# THE KINSTON JOURNAL.

J. W. HARPER, Proprietors. J. M. WHITE,

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KINSTON, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1879.

VOL. 1.

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## Only An Idle Fancy.

Twas only an idle fancy, They said; and they laughed, forsooth, At the foolish and fond delusion, The dream of a love-sick youth; The sweetness of Summer idyls,

When all the world was in tune, Declared but a fevered frenzy. From which I'd recover soon! We met, and the skies exulted:

We spoke, and our hearts stood still, As if we were only actors. That moved at another's will; And all through the Summer season, With moonlight, flowers, and song. We threaded our lives together, And wove our affection strong.

Twas only an idle fancy, That might linger the season through: Only a young man's folly,
They said—but they spoke not true,
For time is the test of honor, Though youth is fickle and gay,

#### Selected.

Is the joy of my life today

And the sweetheart I won that Summer

## CONDEMNED BY A CLOCK

BY WILKIE COLLINS.

and builder in the town who bore an ing occurred six weeks ago), he had top, and it was so heavy that she was clung to her skirt. The foragers were er, and I killed one of your men indifferent character. On the evening never spoken to the man, or set eyes obligedt to hunt for something which no better than thieves in this instance, last night before turning in here!" in question a distant relative of his, on the man since. employed as farm bailiff by a gentle- As the matter there stood, these proved to be not easy to find on the cover their identity been successful him. man in the neighborhood, happened circumstances were considered as be- spur of the moment. Having at last they would have received just punishto be passing a style which led from ing unfortunate circumstances for Mr. laid her hand on what she wanted, ment. Acts that should forever curse comrades, who took me for a scrub the field into the road, and saw a gen- Dubourg-nothing more. He had she contrived so to lift the clock a few the perpetrators were often committed soldier!' tleman leaving the field by way of his 'alibi' to appeal to, and his char- inches and drop it again on the man- by foragers unknown to officials in I was so taken by surprise that I ognized the gentleman (whom he knew | ed the result. by sight only) as a Mr. Dubourg.

They passed each other on the road in opposite directions. After a cer- the question of time, and forced to difficulty in opening the glass case had scarcely grown cold when the to string me up or see me shot, but my tain lapse of time-estimated as being answer, she absolutely contradicted which protected the dial. After use- avenger of her wrongs appeared and time isn't come yet. I shall be going FASHIONABLE BARBER and HATE DRESSLE, a half hour—the farm bailiff had oc- him, on the testimony of the clock on lessly searching for some instrument to demanded blood for blood—and more. pretty soon!" casion to pass back along the same her own mantlepiece. In substance, help her, she got from the footman Dan Vernon was permitted to leave Now, that was pretty cool talk, conseveral persons running from the late hour for a visitor to call on her. scratching the brass frame of it—and but no hand wiped up the dark and he went on: further side of Pardon's Piece toward The clock (regulated by the maker set the hands of the clock by guess. terrible blood stains on the farm-house I have my rifle under the straw, At the boy's feet lay, face downward, quired to walk the distance, at rap- had over-estimated the interval of burial and dipping his fingers into the fear no harm. the dead body of a man with his head id pace, from the stile to the lady's time that had passed while she was undried blood, he swore to rest not, 'One cry from me will alarm the horribly beaten in. His watch was house, was just five minutes. Here, attempting to put the clock right .- but to kill and destroy as long as life whole post,' I managed to remark. under him hanging out of his pocket then, was the farm bailiff (himself a She had, in fact, set it exactly a quar- was left him.

without having consulted his watch. builder in Pardon's Piece. He was pressed on this important | The trial occupied two days. stopped.

In this state of things there was no hang him.'

dence of the dead man's watch-he ided to continue the sitting. had paid a visit to a lady living near The witness, appearing in the box, about the clock?'

thing of the murdered man?

the man on some work. Further relation to her mistress' clock: interrogation extracted from him the On the morning of the day when following statement of facts:

The lady appeared as witness. Confronted with Mr. Dubouag on was met by an obstacle. There was a ers up the valley, and her footsteps 'It would give Sheridan great joy by the chain. It had stopped—evi- respectable witness) corroborated by ter of an hour too fast. convicted of having been in the field minutes past eight.

Had any other person been observed that it was more carfully sifted. Mr. ing. which the blow had been struck? It ry, shocked at his position and eager an end.

