The Tick of the Clock.

"Tick, tick, the tick of the clock;

tick, tick, tick !" A large grandfather's clock stood in one corner of the room, and at dead?" each swing of the pendulum a piece from the miser's hand. - An avari- much time already." cious grin distorted his sinister face whisper.

twelve, and the man ceased counting disappear through the park. and threw himself back in his chair to think.

"Mine, mine, yes, all mine, Greg-No, not very rich; there is more to shave, a close shave." come, much more. By this time tomorrow my son Peter will be here. to bed, but early on the following Peter Grasby-no, no; Harry Raby, morning he made his way across the the new squire of Raby Hall. I must park to the little cottage that Mary by." not forget that he is no longer - my Glendower had chosen to inhabit master. Let me see, he was a boy months ago. of ten when I saw him last, thirty | She was a beautiful girl, just in him ?"

with a narrow veranda running out- her side the window. As the miser "A glorious morning, Miss Glen- pers I sent you—the certificate of —a golden sovereign for every secstood gathering up the gold a man's dower; a glorious morning for the birth, your mother's Bible with your ond, tick, tick, the tick of the days. So we have it that the entire face was pressed against the glass grand event." watching his every movement.

"Tick, tick, the tick of the clock; Raby?" a golden sovereign for- What's that? what's that!"

With ashen face and dropped jaw

window. again !"

He threw the bags into a safe, Miss-" from which he took a revolver. Thus armed he opened the window, and Raby may not be mine." the man sprang into the room. "You back again? What do you

want ?"

and lots of it." months ago I gave you two hundred money I could not get to England. pounds on condition that you left My hero, as I call him, heard of my the country."

money to-night. Things . e c'esper- swer he raised his hat and left. The hold me, and I must clear cut at and fifty pounds." once. Come on, I can't wait."

"Stand back! You can't get any more out of me."

"Then, by Heaven! if I am caught body seemed to know him." your son shall swing. Swing, do you hear? for the murder of Harry may be just such another. You will Raby, I——"

"Hush, hush; not so loud! I'm a poor man, Sam Black. I have no may bring him here as soon as he

"Oh! stow that and hand over. I watched your little performance now. I have a lot to do before I with the gold. Yours or not I must go to the station to meet him." have some, or by to-morrow the It was with a heating heart and world shall know that Harry Raby much apprehension that Gregory is dead and Peter Grasby is his Grasby went over all the details of murderer."

"Hush! I beg of you."

must have either from you or--' "Or ?"

"Mary Glendower." "You would not dare."

that she is the better game of the yet of his disposition, but from Sam | "Good, good, glorious! And now two. What if I should tell her that Black's description he felt that the let us have a quiet talk." she is waiting for a lover who will returning son would be an easy tool never turn up, while all the time she in his hands. could be enjoying a fortune?" "What do you know?"

I know that the late squire left his moustache stepped on to the plat- "I can fully establish my identity fortune to his nephew, Harry Raby, form Grasby went forward with out- in that respect, but tell me your whom he had never seen, on condi-stretched hands. tion that he married Mary Glendower. If the gentleman did not feel inclined to carry out the contract the fortune was to be equally divided. If Harry predeceased the lady, the said lady came into everything. And my faithful steward, Gregory Grasby, was to act as trustee until Harry Raby entered into possession, or until Mary Glendower married. Now, then, you or the lady?"

"How much do you want?" "Now, this is business. Say a

thousand."

up, or I must go."

you one hundred pounds-"

He made a movement towards the

dred. I---''

"Hand over, and be quick. I must of that. How you've grown. be in Liverpool to-morrow. Half shouldn't have known you." gold, half notes."

With a sigh that almost rent his heart the old man slowly counted you. Look! See this cottage that out the money, which the other grabbed with feverish haste.

"That's all right; you are a sensible man, Grasby; now I'm off." "And you will never come back?" "Not if I can help it; but one

never knows."

"Before you go tell me again."

