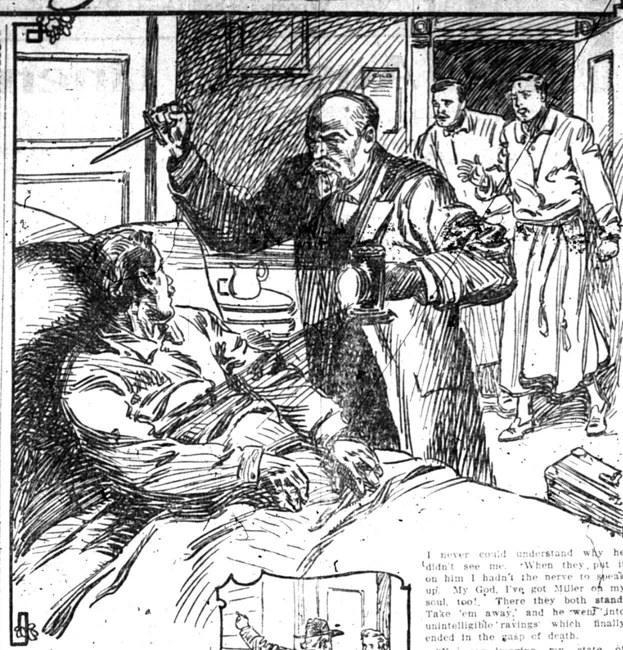
THE STORY of JONATHAN MILLER

AUTHOR'S NOTE.

The material facts in this story of circumstantial evidence are drawn from an actual recorded case, only such change of names and local color being made as to remove them from the classification of legal reports to that of fiction. All the essential points of evidence, however, are retained.



AS the members of the Calf Skin club dropped into their accustomed places Judge Dennett entered with a stranger of distinguished mein, and dignified bearing. His white hair and white mutton-chop whiskers betokened the country jurist of long experience whose reverence for the English bench caused him unwittingly to assume the personal appearance of a wearer of the wig and ermine of Blackstonian days. Judge Dennett introduced him as Judge Tanner and assured the club that his guest was primed with many a reminiscence of his long career and would gladly furnish the story of the evening. After the pipes of good fellowship had been burned for a space Judge Tanner arose and began his story of circumstantial evidence.

"I often wonder," he said, "if there is a trial judge of any considerable experience who has not carried some one case as a load on his mind and conscience for years after the verdict of the jury is in and the condemned led away to execution. It is a wise provision of the law that makes the jury the judge both of the law and the evidence, and the judge but the medium through which the law reaches the twelve; and I cannot conceive the condition of mind of those early English judges, before whom, when they had arrived at a conviction of guilt, even the jury was powerless. It was from their arbitrary and unreasonable rulings, now happily not held within the power of the judge, that most of our records of miscarried justice have resulted.

"Within my own experience there has come one case which I believe is as strange as any of record and which for years, as I looked back upon it, caused me to doubt the ability of man ever infallibly to pass judgment upon a fellow creature. The parties now are all dead and I tell it for the first time. But to the story.

"In a little city on the circuit in which I have held court for more years than I care to think of there was at one time a hotel kept by a very respectable man named Jonathan Miller. It was the favorite stopping place for commercial travellers and thus the most prominent and best paying hotel in the city.

"One evening a jewelry salesman by the name of Robert Conway arrived at the hotel just before supper. He instructed Miller to send his grips up to his room and remarked in the hearing of several at the desk that he did not care to have them left in the general baggage room as he was carrying a far more expensive line of samples than usual. He also asked that the door be carefully locked and the key brought to him.

"Supper over, he fell in with a salesman for a shoe house and one for a clothing firm and they repaired to the bar where they played cards and drank until 11 o'clock, when they all retired. It happened that the hotel was well filled and the clothing man and the shoe man had been forced to take a double room together. This room was directly across the hall from the one occupied by the jewelry salesman.

"About two o'clock in the morning the two roommates were awakened by groans which seemed to come from the room of their companion of the evening across the hall.