Blinds \$1.50 alternative but to request Mr. Du- It was nearly two in the afternoon, saved by his brother him without searching. About fifty mouth open and eyes fixed on vacancy bourg-well known in and out of the and the proceedings were on the point alone had persisted from first to last, of us were thrown forward one day when a comrade came down from the town as a young gentleman of inde- of being adjourned for half an hour, in obstinately disbelieving the clock- from the picket post to a new position picket-post, shook me by the shoulder All other sizes made to order, and estimates pendant fortune bearing an excellent when the attorney for the people was for no better reason than that the just deserted by the enemy. Included and cried out: character—to give some account of seen to hand a paper to the counsel for clock was the witness which asserted in this new territary was a log-house, 'A nice man you are, fast asleep the defence.

Dubourg's friends. To satisfy justice ment with her mistress) to take a in the circumstance. Chance, which I was gitting purty tired of this thing, for mercy.

also it was necessary to call the lady week's holiday, and to go on a visit to had put innocence in peril, had offered anyhow." as a witness. In the meantime anoth- her parents in the west of Cornwall .- impunity to guilt. An infamous I had a fair look at the man's face, er purely formal question was put While there she had fallen ill, and had woman, a jealous quarrel and an ab- and I found something there to puzzle to Mr. Dubourg. Did he know any- not been strong enough since to re- sence at the moment of witness on the and startle me. One day I had picked turn to her employment. Having spot-these were really the common-With some appearance of confusion, given this preliminary account of her- place materials which had composed Mr. Dubourg admitted that he had self, the housemaid then narrated the the tragedy. been induced by a friend to employ following extraordinary particulars in

Mr. Dubourg had called at the house was the boldest and most crnel bushbeing remonstrated with, had behaved duster, had accidentally struck the sacked the house occupied by Mrs. in a grossly impertinent manner; that pendulum, and had stopped it. Hav Vernon, others stole all the poultry an altercation had taken place be- ing once before done this, she had and live stock, and when the third set by -, of Lynchburg? tweeen them; that Mr. Dubourg had been severely reproved. Fearing that came along there was a tragedy. Dan seized the man by the collar of a repetition of the offence, only the was in Confederate ranks up the his coat, and had turned him out of day after the clock had been regula- Valley, and his wife and four children the house; that he had called the man ted by the maker, might lead perhaps were left in a bad situation. They an infernal scoundrel (being in a pas- to withdrawal of her leave of absence, had no food in the house when hun- must have been stolen from his house sion at the time) and threatened to she had determined to put matters gry foragers demanded a meal, and by foragers and afterwards thrown

man was found murdered in a field presumed to come near the house dark, and failing to set the pendulum desperate, made a fierce personal at- I had none to put just then. I was near a certain town, in the west of again; that he had sincerely regretted going again properly in that way, she tack on the men who had entered her wondering at the curious coincidence, England. The name of the field was his own violence the moment he re next attempted to lift the clock and house, and in the struggle a gun was when he sat up on his bed, looked me covered his self-possession; and lastly, give it a shake. It was set in a mar- discharged and the heavy ounce ball square in the eye, and said: The man was a small carpenter that, on his oath (the altercation hav- ble case, with a bronze figure on the killed two of her children as they I am Dan Vernon, the bushwhackshe could use as a lever. The thing and had the official attempt to dis-

move the hands on. Here again she ren on the floor and fled with the oth- wed:

it he had looked at his watch, he on his side, and, lastly, of having at- had gone next day, and in which her lips.

dered man? It was no secret that he of the result. When the prisoner es on the frame) was sought for, and of his presence. Blinds \$1.40 associated with doubtful characters, took his place in the dock on the was obtained. The end of it was that, Well, what I set out to tell was how asleep. Blinds \$1.40 male and female; but suspicion failed second day there was but one convic- at a late hour on the second evening, we captured Dan one fine day and 'Well, old boy, good bye to you.' Blinds \$1.50 to point to any one of them in partion in the minds of the people in the jury acquitted the prisoner with how singularly he escaped. Parties said Dan as he picked up his rifle court; everybody said, 'The clock will out leaving their box. It was too were continually hunting him without from the straw, and in another minute hang him.'

much to say that his life had been success, while our party one day found he was out of sight. I was sitting the prisoner's guilt! He had worried supposed to be deserted but when we and your prisoner gone' He immediately admitted that he The counsel rose, showing signs of everybody with his incessant inquiries; came to investigate we discovered a Was I asleep? No! Was it a had passed through the field. But, agitation which roused the curiosity of he had discovered the absence of the 'Butternut' curled up and asleep on a dream? No! But the prisoner was in contradiction to the farm bailiff, the audience. He demanded the im- house-maid after the trial had begun rude bed in a corner. He had gone gone, There was talk of a courthe declared that he had looked at his mediate hearing of the new witness, and he had started off to interrogate to sleep within the Confederate lines martial in my case, but it never ocwatcheat the moment before he crossed whose evdence in the prisoner's favor the girl, knowing nothing and sus- and when he awoke the blue-coats curred, as the prisoner was supposed to the stile, and that the time by it was he declared to be too important to be pecting nothing-simply, determined were about and beyond him. exactly 8:15. Five minutes later, that delayed for a single moment. After to persist in the one everlasting quesis to say, ten minutes before the mur- short colleguy between the judge and tion with which he persecuted every ed to care; but it was the accepted o- the famous bush whacker I should have der had been committed, on the evi- barristers on either side, the court dec- body: 'The clock is going to hang pinion that he was no more than a been taken out and shot for permitting