"About what?" "The-the murder-you know."

our luck in Melbourne. Harry Raby | She started back at first, and then lodged in the same house. He came forward with hands outstretchseemed to have plenty of money, and ed. spoke of buying a farm. He heard of a good one and asked us to go with him to see it, and if he concluded the purchase we were to stay as farm hands. It was a long journey, and we camped two nights hope in life has been to see you once in the bash. One morning I awoke again to give you her thanks."

to find Raby dead from a blow on the head, and your son Peter was rifling his pockets. After some explanation we shared his money, hid bourne. That's all."

"Oh, Peter used to talk of his the appearance of Grasby. skin-flinted old father, who kicked you would like news of your boy." "And nobody knows that Raby is

"Not a soul but the three of us. of gold clinked on the table as it fell I must be off now; I've wasted too

as he chanted the words in a hoarse himself out of the window and climbed down. The old steward wat-The clock chimed the hour of | ched him disappear through the park. "Gone! gone! thank goodness I

am rid of him! Five hundred pounds -tick, tick, the tick of the-bah! ory Grasby, the steward of Raby I'm wandering. What if he had it." Hall, a rich man, aye, a rich man. come when Peter was here? A close

Mumbling to himself he went off son, but my master. Ha! ha! my since the death of Squire Raby some

years ago. I wonder if I shall know her twenty-first year, and a soft look even appeared upon the face The room was on the first floor, of the old steward as he greeted The game is all our own. Nothing it is mine, all mine. Tick, tick, the

"About six this evening. It is a is ours." memorable day for you, miss."

"Perhaps; but I find my position a he stared at the figure outside the little embarrassing. I know nothing of Mr. Raby, neither do you, and he ner, but his thoughts were in the lit-"Sam Black, Sam Black, here knows equally as much about me." "Ah! but when he sees you,

"And a woman has her ideals; Mr.

"But if he is handsome, kind-" "I have such a man in my mind's eye. I met him but once, but never "What do I want? Same old learnt his name. It was in Melthing, Grasby; money, my old miser, bourne two years ago. He did me a great service. When my mother "Then you can't have it. Three died I was left penniless. Without misfortune, and one day he brought "So I did, Grashy, but I came me a parcel, which he begged me to back; and, look here, I must have accept. Without waiting for an anate with me. England is too hot to parcel contained a ticket to England

> "And you never saw him again?" "I sailed the following day, and, although I made a few inquiries, no-

"Well, we'll hope that Mr. Raby come to the Hall to-night?"

"I think not, Mr. Grasby; but you feels inclined to come."

"Very well, miss. I must be off

"Then waste no time. Money I Raby, and a nervous dread seized of the money. him as he set out to meet the offago. He had not the slightest no-"Would I not? I rather think tion of what he would be like nor married a month from to-day."

but few passengers, and when a tall affidavits showing that you are "My dear Grasby, I am not a fool. man with a bronzed face and a fair Harry Raby?"

> "Welcome home, Mr. Raby. Welcome home."

"Thank you; and you are-?" "Gregory Grasby, sir, your humble steward, and very much at your service."

A number of people had assembled on the platform, and they now pressed forward to welcome the new squire. The porters grinned and touched their caps, and were especially delighted when he gave them a sovereign to drink his health.

"That's it, keep it up, Peter; you're doing it splendidly." whisper-"A thousand ! Impossible. See here ed Gregory. "The dog-cart is wait-I am a poor man. The money I ing, Mr. Raby, sir; the luggage can

have here is not mine. I will give follow. This way, sir." The steward led the way out of the

crowd the squire drove away. "Capital, Peter, capital; you can play the gentleman. This plan is "Stop! I-I will give you five hun- going to work. But I mustn't I call you Peter, ch? I must get out

> "Quite sure you know me now?" "Certain, certain; couldn't mistake we are coming to? That is the nest where the little bird lives that you

> are going to marry. A beauty, Peter. Ah! you lucky dog." Mr. Grasby was quite playful as he nudged the squire.

As the dog-cart approached the cottage, Mary Glendower came into the garden. To Mr. Grashy's astonishment the squire jerked the "Oh, I see; well, that won't take reins, pulled up the horse, and in Peter and I were down on another instant was by Mary's side.

