Che Fixeside.

THE GRAY DAY. ROBERT J. BURDETTE.

Evermore all the days are long, and the chee less skies are gray. Restlessly wander the baffling winds that scat ter the blinding spray. And the drifting currents come and go like

serpents across my way. Wearily fades the evening dim, drearily wears The ghostly mists and the hurrying clouds and the breakers' crest of white

Have blotted the stars from the desolate skies gone.

—have curtained them from my sight. Speeding alone, my wave-tossed bark encounters no passing sail Welcoming friend nor challenging foe answers my easer hail-Only the sobbing, unquiet waves and the wind's

Hopefully still my sails are bent, my pilot is mirrored sky were blue.

And the port of peace, where the winds are

still, were evermore in view. For over the spray and the rain and the clouds shines the eternal sun; The unchanging stars in the curtained dome still gleam when the day is done: And the mists will be kissed from the laughing

skies when the port of rest is won.

FOR HUSBANDS ONLY. Has a Moral--Courting the Wife After She Has Been

Won.

John Wiseman, and John Wiseman was just as proud and fond of her as tirely unaccustomed fierceness: he could be. His "Mayflower" be more like a tall, fair lily than one of those tiny beauties; but then they I might say, such a maddening those tiny beauties; but then they used to call her "may," and that, you dream!

and freshness. And now, after fourteen or fifteen and said softly to herself: years of married life, with their wifely and maternal cares and anxieties, and attractive in appearance.

creasing, yet it would have been im- Jack again. I know he will." possible to have given it a name.

John Wiseman was vaguely conscito what it meant.

She certainly had money enough at hand. for all her wants; he had no habits calculated to cause her anxiety; but but he fairly shuddered at the coincithen she did not seem anxious at all: that was not it.

parently, and certainly as fond of her home, still doing all she could to make it pleasant. But then John Wiseman They would glance at you with a grieved surprise "You placed this rose in her hand, you say, This beautiful rose in her hand of clay? Methinks could she open her sealed eyes They would glance at you with a grieved surprise." was too thoroughly a business man to quibble over trifles, and reflected that surely Mabel ought be contented; but he guessed she was; she did not seem

and forbearance as family affairs were floor. recounted and his advice sought, was "Lord!" he exclaimed, not irreverabout all he could stop for now.

ting both rich and prominent.

been married fifteen years, and there I chased-what? she sat, the very picture of content. "All well enough for a man to be One Year \$4.00. ment, while close beside her; his arm public-spirited and active in business thrown around the back of the seat and all that, but God pity the fool

half as fast as John Wiseman, but unsatisfactory things as popular favor she did look so contented and restful.

Two or three times on glancing at That afternoon, as Mrs. Wiseman

cheerful enough.

her husband said carelessly:

yet"-the words came dreamily, as if his arms, he said simply: the recollection either hurt or pleased "Oh, my Mayflower, forgive me!"

you, did it, to see another man hug- right place in his heart.

laughing; at the same time her eyes looded dewy, and she appeared a little Sunday," but, for the first time, he to try it. couldn't tell why, he felt a slight reluctance at leaving his wife alone. "Yes," replied Brown, "you always The children were all at Sunday find me with a pen in my hand. I am a school. Then he felt inclined to go regular pen-holder, my boy." "Let's and kiss his wife before going out, see," said Fox, musingly, "a pen-holdshe looked so sweet and quiet sitting er is usually a stick, isn't it?" there gazing into the grate with her

great dreamy eyes. But he had been so rushed of late he had got quite beyond that touch of that consumptives should be the least apsentimentalism, and as it might seem prehensive of their own condition, while queer and notional to begin it again, he thought he wouldn't, most likely there would be no time to kiss her every time he went out, busy man as

thing followed John Wiseman; some-covery. Avoid exposure and fatigue, be thing like the ghost or the shadow of regular in your habits, and use faithfully a hitherto unsuspected wrong or mis- of Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovtake creeping into his life, the nature ery." It has saved thousands who were of which he yet failed to recognize. steadily failing. But night was destined to work out a partial revelation of the dawning con-

during the evening, and remained so late that Mrs. Wiseman had been sleeping some hours when at last her | Assets, husband reached his room. Sometime in the middle of the night, he Liabilities, became aware that his wife was dreaming, she seemed so restless, and Surplus, just as he became wide awake he heard her say slowly and distinctly a few words which struck to his very heart with a sudden chill.

Then she grew quiet and slept on but John Wiseman grew restless and Has paid Losses in North Caronervous and wished the night was

In the morning while dressing, he turned to his wife and said, rather Is your Life Insured? If not, why not? "Mabel, I wish you could recall a

dream you must have had last night." "Why, John?" "Well, because. You were restless He holds my course as though the seas and the and uneasy, and all at once said plain-

ly: 'Put some in my right hand, John.' Now, can you tell me what that meant?" and twitched for a moment, then she

said calmly: "Yes, I remember; I dreamed I was dead, and you were crowding all the flowers into my left hand, and I thought my right hand had loved and A Little But Pretty Story-It served you faithfully as the left one, so I struggled hard to speak, and finally did manage to say, "Put some

in my right hand, John.' Perhaps it was not unlike what a It seems as if there never could have great many other men might have been a prettier bride than was Mrs. done, but John Wiseman faced sharply around again and asked, with en-

"What made you have such a dream used to call her, although she was as that, I wonder?" Then he added, might say, such a maddening

