A Night Watchman's Story.

In order that the thousands of weary people in our great cities, and particularly in the large manufacturing towns, may lie down at night and sleep in peace, it is necessary that many of their fellow-men shall keep watch and ward. There is ever imminent danger of fire to be guarded against, as well as depredations by thieves and burg- lying on a loom by some one of the mill girls, good hostess and mistress of "Fairview she heard it, an' said faintly, 'Yes, goin', lars, explosions of gas, damage by water which had at length slid off to the floor. I Farm," and the "homiest" farm house tired goin' home; home, sweet home. and electricity, and a hundred other perils incident to modern life. This necessity makes the night-watchmen, one of whom l have been since I was twenty years old.

There are at present, in Canada many hundreds of these nightly watchers, not including night policemen; and I often think what an army they would make, if marshalled in forty regiments and placed on parade with their dark lanterns, "paralyze-

ers" and revolvers.

Not all night-watchmen carry weapons. Many of them do not own a pistol; and there are some who do not even carry lanterns. In certain factories lanterns are prohibited, on the ground that fire will be more readily discovered by a person who goes about in the dark. It is my opinion that every intelligent watchman should be provided with a small dark lantern. The possession of such a lantern would have saved night. When I made my rounds between set my heart on gittin' on in the world, no wickedness was by being doubly kind to Siah's me one of the worst frights I ever had. will tell the story presently.

but a contrivance for keeping watch of the watchman; for although most watchmen are

their neglect. to three or four pounds, which the watchpossession of some trusted agent of the firm or company, who, having put in a fresh dial, gives it into the hands of the watchman when he appears for duty each evening at six

o'clock. But this is not the only key: it is a watch of many keys; and the other keys are distributed to different rooms, or points throughout the building, yard, or territory burglar, probably; and the idea took pos- papers. He was used to a few pleasures at for bread an' raiment for the beloved son or which it is the watchman's business to patrol. Theremay be twenty such keys, each chained

securely at its station.

The watchman visits these stations in order, one after another, and in passing inserts the key at a key-hole in the watch and turns it around. The revolution pricks a record What are you doing here?" upon the dial and so adjusts the mechanism that the only key which will fit the hole next time is the one which ought in proper shadowy object slowly pass another window. that 'Siah fared better in his boyhood home order to succeed. These records stand opposite the time of night at which they are badly frightened, for I had no weapon save there hadn't been quite so much readin' made; and any neglect on the part of the watchman to visit a key-station at the requ red time, which is usually once in thirty minutes, or once an hour, is certain to be exposed when his watch is opened and inspected next morning.

There are other expedients for insuring faithfulness on the part of watchmen. In some factories and foundries, instead of a portable watch and key-stations electric buttons are distributed about the premises. The watchman, as he makes his rounds here?" presses these, and in so doing punctures a

private office of the firm.

As I look back over my life as a nightwatchman, the only satisfaction I have with regard to it is in the thought that it has when, with a piercing screech, a woman for you the very best room in the house, been a useful service, and that if I had not rendered it some one else would have been obliged to do so. It is not an enjoyable vocation. I feel as if I had never seen daylight | blow that I staggered and nearly fell. and sunshine. My eyes seem no longer adapted to daylight; they blink like those of an owl in the daytime. I now sleep fairly | seize her, I retained a portion of her clothing | face toward me, and spoke up clear : well in the daytime, but did not at first, in my hand. She ran down a flight of stairs | "Rildy, we Thornes have not, as moneyand many watchmen complain that they never sleep soundly.

As a rule, a watchman's life is quite uneventful. One night is like another, and the monotony of darkness and silence. But now and then some startling incident occurs.

During my first year as a night-watchman, when I was little more than a boy, so to speak, I was watching in a large cotton factory in one of the manufacturing towns. After the hundreds of operatives had departed, at six o'clock, the different rooms of the mill were locked up. The custom now is to leave them open.

I carried a large ring of keys that fitted all the rooms, and my schedule of duties required that I should make the round of the entire factory once every hour.

In the spinning room and in each of the weave rooms there was a "watch clock" connected with the works of which was a movable dial that ascended slowly inside a closed case, below the face of the clock; and into this the watchman was required to drive a peg every time he made his rounds. The peg was inserted at a little round hole in the case, and immediately ascended out of sight.

