make it out to be anything but a theft, argue as he "They have awful appetites!" he told his might, for a great theft and a little one differ only | mother.

consequently he had no chance of putting back in Edie's asking them to go to Sunday school. the stamp which had become the one thing he thought of. It kept him from getting his lessons, | ing. and it took away his relish for play. He had ceased to enjoy the brief honors which the possession of the stamp had invested him with. He I'm at home again, I'll get each one some shoes, only wanted to do one thing with it now, and that and give you one of my dresses apiece." was, to get rid of it.

adjoined the one Ned occupied. it was going hard with him. Tom Walters had it, "Now I shall get a chance to put that hateful stamp back," he thought. You see he had got to calling the object of his theft "hateful," when that A silly young cricket, accustomed to sing was not what he ought to have done. It was the Through the warm sunny months of gay summer theft itself which was "hateful."

> "Good morning, Mr. Twelve-year-old. How does it seem to be growing old?"

"Why, this is my birthday, isn't it ?" cried Ned. 'I had forgotten all about it." "Of course it is," answered his grandfather. At last by starvation and famine made bold, Come in. I've got something for you that I think All dripping with wet, and all trembling with cold, you'll be glad to get. I've been keeping it on Away he set off to a miserly ant, purpose to give you to-day. I got it when I was To see if, to keep him alive, he would grant in the city two weeks ago. It's a choice little colbut George and Ned had the rarest specimens, and lection of stamps. Ten of 'em, and every one rare. they had the satisfaction of knowing that Tom I knew you would prize the lot more than a dozen

Poor Ned! his face was as red as fire, and he felt more ashamed than he had ever done in his face beaming with conscious triumph. Tom and life before: He had stolen what had been intend-

While he had been talking, his grandfather had pulled out the drawer in which the stamps were, and began counting them out. "One, two, three, "Five, six, seven, eight, nine-why, there's one gone, if I counted correctly. Let me see; one, two, Go then," says the ant, "and dance winter away!

Ned felt as it he wanted to sink through the loor. He was conscious of a vague desire to run.

lo, and he cried. "Grandfather, I stole the other stamp. Here it is! I don't deserve to have the stamps at all, for drawer was locked;" and then Ned turned and ran grandfather's surprised, grieved look. But he felt better than he had for two long days, for he a long ways behind by his sudden acquisition of had confessed his guilt and got rid of the "hate-

"I was sorry to know what you had done," his grandfather said, by and by, when they were alone, their lost position by climbing up to a higher one an error. It takes a brave person to do that, and owns it manfully, shows that he is true at heart, and means to do right because it is right." And now I have told you the story of Ned's first and last theft. He will never forget it, you may

EDIE'S LITTLE TEA-PARTY.

BY AUNT MARJORY. away with its magnitude. In that drawer were to spend the summer in the country. She had the riff, or the pool, the better understanding at ten stamps, and every one of them was of the rarest grown pale over her books, and the good doctor once between you and the fish," kind. One from China, one from Borneo, one who had known her since she was a baby, had said MARK TWAIN, speaking of a new mosquito net-

possession of it would place him in a respectable thick woods and the long lane bordered with wild take it out of the minister." roses and sweet ferns. Most of all she liked dip- How to Judge the Weather. - The colors of He shut up the drawyer, and went away with ping her bare feet in the brook which ran merrily the sky, at different times are a wonderful guidance.

There were no girls in Aunt Mercy's family, so are full of meaning in themselves. If they are would not have known her. For her cheeks grew fine; if the edges are hard, sharp, and definite, it He thought about it all night. He could not red as apples, and her eyes bright as beads, and will be foul. Generally speaking, any deep, un-

The only girl she had for a playmate was Mattie Trade has thought fit to publish them for the use Now Ned knew, just as well as you and I do, Holden, who lived on next farm. Mattie had to of sea-faring men.

"I don't believe she will," said Mattie. Susie was Aunt Mercy's little daughther who "Don't ask her," said tender-hearted Mattie, "It

going on in that way, when we are grown up there "O, I'll get auntie to give me ginger-snaps and six cold boiled potatoes, add to them a pint of cookies and apple-pie-and milk. She lets me have cream or new milk, and flour enough to make as "But grandfather couldn't care much for it, sny- them anyway. And I'll go over to that house and stiff as other fritters, the yolk of four eggs then

"Those girls!" Mattie's eyes were two round periods and her mouth made an exclamation point.