> "My benefactor !" He sized her hands and looked in-

to her eyes. "And you-you are-"

"I am Mary Glendower, whose one

"Mary Glendower, and I-I-" "Yes ?"

"And I-am-Harry Raby." The significance of the intoduction the dody, and went back to Mel-dawned upon them both at once. With crimsoned face Mary disengaged "And what made you come to her hands and he was no less con- fingers through it. Tick, tick, the

"With pardon, squire, and yours, Peter, my son?" him out when he was a kiddy, and miss. my late master seemed to a golden sovereign for every second, when I came to England I thought know what he was about when he willed you two to come together." "And why did you disappear so tended eyes.

suddenly after befriending me in Melbourne ?"

With a nod to the miser he let power to return it. I had seen you Raby." very often before, and I-well, that's

how it is, you see." come to England, where I sought out me and left me for dead, I was kal, with its 40 odd miles, to be my mother's old friend, Squire Raby found some hours later by a bush- crossed in sleighs in winter and in and—and you know the rest." "Yes, I know the rest-or part of

we must get on-dinner is at seven- into my hands, and thinking it injure it, and the rich country thirty. Perhaps Miss Glendower would give me some clue to his through which it passes could readily will join you."

"May I walk over after? I should victed; then I came home." like a chat, it you don't mind."

"I shall be pleased to see you." Mr. Grasby's gratification was

beautiful to behold.

can pull us down. You got the pa- tick of the clock-all mine, I tell you name in? Good. I found them clock, the tick-" "At what time do you expect Mr. among the papers belonging to the squire's sister-in-law. Oh, the game buried his arms in it, grasping hand- on emergency be accomplished with

> servants assembled in the hall the maniac filled his eyes, and a white land), the capital of British Columsquire sat down to his solitary din- froth dropped from his mouth. tle cottage with Mary Glendower. tick of the-Then Grashy made his appearance again.

> Peter, my son; when you come back he lay prone, and when Harry Raby fortifications, is both stronger and after visiting the fairy in her bower, bent over him Gregory Grasby was more efficient than either Port Arwill you come to my room—say dead. about twelve?"

the old man chanted under his Harry can never forget the hoarse breath, and then he went up to his chant of the old miser: "Tick, tick, room to gloat over his future pros- the tick of the clock."-London An-

"Yes, yes, I'll surprise him. I'll let him see what I am doing for him. A fine chap, but not very grateful, I'm afraid. Hardly spoke a dozen words to me. But I'm going to be master; yes, yes, I'm going to control the fortune. Here is the paper giving me power to act in everything; it only wants to be signed and witnessed."

He unlocked the safe and drew out bag after bag of gold, pouring one after another into a shining heap on the table.

said. Ah! here he is."

The squire entered the room; his Esquimalt. his nefarious scheme for installing face was radiant with happiness. He

the mercy of the world thirty years look happy. Have you news for me?" "Miss Glendower and I are to be war.

"I think we need it."

"Have you made all things square When the train arrived there were at Melbourne? Did you get the

> story from the beginning." "Yes, yes; it won't take long. When the squire died six months ago he left his fortune to Harry Raby on condition that he married Mary Glenflower. I was made trustee until Harry came into possession. Nobody knew the whereabouts of the heir, but, strangely enough, a week after the squire's funeral I came

"Sam Black ?" Raby was dead, and that you had possibility of the line being wrecked killed him."

across Sam Black."

"That I-But go on." ret, and he gave me your address in be destroyed. The present theatre of Melbourne. I then wrote to you operations is over 4,000 miles from telling you to change your name to the base, and it is not easy to see "Bah! It is no use to me. Hurry station, and amid the cheers of the Harry Raby, and sent you proofs of how having coped with the tremendidentity; for, didn't you see, the real ous strain of transporting men and heir is quite unknown here, and I heavy equipments, she is going thought Peter Grasby might just as feed the men and horses during well be the squire as not."

"You are a clever scoundrel." "He! he! Hard words, Peter; but see, the shining gold; all ours, Peter. Mary Glendower was a stumblingblock, but we've got over that-eh,

"Yes, we've got over that. But what is the next move?" "The lawyers, Peter, and your old

"My old dad?"

life upon what I allow you." "And if I refuse to sign it?" "You can't, my boy. You are ab- est in the world. solutely in my power. You can't move hand or foot without me. you were to deny me I could-"

"Denounce you for murder."