"They arose and without stopping to dress hurried out to see what the trouble was. You can imagine their horror to find Conway, the jewelry man, dead, the bed blood-soaked, and standing over him, a dark lantern in one hand and a bloody knife in the other, Jonathan Miller, the landlord, who trembled violently and gasped incoherently when they burst into the chamber of death.

"The case seemed black enough against him. There was not a suspicion in the mind of anyone in the city that he could be otherwise than guilty. Yet when taken before a justice for a preliminary hearing he most stoutly maintained his innocence and told a story which had it not paled into improbability by the side of damning circumstances against him would have been plausible in the extreme.

"He said he had just reached his room after, as was his custom, sitting up until a train due at half past one, came in. He had not had time to remove his clothing when he, too, heard groans coming from the neighborhood of Conway's room. Like the two salesmen, he had hurried to investigate, and as a weapon of defense he had taken the knife. He also picked up the dark lantern which he always used in making his last rounds of the hotel and which was still lighted.

"When he reached the jeweler's door he was surprised to find it standing open. The groans had ceased, and he entered, and going up to the bed, flashed his light upon the bloody spectacle of the murdered man's body. So great was his horror and surprise that he dropped the knife upon the bloody sheets, and had only just picked it up again when the two traveling men entered.

"His trembling and fear at their arrival he attributed to the natural horror of the situation and the terror of the instant thought that guilt might point to him.

"With such a degree of sincerity was his story told, and so firm was the landlord's bearing before the preliminary court that he attracted many sympathizers who believed his story and looked upon him as the unfortunate victim of a most peculiar combination of circumstances.

"But these circumstances were too patent to be ignored and Miller was bound over to await the action of the grand jury, indicted and in due course of time brought to trial before me.

"In the time intervening between his arrest and his trial the landlord's attitude was a mixture of terror and bravado which did not tend to increase the belief of the general public in his innocence. I myself, although I have always endeavored to enter a trial free from prejudice, had I been a venireman, should have been forced to admit that I had formed an opinion concerning the guilt or innocence of the accused.

"The state naturally rested upon the testimony of the two salesmen who swore to the events of the fatal evening and to entering the room just in time to find the landlord bending over the body. They were both firm in the conclusion that his terror upon seeing them was the terror of discovered guilt. I admit that defendant's counsel should not have allowed this portion of their testimony to go to the jury, but no objection was made to it.

"Also further damaging evidence against him was produced to the effect that he had a short time before become liable through indorsing a note for a large sum of money and that his ownership of the hotel was threatened in case he was not able to raise the amount. This seemed to furnish a powerful motive for the crime. That he had always borne a good reputation, that his record for honesty was such that he might easily have raised the sum of money he required on a loan, and his own story of going to Conway's room and finding the body were all that the unfortunate landlord had to offer in his own defense.

"There could have been but one conclusion as to what the verdict of the jury would be, although I am sure that I gave them the law without partiality. Miller took his sentence with resignation and when I asked him if he had anything to say, he arose and addressed the court as follows:

"'Your honor, it comes to every man once to die. For the sake of my dear wife who stood by me so nobly through this terrible ordeal I should have chosen for myself a different end from that which is to be my lot. I have no fault to find with the view the jury and this court have taken of their duty, but you are making a terrible mistake. You have convicted an innocent man. I am not guilty of the death of Robert Conway. I had nothing whatever to do with his death. Some day the truth will come out, but I fear it will be long after I have done with this world. I have no more to say but that I am innocent, and this I will declare to the end.'

"How many men when facing death on the gallows have said the same. I wonder how many men have said it truly. It is true, as Pope says, that hope springs eternal in the human breast, but I often wonder if we do not make a grievous error in not giving greater credence to the dying statement of a condemned man.

"Jonathan Miller paid the penalty of the death of Robert Conway with the same stoical resignation which had marked the end of many a man in the same extremity. With his death the case seemed at an end and it passed from my mind along with many other cases which have arisen in a long and busy career. I probably never again would have recalled it except incidentally had it not been for a strange occurrence.