The pegs corresponded to the hour, and were carefully inspected by the superintendent every morning. A watchman who twice failed to drive his peg at the proper hour was dismissed. This would be deemed a rather clumsy device at the present time, but it then answered its purpose very well.

My orders were to unlock the rooms and walk in the dark down the long aisles between the rows of looms, peering about for the least glimmer of fire, listening for any unusual noise, and sniffing the air for any unusual odor, as of smoke or gas.

feeling. Occasionally I would hear a slight good times." or the stillness would be broken by a hollow a lizard in the teacher's desk, and mucilage

way : and all the little raps that I made, as | the pump, and school ain't really opened yet, well as my foot-falls, sounded so loud that either.' I would actually find myself going on tiptoes. A dark lantern, which I could now and then open to send a ray of light ahead, would have been a great comfort to me.

that I was afraid; but I know now that on volver? many nights I did actually suffer much from that kind of timidity which may be described as "night fear." In after years these feel- and see ! ings wore away ; but during that first year I would often hear my own heart thumping shentleman ten tollars.

hard and fast and my ears ringing, as I stood still to listen and sniff the air.

A little after eleven o' clock one evening, as I unlocked the door of one of the weave rooms, I heard a noise that sounded like a many sharp things I've said to 'Siah's old pair of small pincers or a pair of shears drop. father and mother, I am heartily ashamed of Come in an' see mother, 'said he, leadin' me ed to the floor, down toward the farther myself. I'd like to tell the young lady about into the house, an' guidin' me to the bed, end of the room. The sound came very dis. these old folks. Young wives sometimes for- where she lay cruelly scorched and burned. timetly to me, for the room was as still as a git to value old people, 'specially their hus- The shock unnerved me an' I fainted away, tomb. I stopped short and listened for fully ban's folks, forgittin' the duty that she, as an' the afternoon was well spent before I a minute, and then said, "Who's there ?"

was probably a pair of shears, left carelessly over these plams," said Mrs. Thorne our "Goin' fast,' somebody whispered, an' the looms, rapping on them with my stick. wind.

but detected nothing unusual. But just as I looms behind me. I experienced a sudden "What an uncomfortable landlady!" sensation, too, as if there were some one else in the room.

I went back and passed entirely around kindly soul. the room and down the centre, listening and

out and locked the door.

ning and a good deal of thunder growling in the harness awhile. I was full of ambition, own lite, it would have been some comfort. the heavens. This continued till after mid- when 'Siah an' me were first married, an' All that I could now do, to atone for that twelve and one o'clock, I heard nothing un- matter how hard I must work. Mother father. He should find in me a devoted usual in the weave room; but upon unlock- told me that 'Siah would need to be kept daughter. I was anxious for him to come at Another device, or badge of the craft, ing the door a few minutes past one, I again stirrin', an' I'd best show him I meant to once with us, but he pleaded to be allowed to which many night-watchman carry, is a heard a peculiar sound like a half sigh, half have my way at the beginnin' of our mar- stay in the old place until the mortgage "watch." It is not a watch for keeping time, snore which some persons make when par- ried life. She said I was more capable of was foreclosed. tially awakened from sleep.

trusty and honest, there are shirks who noise I had heard, although the thought fluence him too much. Everybody knew nigh about ready to move. would sleep and fail to make their regular came into my mind, on the instant, that it that they had almost made an idol of him, rounds if there were no means of exposing might be from a draught of wind. But I an' were a bit too easy goin'. called out again, loudly and plainly, "who's "I did jest as mother advised, tho' for the white, peaceful, old tace told us that he had

matter.

heard a rustle just across from where I stood | time, an' slept at night. and at the same instant saw a dark object | "Siah's mother, one morning, asked me fathers an' mothers that soothed through pass one of the windows. I knew then not to be so tight upon him, an' intimated long illness an' tryin' days the fretful child. there was a person in the room-a thief cr he ought to have his evenings to read his Who toiled in heat an' cold, storm or shine, session of me that the rascal was moving home. I was young and fiery tempered, an' daughter? along to reach the door ahead of me, perhaps knew that before many years we should to waylay me there. Moved by a sudden have to care for 'Siah's parents, as they Love them, respect them, and show it spasm of fear, I made a rush for the door were almost penniless, havin' had sickness Give them the sunny side of the house in and, gaining it, turned and shouted,-

eyes in the blackness, I saw the same dark, 'I fairly blazed, I felt so angry when told It was moving stealthily toward me. I was than he did in his own, an' I said: "If my stick, and I thought it likely that the goin' on, an' money spent for lights, mebbe miscreant had a knife.