"What ?"

"And your proof?" "Sam Black was here last night; way," is 3,662 miles.

I can lay my hands on him any minute. Come, Peter, what do you say ?"

"I say that you are the biggest

scoundrel unhung." "See the gold, Peter; run your fused. The tension was relieved by tick of the clock; a golden sovereign for every second, tick, tick, tick. See "I am not your son!"

> The old man ceased playing with the gold and stared at him with dis-

"Not-not my son?" he gasped. "No; your son is at present serv-"I knew you would not accept my |ing ten years' penal servitude for money unless I put it out of your the attempted murder of Harry

"And-and you ?"

met you; oh, yes. But you are commodation. my son, the squire of Raby, and this gold-it is ours-ours, yours and "Peter, my boy, you are a marvel. mine. No, you shall not touch it;

ful after handful and thrusting them in three weeks. Vancouver is separ After being duly presented to the into his pockets. The look of a

back, clutching the table as he fell. naval station, with its modern work "We must have a talk to-night, The golden shower fell upon him as shops, graving docks and immensi

A month later Harry Raby and "I shall be there at the tick of the Mary Glendower fulfilled the terms of the old square's will.and, al-"Tick, tick, the tick of the clock," though many years have passed now,

STRONG POSITION CASE OF WAR THERE.

Journey of Three Weeks From Great Britain to the Far East.

"The beautiful gold. Eight thou- Japanese attack on Vladivostock, cific, the Japan or China Seas, or sand pounds, and more to come- says a writer in the London Daily even in India, the "Empire's highmore to come. Tick, tick, the tick Express, instructions were sent to way" would form an indispensable alof the clock. He will be here soon the British cruisers Bonaventure and ternate and safe route for our armies -- 'twelve o'clock on the tick,' he Grafton, then in South American wa- and their equipments.

his son in the position of squire of stared in astonishment at the sight that our interests in the North Pa- sion of this great iron highway across cific are threatened, it forcibly calls Canada, that forms the greatest gu-"Ah! that surprises you, Peter, attention to our position out there arantee for limiting the war to the spring whom he had abandoned to eh? And this is ours, ours; but you in case we should eventually be forced present combatants. to take a hand in the far eastern

Full of grave danger as is Russia's position in the Pacific with Japan Finns Place Their Money in Holes only as an opponent, it would, were Great Britain actively allied with Ja- Denmark claims that there is not pan, be absolutely hopeless.

sought to provide in time of peace north-east coast of New Guinea, the the one direct route between Europe Island of Kutaba, surrounded by a and the far east, and in time of war | wall of coral 300 feet high on one a national highway that would af- side and from 50 to 100 feet on the ford her a dominating influence in other, maintains thirteen villages of those regions.

pected, and she finds her national highway unable to bear the strain The most p eaceful and comfortable upon it. But then it is most fault- community in Europe is the comily constructed, while the climatic mune of the Canton Vand, in Switconditions of a great portion of the zerland. Nearly every one is well route through which it runs gravely off, and there are no paupers. add to the difficulties. Apart from the natural difficulties and the engin-"Yes, and he told me that Harry cering faults, there is always the by the enemy. So we have Russia with a badly constructed highway, "I gave Black money to keep sec- which is readily blocked and liable to lengthy campaign.

STRONG POSITION.

Now, in the case of this country, should we unfortunately be dragged into the war, the position would be very different.

Granted that we have the command of the Atlantic, we could ship all the men, guns, and ammunition required direct to the Atlantic seaboard of Canada with despatch and without "Yes, that's me Peter. There is a hindrance. The Atlantic terminus of little paper here giving me absolute the Empire's highway in winter is power over the estate and its in- Halifax, which port is 2,342 miles come. After things are settled with from Liverpool. (The distance from the lawyers, you will sign this and New York to Liverpool is, by the by, live in clover for the rest of your 3,130 miles.)

bor; to my thinking, one of the fin- Each member owns shares in the

If station is strongly fortified. The coal penses have been paid, comes back supplies of the neighborhood are to him as dividend. If he wishes practically limitless. The distance to go away or if he dies, his shares from Halifax to Vancouver, the Pa- are bought up by the corporation cific terminus of the "Empire's high- and sold to the man who takes his

ACROSS CANADA.