"I was just retiring for the night one evening about two years after the execution of Miller when I was startled by the sound of a horse dashing madly up to my gate. There was a loud rapping on the door and upon opening it the panting horseman cried:

"'Buck Everett's just been shot down in Kiley's saloon. He's dying and wants to see you right away. Says he's got an important confession to make.'

"I hurried out, and mounting the messenger's horse, spurred full speed for Kiley's place, which was a disreputable roadhouse about a mile distant. On the way I tried to recall who Buck Everett might be, and at last remembered him as the porter in Miller's hotel at the time of the Conway murder. When I arrived at the place he was almost gone, but with the aid of a stiff drink of whisky he revived sufficiently to make the following confession:

"'I'm a goner, judge, but before I cash in I've got to get something off my mind. It's Conway. I've seen him day and night. My God, judge, there he is now pointing his bony finger at me! Take him away. For God's sake take him away.' He gasped in terror and the froth upon his pallid lips was bloody. We thought he was going before his weighty secret was told.

"'Come, Buck, have it out and you'll go easier,' I said as I held his head.

"'Yes, judge, I've got to tell it,' he whispered. 'It was me that killed Conway. Miller never done it. The thing took hold on me when I took his grips upstairs and he said they was full of jewelry. I slipped in and knifed him as he slept and got what there was in his pockets. I was just turnin' to the grips when I heard the landlord comin' down the hall. I slipped out and got past him, and I never could understand why he didn't see me. When they put it on him I hadn't the nerve to speak up. My God, I've got Miller on my soul, too! There they both stand. Take 'em away,' and he went into unintelligible ravings which finally ended in the gasp of death.

"You can imagine my state of mind upon hearing this terrible confession. Was not Miller's death upon my soul as well? Was I not equally culpable for not having a keener insight into character that I might have read his innocence in his steadfast attitude? Many a long night as I walked the floor of my

chamber I turned these questions over in my mind, never finding an answer that was satisfactory to my conscience. I seriously considered resigning from the bench. My faith in man's justice had received a crushing blow. For five years I carried that weight of self accusing guilt, and only the sympathy of my friends and the loyalty and trust of my townsmen sustained me.

"One night I was seated in the study of Rev Charles Poindexter, the rector of the Episcopalian church. Before a cheery grate fire we talked into the night and to him I unburdened my soul.

"'My heavens, judge' he said to me, laying his hand on my shoulder. 'Why haven't you told me all this before? I might have saved you these years of troubling. Never before have I disclosed that which has been imparted to me in the confessional, but in this case I believe my duty to the dead is outweighted by my duty to the living. When you sentenced Jonathan Miller you condemned a guilty man. You remember that I attended him as a spiritual adviser in his last hours. To me alone he told the true story of that fatal night. He was guilty of Conway's death although his hand did not strike the blow. He went to Conway's room with the intent to murder him and rob him of his wealth. It was for that fell purpose that he took the knife and lantern. When he reached the room he found the deed already done, and even as the two traveling men entered the room he was meditating upon how he might secure the contents of the satchels and hide them. Let your mind rest, judge; his hand was as guilty as the hand that struck the blow!'

"Thus was the weight of years lifted from my mind, and this, gentlemen, is my story."

Amid the congratulations and thanks of the members of the Calf Skin club Judge Grower from the chair announced that Judge Sturgis had a story for the next meeting.

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Real Estate Exchange

Of WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL

Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

The following is a partial list of Farms, City and Village Lots, and Real Estate generally which we have for sale. As our list is constantly changing, we request that parties will write us if they do not see what they want in this list.

5.

Elegant house and lot 66 feet front and 20 rod. deep on Maple Ave. East, (half an acre). Fine barn and every modern convenience. Furnace bath, closet, etc. Can be bought for what the buildings cost. Will exchange for improved city property for portion of the purchase price.

56

Village lots on Woodward avenue bounded north by land of Mollie G. Smith, east by D., G. H. & M. R'y, south by Bower street, west by Woodward avenue, 108 feet front on Woodward avenue, 178 feet deep on north side and 148 feet on south side; all in the Village of Birmingham, Mich. One of the finest building sites in the village.