hand holding the door, ready to jump back for two people, who are no earthly kin to me. and shut it if the fellow made a charge on me. | Lights cost money; we can't afford em,' an I felt sure that he was moving slowly toward | 'Siah'll have to work doubly hard now that

"Stop where you are," I shouted, in as savage a tone as I could utter. "Answer now, who are you and what are you doing anything unkind, by faultin' me an' my way

record in a dial inside a patrol clock, in the a glimpse of something, or some one, ap- 'Siah is shiftless, an' I have the hardest time. parently in light-colored clothing from head | The truth should be told, an' we both know to foot, not three yards from me; and I was that in a few months the Thorne farm'll about to leap backward and shut the door, fall into other hands. 'Siah has picked out sprang against me to get past, and at the sayin' he wanted a sunshiney nook for his same moment struck me in the face with dear old mother,' said I, an evil spirit some sharp-pointed instrument so painful a possessing me.

ant got past me, although in attempting to choked voice; then she turned her white into an ante-room and escaped into the getters, been successful. As you say, we month follows month with nothing to break blow in the face, dealt with what it was one day you shall have a home with me,

remained on duty till morning.

the mill girls wore, and is it was then with him, as he had won a dear, good wife. Her reign's a sad one if she reigns alone. the owner to an account next day.

previous evening, she had stopped her looms dition of two helpless old people." to mend up ; but that, being very tired, she had, while sitting on the floor between them fallen asleep, and had from this cause remained in the mill when the rest went out at six o'clock. Later she had waked, but finding the room locked, had decided to remain quiet until morning.

When asked why she had not asked the watchman to let her out, she declared that I "hollered" and "talked so terribly," that she was afraid of me; and that, finally, when she found that I had seen her, she was "awful scared" and had run past me.

As the girl had never been caught in any mischief previously, her story was generally aecepted, and the laugh was rather against me. It was always my own opinion, however, that the girl had stayed in with her shears for the purpose of stealing some factory cloth.

Good Times at School.

"Poor little fellow," said the sympathetic For a ong time it gave me very "poker- lady to the urchin who was trudging along ish" sensations to enter the dark room and with books and slate under his arm, "aren't go about alone amidst the now silent ma- you sorry to have to go back to school? Still, chinery, whose dim outlines gave me an odd I suppose you manage to have a great many ed back to me :

ping in the iron or steel work of the looms, "Yes'm," was the reply, "I have just put in her ink and dropped my slate on Johnny I carried a stick with which to feel my Flynn's sore toe, and put limburger cheese in

Ready to Take his Work for It.

Wildcat Bill (the cowboy)-I say, Pard, I would not have admitted to myself then kin you advance me something on this re-

Pawnbroker-H'm ! Vas it in good order ? Jus' lemme take a couple of shots at you

O, dot vas all right. Nathan, give this

'SIAE'S OLD FOLKS.

When I think of my selfish past, and the well as he, owes 'em for his bringin'up. Jest | was able to walk to the bedside of his - yes, There was no reply. I reflected that it set down at the north window, while I pick our mother, whose life was nearly ended.

had risen; and I had once or twice heard appearing, not quite fifty, was a "capable" thunder, as if a shower was gathering over housewife, a "reg'lar clinker" to turn off I thrust my stick in between the looms, wife of easy-going, jolly 'Siah Thorne. "Dear, dear !" said my niece Ray, as the the-house-not-made-with-hands ;-no

stopped to drive a peg at the watch clock, I sharp voice first fell upon her ear, and the fancied I heard a faint rustle among the snappy black eyes "sized us up," at a glance.

we had misjudged her, as her's was really a us !"