In summer the Atlantic terminus is Montreal, which is 2,833 miles from Liverpool. From Montreal to Vancouver, per the Canadian Pacific Rail way, the distance is 2,906 miles.

Now, this great highway runs, both in summer and winter entirely through British territory from one ocean to the other. The line is well laid, and its efficiency has been daily demonstrated for a considerable number of years. It is admirably equipped, and could bear any extra transportation strain that war would put upon it with the greatest readiness. Unlike the Russian national highway, it has no weak spots (although great engineering feats had to be ac-"I am Harry Raby. When your complished in the course of its con-"I see that you enabled me to son and Sam Black foully attacked struction), and there is no Lake Baiman and nursed back to life. When I boats in summer. There is, in fact recovered I went to my old lodgings no break in the continuity or permanin Melbourne, and while there a let- ence of our highway from ocean to "Begging pardon, sir, but I think ter came for Peter Grasby. It came ocean. There could be no enemy to whereabouts I opened it. It was furnish all the supplies and all the "I think not to-night, Mr. Gras- your precious epistle. Some days horses that might be required in ad later your son was arrested and con- dition to that provided by the Moth er Country. Vancouver, on Burrard "Yes, yes; you came home, and I Inlet, possesses excellent harbor ac

> ESQUIMALT HARBOR. The distance from Vancouver to

Yokohama, taking the northern sail ing across the Pacific, is but 4,281 miles, and can be traversed in ter journey from England to Japan by He flung himself upon the gold and sea and our own land highway could ated from Victoria (Vancouver Is bia, by 84 miles of sea. On Vancou-"Gold! the gold! tick, tick, the ver Island, two miles from Victoria, is Esquimalt, our great naval base With a choking gasp he staggered in the North Pacific. Esquimalt as a thur or Vladivostock, the "Mistrest of the East," as the Russians grandiloquently call her; whereas Vladivostock harbor is partly or wholly frozen up in winter, Esquimalt harbor is open all the year round.

IMPERIAL HIGHWAY. Up to the present the "Empire's highway" has contented itself with forming a link for conveying passengers and goods on their round-the world journey. Its only connection with war was when it conveyed from west to east those brave Canadians IN who volunteered to fight the Empire's battle in South Africa, and in those past weeks, the patriotic Japanese who have answered their country's ery to return from Europe and Amer-

lca to the land of their birth. But in time of war, whether help Simultaneously with the news of the should be required from us in the Pa-

ters, to proceed with all speed to It is just the strength of ours in the North Pacific as well as in Chin-While this in no way indicates ese waters, together with the posses-

PLEASANT PLACES TO LIVE. in the Ground.

a single person in her domain who Russia, in its Siberian railway, cannot read and write. On the natives, to whom war, crime and War came sooner than Russia ex- poverty have been unknown since the beginning of their traditions.

> Finland is a realm whose inhabitants are remarkable for their inviolate integrity. There are no banks and no safe deposits, for no such security is essential. You may leave your luggage anywhere for any length of time, and he quite sure of finding it untouched on your return, and your purse full of money would be just as secure under similar circumstances. The Finus place their money and valuables in holes in the ground, and cover them with a big leaf. Such treasure is sacredly respected by all who pass it, but, in the rate event of a man wishing to borrow of his neighbor during his absence he will take only the smallest sum he requires and place a message in the hole, telling of his urgent need, promising to repay the amount on a specified date. And he will invariably keep his word, for the Finn is invincible in his inde-

Agneta Park, near Delft, in Holland, is another utopian example. A tract of ten acres has upon it 150 houses, each with its little garden and with certain common buildings and common grounds. The houses are occupied by the employees of a great distilling company, who form Halifax possesses a magnificent har- a corporation which owns the park. corporation, and pays rent for his Halifax as a naval and military house. The surplus, after all ex-

place.