Pardon's Piece, and had remained proved to be a young woman in deli- Four months later the mystery of to headquarters. The man betrayed without power or muscle. That night with her until his watch, consulted, cate health. On the evening when the crime was cleared up. One of the no alarm when roused from sleep. As when he crept in on a picket and stabonce more on leaving the lady's house the prisoner had paid his visit to the disreputable companions of the mur- far as we could see he was unarmed, bed him to the heart I wondered if lady she was in that lady's service as dered man confessed on his deathbed and when the boys joked him on his the poor victim first saw those strange, Here was what the defence called housemaid. The day after she had that he had done the deed. There capture he coolly replied: an 'alibi.' It entirely satisfied Mr- been permitted (by previous arrange- was nothing interesting or remarkable 'Well, it ain't nuthing to weep over, to deprive him of even power to ask

#### Was It Magne ism?

It has been asserted that Dan Vernon On a summer evening, years ago, a (or words to that effect), if he ever After poking under the clock in the farm. The woman, despairing and ready to answer further question but

I do not know what Dan Vernon once!" dently in consequence of the concus- another witnes of excellent position No safe opportunity of secretly put- was when he left his home to become Our eyes met. There was nothing sion of its owner's fall on it-at 8:30. and character. The clock on being ting the clock right again, had oc- a Confederate soldier, but I do know malicious in his, but they put a strange The body was still warm. All the examined next, was found to be right. curred until the last thing at night. that when he returned to it as an spell on me. His voice, too, had a ATTORNEYS AT LAW, other valuables, like the watch, was The evidece of the clock-maker proved She had moved the hands back to the avenger he had no more mercy in his strange tender influence, and when he left on it. The farm bailiff instantly that he kept the key, and that there right time. At the hour of the even- heart than a tiger. We heard from asked me to toss him my canteen of recognized the man as the carpenter had been no necessity to set the clock ing when Mr. Dubourg had called on him at once. A scouting party ri- water and haversack of food I obeyed and wind it up again, since he had her mistress she positively swore that ding up the Valley lost its captain and without the least hesitation. He At the preliminary inquiry, the performed both those acts on the day the clock was a quarter of an hour too two men by successive shots from a drank from the canteen, and as he stoppage of the watch at 8:30 was ta- preceding Mr. Dubourg's visit. The fast. It had pointed, as her mistress Henry rifle, and the man who fired chewed away at the food he remarked: ken as offering good circumstantial accuracy of the clock thus vouched had declared, to twenty-five minutes them escaped throught the woods .- This is pretty good fare for a hunjani-12m evidence that the blow which had for, the conclusian on the evidence to nine the right time then being, as That night a vidette was struck from gry man. As I can,t stay here to eat killed the man had been struck at was irresistible. Mr. Dubourg stood Mr. Dubourg had asserted, twenty his horse and his throat cut. Next it all I shall beg the favor of carryday a teamster was killed. In one ing the rest with me. The rext question was, if any one at the time when the mruder was Questioned as to why she had re- week's time Dan Vernon had killed 'He was looking into my eyes, and had been near the body at 8:30? The committed: of having, by his own ad- frained from giving this extraordinary thirteen men. He left no wounded I could not force my lips to utter a farm bailiff declared that he had met mission, had a quarrel with the mur- evidence at the inquiry before the behind him. When he fired it was word of objection. Mr. Dubourg hastily leaving the field murdered man not long before, ter- magistrate, she declared that in the with a dead aim, and the victim went 'I hear that Sheridan has offered a Will attend the Courts of Lenoir Greene and by the stile at that very time. Asked minating in an assault and a threat distant Cornish village to which she down with scarcely a cry from his reward for me, but no one will ever