"You see, Miss Ray, there's a difference filled my soul. If I could have told her that poking about with my stick, then I went between old an' young blood. No matter I truly repented those evil words, spoken behow frisky an' stirrin' the young colt may be, fore she rescued my little son from the fire It began to rain with a few flashes of light- it steadies down fast after being worked in he had kindled in the road way, an' lost her managin' than 'Siah, an' he'd come to see it. It startled me even more than the first She cautioned me about lettin' his folks in- went on Sunday mornin', to see if he was

The "watch" is an apparatus contained in here?" and added that whoever was lurk- first few years there was a sight of difference followed mother to the mansion on high. in a circular metal case, weighing from one ing there had better be getting out in haste. in our opinions. He was anxious to spend Then, after a moment, I started down time in studyin', and readin' papers. He or- mind, my conscience troubled me so keenly, man carries either in his hand or suspended the room rapping pretty hard on the looms ganized a literary society, an' the members for bein' so set agin' 'em comin' to live with across his shoulder by a strap. It can be and posts to keep up my courage; for al- wanted to farm after the methods suggested us. My kind, good husband made me more opened for the insertion of a papre dial, by though it seems little to tell of by daylight, by those fine writers who have never han reconciled, an' from that day I've had a soft means of a key which is always in the my feelings in the dark were quite another dled a spade in their lives. Mother came corner in my heart for old people. I've no lover, one morning, an' told me I was takin' patience with the man or woman who com-I did not meet anything unusual, however a wrong step by permittin' 'Siah to waste plainingly says: 'I have the burden of caring and was returning from my circuit of the time readin's illy stuff, an' we'd never get for the old people on my shoulders. It's a room along the opposite side, when I again on in farmin' unless we worked in the day- great charge.

"None of your tricks. I've seen you. My mother thought I was burdened enough with the farm work, an' care of my three I got no answer; but as I strained my little boys, without doin' for 'Siah's folks.

to-day I shouldn't have the prospect of I stood in the door-way, with my left workin' my fingers to the bone to earn bread circle after a certain mortgage is closed.'

"Daughter, I didn't mean-"'No! certainly not. You didn't mean o' doin' things, when I'm killin' myself to Even before my words were out, I caught earn a bare livin'. Everybody knows that

"'Did-my-son-say-that? Bless him The blood flowed profusely and my assail- for that?' I heard her sayin' in a low,

street. A watchman on the canal bank, old folks will shortly be homeless. We who had heard the scream, attempted in have, in the long ago, worked to bring up vain to stop her: and he, too, received a 'Siah in the right way. He always said, subsequently ascertained was a pair of and rest." I have given you a good husband, though he may not be one after your I bound up the wound in my cheek and own standard. I have nursed him in severe illness, and with a motherly pride and love If love's sweet homage is to her denied; The garment which I had captured was a watched his growth into an honest, upright large white apron, or skirt, such as many of manhood. When he asked me to rejoice customary with them to place their names, I did so, and your little ones have been in stencil, upon their garments, the super- treasures dearly loved by me. You have intendent with whom I left my prize called been a good wife and more than done your part, but, 'Rildy, I will pray that there When bidden to explain her exploit, the may be a way provided for father an' me, girl asserted that at about half-past five the and you will not be burdened with the ad-

"Then she slowly walked down the path, through the orchard, over the hill, to the little house she had called home for fifty

"'Siah came in from the field singin,' "A

charge to keep I have." "The words fretted me, an' I said, cross

"'I should think you have, or will have a charge to keep, when the old folks come.' "' Rildy,' he said, firm as a rock, 'If you don't want my parents here, we'll make other arrangements. Cared for, they shall be, as long as I have strength to work. Suppose it was your own mother !"

"My parents have been able to keep a roof over their heads. They'll never ask help of you !' was my angry retort, and then I had my say, tellin'him that a man should be ashamed to make a slave of his wife, and | True woman's heart, in every age and zone, there were so many things we needed, an' couldn't afford. After I had finished, 'Siah | To love most fondly something all its own. set the dinner upon the table. After dinner was over, he started to the woods, an' call-

" 'Don't fret, 'Rildy, father an' mother'll

not bother you. "I walked over to mother's, to tell her about the trouble. Of course she sided with me, an' I'd about come to think I was in the right, arguin' a man's first duty was to provide well for his wife an' little ones, an' we really were not able to keep 'em. But jest what to do, I couldn' think.

"They should not be town's poor, at all events. People were already talkin' about my bossy ways.

