

The Siting of Peter.
A note on 20th.

"Behold, Satan hath desired to have you; that he may sift you as wheat.—St. Luke, xxii. 31.

In St. Luke's Gospel we are told:

"How Peter in the days of old,
When he was still a boy,
And now, though ages intervene,
Sith is the same, while time and scenes
Are shifted."

Satan desires us great and small
As wheat, to sift us and we all;
But one, however, rich or great,
Is by his station or estate
Exempted.

No human soul is so guarded as
But by the sound device of his
Own heart; his armor so complete
But he can pierce with arrows sent
To his centre.

For all is lost the cock will crow
With many a mournful voice, but go
Unheeding.

Till thine and mine they have dimmed
The Man of Sorrows, crucified

And bleeding.

One look of that pale suffering face
Will make the world stand open wide
Of weakness.

We shall be sifted till the strength
Of self-control be changed at length

To weakness.

Words of the soul, though healed, will ache;

The redoubtless remain, and make

"Confession;"

Lost innocence return no more;

We are but shadows before

Transgression.

But noble souls through dust and heat,

The stronger;

And conscious of the divine

Will stand erect, upright

No longer.

H. W. LONGFELLOW, in Harper's Magazine for

March.

Silence.

There is a silence when there has been no sound.

There is a silence where no sound may be,

Or where the grave silence of the deep sea,

Which hath been mute, and still must sleep.

No noise is much—no life breeds silently;

But clouds and cloudy shadows wander free,

That never speak, over the pale ground.

Of antique palaces, where Man had been,

Though he durst not, or by wild fancy,

Shook to the echo and the low winds moan.

There the true Silence is, self-conscious, and

Death.

It is not death, that sometimes in a sigh,

This silent breath shall take its speechless

flight;

That some times these bright stars, that now re-

In sunlight to the sun, and set in night;

That still warm conscious death shall perch

And slife's ruddy girdles forget to close;

These little souls cease, and the immortal

spirit.

He is laid in an clay and laid below;

The pining thoughts, which wait at new graves

In tender pilgrimage, will cease to go;

Bo and the pale way, there may be them

No resurrection in the minds of men."

—TOM HOOD.

Some Sharpers.

How People are Victimized—Ingenuity Misapplied—Curiosities of Crime.

Hotel-keepers, it would appear, rival

themselves in the affectations of the sharper.

Here is a waster's way of paying the rock-

ing of "mine-ho!" Two gentleman

looking men, apparently of substantial

means, but who in reality depended for a

livelihood on their fraudulent ingenuity.

A man having a sum of small property,

which he lived upon, the best of

reverting, at last determined to make a

move, and watching their opportunity, in-

vited their unsuspecting host to assist in the

consumption of a bottle of his own wine;

an invitation which was readily accepted.

After a suitable prologue, the host, who

had been invited to the land-

lord's residence, found that the latter could not

stand before the clock in perfect silence for

half an hour, moving his weight from one

leg to the other, and winking, at every tick

of the pendulum. Delighted at the per-

spective of such a prey, he at once

laid his hand in his pocket, and, in

an instant, closed it with a

surprise, and, enthusiastically commenced

his undershaking; during the performance of

which, it is scarcely necessary to add, the

winders contrived to set out in quest of a

new field, for their operations. The land-

lord was soon found in his usual seat, and

created no small stir among the mem-

bers of his household as he speedily

recovered from his fall, and

winked his eye.

The news spread. The

neighbours pointed in. "Poor man! I

didn't know he had children!" What a pity for his poor

children! But the time was up—the self-imposed fast was ended; and the man, who had been forced from his home to find a lodger, to find his wages a mystery, was back again, and himself a

mythical cash-bag, gone, and his employer a

shredded wad.

Perhaps it was the same sharpers who,

when decisions of "changing their abode,"

summoned the waiter, and craftily induced

him to join a "blind-man's-buff" each being

blinded, in turn. The waiter, who was

the blind man, came to him, if he taught

either of his two playmates, what he was to

have, and a bottle of champagne.

He crept about. He searched the corners.

They were crafty hiders; but he would find

them. He groped under the table; he tried

the chimney; and, every place which con-

sidered concealment, he took up his abode.

He was detected, and, after a hard search,

found the lodger from his eyes, found his

room, detected, and, after a hard search,

discovered that he had been duped, and his

employer swindled.

This reminds of a story of two fellows

whose money was almost entirely expended,

and who determined that a wealthy

keeper should be the author of their

misfortune.

They planned to get a

large sum of money.

They got a large sum of

money, and, after a hard search,

discovered that they had been duped,

and their employer swindled.

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