owned that he had not done so. Cer- tempted to set up an alibi by a false illness had detained her from that A refugee who came in, gave us He was not fifteen feet from my tain previous circumstances, which he statement of the question of time. time, nobody had heard of the inquiry such details of Dan as we did not carbine, and I was thinking how surementioned as having impressed them. There was no alternative but to com- or the trial. She would not have been know, and when it was known that he ly I could hit him, when our eyes selves on his memory, enabled him to mit him to take his trial at the as- then present to state the vitally im- was bushwhacking, our advance scouts met and he said: feel sure of the truth of this assertion sizes, charged with the murder of the portant circumstances to which she were detailed to hunt him down .- No use trying! If you want to had just sworn if the prisoner's twin They pursued him in vain. Knowing shoot me blaze away, but I tell you brother had not found her out on the every acre of ground in the Valley, you can't hit me. point, but he held to his declaration. No new facts of importance were previous day, had not questionded her he not only eluded pursuit but many We looked at each other for half a At 8:30 he had seen Mr. Dubourg discovered in the inteval. The evi- if she knew anything about the clock, of the men pursuing him never came minute and I felt my carbine slipping hurriedly leave the field. At 8:30 dence followed the course which it and had not (hearing what she had to back to us. If their bodies were from my grasp to the ground outside. the watch of the murdered man had had taken at the preliminaryp exam- tell) insisted on her taking the journey found, a bullet hole was proof that My fingers had no stregth to hold it. inations-with this difference only, with him to the court too next morn- Dan Vernon had added another vic- Dan laughed in a dry way and said: tim to his list. In four weeks' time Dubourg had the double advantage The evidence virtually decided the he had scored thirty-four victims, and No witness had been discovered who of securing the services of the leading trial. There was a great burst of foraging and scouting parties dreaded alive! I said in answer, but I hardly had seen anybody else near the place. barrister of the circuit, and of moving relief in the crowded assembly when that one man more than a whole regi- recognized my own voice. Had the weapon turned up with the irrepressible sympathies of the ju- the woman's statement had come to ment of Early's army. He would Pooh!' he carelessly replied, 'I am had not been found. Was any one for proof of his innocence. By the She was closely cross examined as a the night, and next day bushwhack a of this other door here, and you will known (robbery having plainly not end of the first day the evidence had matter of course. Her character was troop ten miles away, and he moved sit right where you are! been the motive of the crime) to have told against him with such irrisistible inquired into; corroborative evidence with, the stealth of a tiger. No man I was looking full at him, and to entertained a grudge against the mur- force that his own counsel despaired (relative to the chisel and the scratch- ever gave an alarm after knowwing save my life I couldn't move hand or

up in camp the daguerreotype of a man dressed in citizen's clothes. It seemed to be that of a farmer, but the face was one to be remembered. As I sat in the open door of the old house, carbine across my knees, and looked into the face of our prisoner, it came That the work had been very bad- she had been cleaning the mantel- whacker in Virgina during the war to me all at once that it was his face ly done: that an exorbitant price had piece. She had rubbed the part of it When Sherman entered the Shenan- I had seen in the picture. There was been charged for it; that the man, on which was under the clock with her doah Valley some of our foragers ran- a great change in some particulars, but yet I confidently inquired:

NO. 17.

'Did you have your picture taken

'Yes,' he replied.

'Was the case of red morocco?'

Then the picture Ihad found in camp

'Dan Vernon!' I repeated after

'Yes. It is a good joke on your

this stile rather in a hurry. He rec- acter to appeal to; and nobody doubt- tlepiece as to set it going once more. authority, and this was one of them. could not utter a word. He was as The next necessity was, of course, to The woman left the murdered child- cool as ice, however and he contin-

road. On reaching the stile he heard her evidence was simply this: She (without telling him what she wanted the ranks to become a destroying an- sidering that I was there to guard Office over Pelletier's Drug Store. [jang-tyr] an alarm raised and entered the field looked at her clock when Dubourg it for) a small chisel. With this she gel. The children were buried under him and had my carbine for a shot, to see what was the matter, He found entered the room, thinking it rather a opened the case-after accidently a cherry tree in the yard by our men, with fifty comrades within hail, but

a boy who was standing at the back the day before) pointed to twenty. She was flurried at the time, fearing floor. The husband and father, pant- and could have shot you long ago. I of a cattle shed, in a remote part of five minutes to nine, Practical ex that her mistress would discover her. ing for vengeance, crept into the didn't want to, however. I feel good-Is now prepared to fill all orders for the enclosier, screaming 'with terror. periment showed that the time re- Later in the day she found that she deserted house three nights after the natured this morning, and you need

'Pooh! Let's hear you yell out

earn it,' he said as he drank again.

Why don't you shoot?

'You shall never leave this place

murder a picket at one point during ready to to leave now? I shall go out

foot- Each limb felt as numb as if

be only some common 'Johny Reb.' my brother; can you tell me anything private soldier, and I was detailed to him to escape. I permitted him, and guard him until he could be sent back | yet I didnt. I was as helpless as if wild, magnetic eyes glaring into his