"Toot, toot, too-oo-t! sounded a horn, which meant, as I well knew, there was trouble at home. 'Siah was sounding our denly, distress signal. "Like a scared deer, I ran home, to find

place. I could see a crowd gathered there. "Siah came to meet me, leading little Sammy, smoke strained an' nearly naked, but safe an' sound.

Thank God, 'Rildy, our boy is safe!

walked slowly along the passages between school ma'ams ever were wafted into by July | "Down upon my knees I sank, an' before em all, begged her to forgive me for my It was quite a dark night in August. Clouds | 'Rildy Thorne, ruddy-faced and motherly | wicked words, tellingher she should be treated like a queen the rest of her days, but she didn't heed me. About sunset, she spoke work, the mother of four stalwart sons, and out clear: "Father, can't you come too? Come-come-there's-room-for-us-in-

> -room-here. "Yes, mother, I'll come soon,' said he soothingly, pattin' her scorched hands, an In a very few hours we came to know that | cryin' out the next minute, 'Siah! she's left

> > "I truly grieved after her, an' remorse

"'Siah an' I made his room beautiful, an'

"Says 'Siah, 'Father is out in the kitchen in mother's big chair,' an' one look at his

"For a few days I came nigh losin' my

"I wonder who it was but these old

"What shall we do with our old folks? an' losses to hinder 'em from prosperin'. | winter. What if we have formed nearer and dearer ties?

"Nothing but death severs the ties between our old folks and ourselves. Though

they have richly earned a long, sweet rest. "What ! almost noon ? Why didn't you tell me how fast I was talkin'? Here comes 'Siah for dinner."

Thrice Crowned.

Upon a royal throne I saw one stand, A scepter in her hand, me; yet I did not like to turn and run we are to have an addition to our family With grace and dignity to give command; And hireling vassals followed in her train, And glorified her reign, And far and wide extended her domain.

"Long live the Queen!" they cried, with meals for the little wards of the State,

And bade their hearts rejoice, That she thus honored was the people's ents, besides chambers for the convalescent.

As emblems of her pow'r, Made them exalt her majesty the more.

A woman one could trust, And with her statesmen wonderous schemes discussed ;

And nowhere could be found

And yet no woman's heart, with all its

Can e'er be satisfied Ant, though she be an heiress to a throne, And vast estates she own,

And when he comes - the arbiter of fate-Her soul's own chosen mate, How dull and tasteless are affairs of state ! Her heart, that erst had been a passive

Starts up, acknowledging With trumpet tongue its master and its

With him her honors and her wealth she

And feels, howe'er she fares, Twice crowned as Wife of him whose name The coronet of gems, the wreath of bays,

The attribute of praise, And all the splendor of triumphal days.

Vanish before the glory now, possessed, When she, Madonna blest! With rapture clasps her baby to her breast; And far removed from all disturbing schism Receives the sweet baptism

chrism. Has one ambition known;

looked at me queerly, keepin' silent until I And though as Queen she rules with high As Wife is oft addressed,

The crown of Motherhood becomes her best. Josephine Pollard.

He Should Try That.

Mrs. Gummey-Edison says that no experiment which he has tried at night ever

Gummey-Then he never tried to walk his baby to sleep.

A Matter of Doubt.

"Do you smoke ?" the maiden asked sud-"Y-yes, sometimes,' he stammered.

"Well, I wish you'd smoke now. These that the excitement was at the old folks' mosquitoes are eating me up."

PROGRESS ON THE CONGO.

The Limits Just Placed Upon the Liquer

Traffic-Earriers Against the Arabs. White sojourners in the Congo country are themselves astonished at the number and importance of the measures now under way for the protection of the many thousands of natives against murder and rapine, and to spread order and civilization throughout the great river basin. Every mail from Europe brings news of fresh edicts to be enforced, of new police or educational measures to be carried out, of new steamboats coming or new expeditions projected. The best of it is that the natives are beginning to grasp the idea that all this conduces to their material advantage, safety, and welfare, and they are therefore becoming more amenable to discipline and law. The State is dealing with them as with the Arabs, gently if possible, but is employing severer means, if necessary, to enforce obedience and respect.

The directions in which the Congo State is now chiefly working is for the suppression of the liquor traffic, the extinction of murderous slaves' raids, the opening of new routes of traffic, and the drilling of the many hundreds of natives employed by the Government in some features of military tactics, and in industrial pursuits.