He left the room a moment later, know, was a name suggestive of bloom and Mrs. Wiseman crossed her arms "He does care fore me. John still

loves me, I know he does! There was Mrs. Wiseman was still very youthful more tenderness than wrath in that outbreak, for I know John Wiseman Of late, however, there had been well. His neglect has only been owsome subtle change in her whole man- ing to overwork, and one of these ner, something which seemed to have days, if I'm only patient, he'll forget settled upon her and was perhaps in- his indifference and be my own loving

After breakfast, Mr. Wiseman took | the Ætna Life Insurance Company. his usual hasty departure and went ous that his wife was not exactly the forth to what promised to be a very at least once during a period of twenty years? same person she used to be, and yet busy day; but a great haunting dread the impression was so slight it failed had taken possession of him. All the to cause anything beyond an occa- morning he tried to battle off the sional momentary mental wonder as impression, but he knew instinctively a season of self-examination and close

He was not a superstitious man, dence when on taking up a little book which had been left near his desk, he She was just as loving as ever, ap- read the thrilling, reproachful lines:

The next verse asked:

'Pray when did you give her a rose before? Then great scales fell from John discontented; that was not it, either. Wiseman's eyes, and he knew the But because business matters were whole truth. Fortunately he was so engrossing, a hurried parting in alone in his office, or any one might Non-Forfeiting Policies, Incontestable after Death. the morning, a late return in the even-ing, an attempt at patient attention as he strode not paced—the office

ently, "to think I haven't seen it be-Then John Wiseman became interfore! It amounts to nothing short of ested in politics; and the city elections sheer neglect—flying out to a meeting THE KEYNOTE. ested in politics; and the city elections sheer neglect—flying out to a meeting became matters of great importance here, hurrying off to meet an engage to his eyes. Pretty soon he became ment there, leaving everything, the one of the school committee; then he thousand and one domestic duties, the became an alderman; then they talked care and training of the children, of making him Mayor, but whether everything left to one frail woman to they did or not, what with his prosper- manage, while I have fancied myself ous business affairs and municipal too busy even to take affectionate advancement, Mr. Wiseman was get- leave of that precious wife. I see now why Loverling's caressing hand One Sunday, about this time, while put such a staring look into her great, Critical! Independent! Impartial! sitting in church, he noticed his wife kept her eyes fixed upon Mr. James Lovering's pew as if something fascinated her. Mrs. Lovering had also she is neither drooped nor faded while

and his hand resting over her shoulder, who forgets the loyalty of a husband and becomes indifferent to the sweet-Mrs. Lovering was not near as pret- est and holiest of all influence-the ty as Mrs. Wiseman, neither was her love and constancy of a faithful wife, husband gaining money or popularity and that too, that he may gain such NEW YORK PEILADELPHIA and NORFOLK

his wife during the sermon, Mr. Wise-sat waiting her husband's return, he man noticed her eyes kept filling with tears, and he wished to himself, half lighted only by the glowing coal in the only Daily Line Between the impatiently, that Mabel would "spunk the grate, and, going directly to her up" and be her own bright, lively side, he gently lifted her right hand self again. And yet—she was usually and placed in it a bunch of sweet bright flowers.

But at dinner that day Mabel was He felt conscious as he did so that decidedly thoughtful, and at desert, in his heart of hearts he thanked God after the children had left the table, they were not cold, colorless blossoms with trailing vines, nor yet immor-"There seemed to be some attrac teller with their sad significance, tion for you in Lovering's pew this placed in a "mocking clasp"—but morning, I thought, Mabel." they were fragrant, brilliant flowers "Did there?" she asked, as if surput into a warm, sensitive hand; then; Ar. 6:45 prised. "Why, I didn't know it, and kneeling beside her and opening wide Lv. 4:05 Ar. 7:00

a little-"did you notice that affection- And he knew by the way the brown ate hand of Mr. Lovering's pressed head nestled against his cheek that against his wife's shoulders; I don't he and his wife were lovers again. know I kept noticing it."

Mr. Wiseman half laughed.

Well. if certainly didn't trouble were lovers again.

John Wiseman is still an active business man and a useful citizen. But the holiest, best claims—wife, children and home—have the first and R. B. COOKE.

ging up his wife in church? I don't And Mabel! If she was beautiful know as I should exactly advocate as a bride fifteen years ago, she is Dr. W. II. FINLAYSON, that sort of thing—myself." radiant now in her matronly and and appreciated wifely worth. radiant now in her matronly beauty

confused. "Oh, no. I'm sure I can't born," still could not be called exactly tell why I kept watching them so, enviable, for when he tilled the ground in only I couldn't seem to help it." Mr. the dewy twilight and caught a sharp Wiseman felt obliged to go out that touch of rheumatism, he had no Salvation afternoon "to see a friend, if it was Oil for his cure, and no twenty-five cents

Is It Not Singular

every time he went out, busy man as toms of the disease, where the patient is rookless and will not believe that he is in Peterkin Improved Cotton. he was; so away he went with a not reckless and will not believe that he is in unkindly, but hasty "Good-by, wife." danger Reader, if you are in this condi-All through that afternoon some- tion, do not neglect the only means of re-

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family \$5,000 or \$10,000 by the simple payment of an amount each year that is less than the taxes would be upon the same amount of real estate, and you have not a dollar of capital in-DO YOU KNOW that the death of one part-ner may, and often does, cause the closing up of a firm's affairs to its ruin?

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