Nothing to Lose.

A philosopher tells me that free from all care is the man who is penniless, homeless, and bare.
Unbound by the ties of relation or friend,
No position to hold and no rights to defend;
From our common anxieties being thus freed,
Having nothing to lose, he is happy indeed.

He may wander at ease through the tiniest streets,
With a smile at the care-worried crowd that he meets,
And in thought on his neighbor's possessions regale,
While no worries perplex him, no troubles assail;
Of all doubts and depression his mind must be clear:
Having nothing to lose, he is happy indeed.

I have pondered a while on the words of my friend,
At a loss to perceive where the meaning might tend.
For I wondered in truth how the man could be blest
Who was minus the gifts of which all are in quest.
But it sat to my full comprehension to be shown
That he speaks not of worldly possessions alone.

For tho so with our hearts, when life's sum-mer days last,
And the ways of the world are enforced to be at act,
Then serenity in the wisdom so lately acquired,
We can say nothing speak of the pitiless ordeal endured,
And with judgment serene can muse, most candidly choose,
For who ever swung pendulum so high as to lose?

—London Herald.

A PERFECT TREASURE.

I am not the man to have hobbies, that right I claim is purely and entirely the gold and silver. It is whispered by malignant persons that I would make even so many dinner-parties as I do were it not a valid theory. I am not conscious of such a motive for my hospitality, but if it exists it need not surely be objected to, as I've no doubt I pay for the weekly meal, and not my friends. Last Wednesday we happened to have either three of them or four, I forget which, dining out to avoid social at various hotels lately, and of course it was necessary to invite my entertainer. In person. The dinner had been ordered admirably well. The ladies had retired to the drawing-room and I had just passed the wine to either Judge Lovell or Lindsay, when Bowles leaned across and whispered in my ear that a person wished to see me in the Bitters Co. office.

"Ask him what it is about," I said impossible that I have any papers of—"

"He'll tell him, sir, and I'm to say to state," replied Bowles confidentially, "it is my opinion he's a detective or impostor, but he come to me as a friend in person. I was upon the point of saying, 'Tell him to call to-morrow,' when something or other in Bowles's manner struck me, and although glad I resolved not to do so. I'd rather too much confidence in my butler, Bowles, than a spice of suspicion of disgust and danger. I rose from the table, made a lively apology to my friends, and went with Bowles into the hall. A well-dressed, self-possessed man was standing by the mantelpiece.

"What is it you want with me, sir?" said I in a single-hearted tone.

"One minute's private conversation with you," he replied, with a glance at the butler.

"You may leave us Bowles," said I, and he withdrew accordingly, although I am bound to say, very unwillingly. The thought flashed across me that lightning, "Bowles has something to fear from this man's disclosure," and the next words of my visitor confirmed me in the suspicion.

"I am a member of the detective police force," said he, "and I came to warn you that there's something wrong in your house."

"Nothing to do with me, I hope!" said I with considerable asperity.

"Very much to do with you, when it turns the grimly. "Those thieves fear-nor-care and by the powers, I'm sure you will not have the impudence to run your possessions, sir, I find him out. I mean to have a detective under your roof."

"A thief!" said I, incredible, I never have even so much as a missing waiter. Bowles butler has been with me for ten years, and my housemen even longer. I will answer for them honesty."

"Let me see em sir, that's all I want," was the decisive reply.

"It is not Bowles—" said I, appallingly, "and as it is I would prefer, though it against my inclination, to think that I should have to trust a new butler with all my valuables, than that I had a horrible idea that it was Bowles."

"I think not," said the detective quietly. "I, I me see the other men."

I turned the gaslight over the door as high as it would go, and called them into the hall.

"It is not them," said he. "What other men have you in the house?"

"None but my guests, and I, since in the dining room."

"Do you know them all very well, sir? Are none of them mere acquaintances of yesterday?"

"Well," returned I with hesitation, and feeling very glad that Mrs. Mac-cuan was not a third party to the interview, "I know some of course, better than others."

"Just so," said the detective, quietly; "and I must see them."

This was a shocking proposal, and made me feel for all every, but still I was not going to run counter to one of those shield-shaped salvers. Major Pinkey I now remembered, had expressed a great wish to examine them and perhaps the fact had slipped my memory in my inviting him to dinner. Was the dence Major Pinkey was—except that he boasted to have only a hundred pounds a year—a rich man? Was he not known to be a friend of the minister? Should he be suspected, quietly, by me? I must see them.

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"Then there's Mrs. Honorable Mrs. Matcham and her daughter.

"Mrs. Matcham, of Russia Square, and Lady Bridlington."

"I suppose they're all right," remarked my self-possessed butler. "Are you sure they're not impostors?"

"There's my mother-in-law, and she is in her own room, and exceedingly unwell."

"Very good, sir," said the detective, inconsequentially. "There is a plant somewhere in the house, I'm very sure, my first point now will that, and in the line they look for it."

"Plants!" said I, in a tone of bewildered surprise.

"Yes, sir, plants—those with green leaves and white flowers, and with yellow berries, and the leaves (such as they are) have a bright gloss."

"Why, I declare," said I, "I have some plants of that kind in the conservatory, which I bought from a man who was hawking them about the streets. I had no idea that they were poisonous."

"Then there's no more to be said," remarked the detective, with a sigh of relief. "I'll just step into the conservatory and see that they're all right, and then I'll join you in the dining-room."

"Very good," said I, and I led the way to the conservatory, and left him there.

"Now, I have no doubt," said I, when I returned to the dining-room, "that you will be glad of a glass of wine after your cold walk. Bowles, bring in the claret."

"Yes, sir," said Bowles, and he left the room.

"Now, I have no doubt," said I