All philanthropists will feel grateful to the Congo State for its new edict strictly prohibiting the sale of all alcoholic liquors in all that part of the great river basin lyir g east of the Inkissi River. This river is forty miles west of Leopoldville, and the country between it and the Atlantic Ocean has been so long occupied by white liquor traders that it will not be possible, all at once, to carry out drastic measures for the suppression of the traffic. The trade, however, is to be strictly regulated, and its volume will be diminished, if possible, by taxes imposed upon the dealers.

The Congo State is thus showing itself to be a most beneficent and effective agent in the protection of the people against one of the greatest evils that threaten them.

The State has at last succeeded in hemming in the Arab slave dealers on the west and north, limiting their further raids down the Congo and along its branches. They have done this by establishing the seven military stations on the north and south tributaries of the Congo occupied by well-armed forces, and frequently visited by the trading vessels and gunboats of the State. The natives have learned that these posts are places of refuge, where, under the blue flag of the Congo State, they may find safety from Arab murderers or oppressers of their own tribes. The Arabs understand that the limits of their slave and ivory hunting fields have been reached, and they are submitting as gracefully as possible to the inevitable. Everywhere throughout the growing regions which the Congo State is bringing under its influence the horrid custom of human sacrifices is beginning to be severely punished.

As an instance of the work the State is the feeble hands can no longer toil for us, doing may be mentioned the progress of Bangala station, where the State is undertaking to educate and care for the 170 children of its black employees. It is teaching them to read. It houses them in well-yentilated and well-built huts. It gives them their meals in a large dining shed, where an immense table flanked by benches gives accommodations to the entire little community at once. Many men and women are employed on the farm, about three-quarters of a mile square, raising the food for these children and the station employees, and three cooks are employed solely in preparing the

A large hospital has been built behind the station, with accomodations for forty pati-At present the hospital contains twelve The jeweled crown and ermined robe she blacks, including eight children, three men, and one woman, out of the population of 500 souls who form the black personnel of the

A number of the natives are employed in And all went well, for she was wise and the manufacture of brick, and at present two large furnaces are burning 120,000 brick The construction of the Congo Railroad

is going on rapidly. The survey has been And thus her fame spread all the world completed throughout the first twenty-five miles of the road, where all the engineering difficulties are accumulated. The grading A nobler woman than the queen thus crown- of the road has been completed for nearly four miles. There are at present ninetyeight white engineers, agents, and workmen engaged on the road, besides a thousand native workmen drawn from many parts of Africa. The last mail from Europe reports that three locomotives and quite a number of flat cars are constructing, and will soon be shipped to Matadi, the starting point of the railroad. The health of the white force is very good, and they are carrying on the . work with a great deal of enthusiasm.

In all directions it may be said that the work of the Congo State, though beset with many difficulties, is making favorable progress, and the white men on the ground, almost discouraged as they are at times by the immensity of the work before them, are still surprised themselves when they see the large amount that has been done and the rapidly widening opportunities for making still greater progress.

London Society.

The eccentric aggregation of humanity known as London society is always on the lookout for a new craze. At one time it a runs wild over professional beauties; at another time it raves about savage chieftains from Africa; to-day the towzle-haired, hungry-eyed æsthetic occupies its attention ; tomorrow it will be rushing to do honor to a As one whom God has touched with holy repentant Magdalene, says the Illustrated American. Not long ago high-born maidens, who had danced until the early hours of the morning, would be up again betimes scubbing the floor of a favorite church, and thus depriving some poor woman of the means of earning an honest penny. But most of them proved weak-kneed-perhaps they got that disease known as housemaid's knees-and wearied of their work. They wanted something new. The supply was equal to the demand. A pamphlet appeared, called the "Cry of Outcast London," depicting in vivid colors the horrors to be seen in the slums of the great metropolis. "Slumming" became the fashion. Men and women of education and refinement paid house-to-house visits to those low districts of London where misery and crime flourish as they do in no other city in the world. But the craze died out, but comparatively few of these ceekers for novelty are left at their posts in the slums. The Salvation Army then stepped in, and, by means of its marvellous system of organization has, in a few years, done wonders in helping to ameliorate the shocking condition of the London poor.