"Why not?" " My mother is particular about the company . and George, and saw how they envied him the possession of it. But after the consciousness of and put on her pink sun-tonnet with a fling. The Toung Man," "Conscience and Law," possession of it. But after the consciousness of and put on her pink sun-tonnet with a fling. The triumph over his rivals had worn off a little, he other little Miss gave her braids a toss, and caught

"Very well, Edie!" said Mattie, "seeing decision drawer, or in Borneo, where it came from,-any- "It's my party, Mattie," said Edie, " and I can

go to a mission school; but there was no mission

"Little girls," said she, in a clear, sweet voice, "I'm going to have a party on the rock this Jemmie and Jessie heard her, but were too shy "They'll come, and thank you ma'am."

"Come and help me get ready, please," said What a lovely time they had that afternoon.

wrong deed by telling himself that it was only a little girls. They helped them to the best of stamp and didn't amount to enough to raise his everything, and they let them eat all they wanted Household, Office, School and Ship Furniture,

His grandfather did not come back next day, quickly, joined her voice in the refrains. It ended "We've no dresses nor shoes," said Jessie, blush-

> Edie thought a moment. "If you'll only promise to go all the time, after

the use of hand cranks, can place the patient in any desired position, i. e., to raise the head, lower the feet, elevate the promise was joyfully given. Edie will soon His grandfather came back that night after he | go home, for vacation is nearly over; but she will had gone to bed. When he awoke in the morning have the pleasure in remembering her little party, CHILDREN'S CARRIAGES-Latest Styles. he heard him stirring about in his room, which and in knowing that two girls, at any rate, have begun to learn about Jesus and His love.

THE ANT AND THE CRICKET.

and spring, He got up and dressed himself. When he went Began to complain when he found that at home into the hall his grandfather opened his door and His cupboard was empty, and winter had come. Not a crumb to be found On the snow-covered ground; Not a flower could he see,

> "Oh! what will become," says the cricket " of me? Him shelter from rain,

Not a leaf on a tree;

He wished only to borrow-He'd repay it to-morrow; Says the ant to the cricket, "I'm your servant and

A mouthful of grain;

But we ants never borrow, we ants never lend. But tell me, dear sir, did you lay nothing by When the weather was warm?" Said the cricket,

My heart was so light That I sarg day and night, For all nature looked gay." "You sang, sir, you say? Thus ending, he hastily lifted the wicket,

And out of the door furned the poor little cricket. Though this is a fable, the moral is good: things any man ever did, or that any man ever will If you live without work, you must go without

A DIFFERENCE of ten minutes may not seem to be a matter of much moment, but it is if you want I've been a bad boy, and I'm sorry. I've wished I to catch a train, and miss it by just that much. hadn't done it, and I tried to put it back, but the And it makes a difference in the Sunday-school, even though that does not go by steam. There is out of the room, for he couldn't bear to face his nothing like being on hand and in position early. JOSH BILLINGS says a great many wise things, in spite of his poor spelling. In his essay, "What Kno About Trout," are suggestions which the Presbyterian thinks quite as applicable to Sundayschool teaching as to fishing. For instance: "A man who don't hanker for the sport kant larn to katch the darling critters, unless it iz in sum faroff waters, where it aint safe to stick yure fingers into the brook for fear of getting bit by the trout. Expensive rigging won't katch trout enny more sertain than a hi priced phiddle will play well with the wrong man hold of the bow. The bate on your hook, and the way it iz put on, iz of more consequence than the German silver on your fish pole. The fust drop of bate into a hole is the most important one. A trout is the most natural Edie Horton was a city girl, and she had gone of all fishes, and the more natural the bate strikes

sit under our nets in church and slumber peaceful-

ing-an untavorable one in the morning. Clouds Simple as these maxims are, the British Board of

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quired. COTTAGE PIE. - In the bottom of the pie-dish n the market, might make her cry,"

"But how are we to have a tea-party without "such as the party without by us only to the wholesale trade, from whom country merchants and consumers can always obtain them by a sking specially for them.

"But how are we to have a tea-party without season to taste, add an onion chopped fine, cover asking specially for them."

"But how are we to have a tea-party without season to taste, add an onion chopped fine, cover asking specially for them."

POTATO FRITTERS. - For potato fritters grate way," he said, in a vain attempt to set his conscious ask those girls to come for guests. We've got to the beaten whites and a little salt. Fry in hot lard or butter. They are delicious.

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