77

One lot on Saginaw street, just south of land owned by John German, 50 feet frontage. Anyone wishing to purchase will find this a bargain. For particulars inquire of Mollie G. Smith or at the Exchange Bank

103

Eighty-acre farm in White Lake township, w ½ of s e ¼ of section 32; 70 acres cleared, 10 acres timber and huckleberry swamp. (Don't laugh; this swamp netted the owner over $150.00 last summer.) Three acres of good orchard, house of 7 rooms, good neighborhood; 4½ miles from Milford, 3 miles from Commerce; proposed electric road comes within a mile of the house. Price, $2,000.

147

Nice little home for someone of small means 1½ acres in n w ¼ of n e ¼ of sec 34, township of Troy; house 7 rooms, barn in good shape; well, both barn and house, never dry. ½ mile east of Rochester Electric; fare to Detroit 15c. R. F. D. All cash and no grumbling will buy it at $750. Hurry up!

No. 167

Wants to trade for 50 or 60 acres on or near electric. Ninety-four acres on east ½ of southwest ¼ Sec. 11, Troy township; three buildings valued at $2,000 (insured for $1,100); flowing well piped to barn; farm well adapted for stock or dairy; 1½ miles from electric at Troy Corners, where there are good schools and churches. Fare 15c to Detroit; $60 per acre.

178

Seven-room cottage on west side of Bates street, 42 feet front, 120 feet deep. You couldn't build the house for $1,200, and that's all we ask for it. City water, wood shed, cellar, all ordinary conveniences. One of the best bargains we have. Show it to you any time.

180

Farm in Avon township; 35 acres of good clay loam, all cleared; small orchard, no buildings; small amount down. For sale or exchange for small farm.

196

One of the best-arranged and finest-equipped residences in the village, and in absolutely the best location—East Maple Avenue, two blocks from electric road; bath, toilet, hot and cold water, city gas, 10 rooms, 2 stories, rebuilt last year, better than new; 3 buildings, fine orchard; 112 feet on Maple, 320 feet deep; plenty of room for chickens and garden; good barn, fine workshop—Say! What else do you want, anyhow? Will sell house and 52 feet front by 150 feet deep for $2,800. One of our best bargains.

193

Thirty-five-acre fruit farm, 1¼ miles north of Birmingham, on the town line; 6 buildings, insured for $1,800. All kinds of soil—clay, gravel, sand and dark loam. Last year this farm produced 123 bushels raspberries, 20 bushels blackberries, 111 bushels strawberries, 10 tons hay, etc. A gravel ridge 60 rods in length, with an almost inexhaustible supply of gravel, is worth almost the price of the farm alone. No waste land and under a high state of cultivation. Worth looking at anyhow. Price $5,000; terms easy.

194

Fifty acres in Township of Troy, adjoining the Joy Stock Farm; 5 buildings, good house, basement barn, plenty of small fruit, orchard of excellent fruit; 2½ miles from Flint Division D. U. R.; 2 wells and fine spring. Price $4,800.

[illegible]

Fifteen acres in Township of Royal Oak; no buildings; small grove of maples is a pretty feature; new land, well drained, clay bottom, black top soil; corner of the 9½-mile road and Campbell road, ¼ mile east of electric road; adjoins J. L. Hudson and Duffield tracts, which are held at $500.00 per acre; 1½ miles north of State Fair grounds. Price $300 per acre; will exchange for Detroit property.

198

Ten acres 1 mile east of Royal Oak village; excellent land, 40 fine apple trees, no buildings. Price $1,200. The place is well fenced, and the price will enable you to build the kind of house you may require.

200

One hundred and twenty-six acres near Birmingham; good buildings, well fenced, fine orchard, flowing well; pretty little River Rouge runs through the farm; ½ mile from Birmingham. Worth looking at. Take you to see it any day. Oh, yes; the price is $10,000, and the terms easy. Farms not as good as this have sold within the past year, in the immediate vicinity, for $150.00 per acre. Let us take you to see it. It will please you, and if you don't buy we won't grumble.

201

Fine 2-story residence on Maple Avenue, corner of High Street; 50 feet front, 125 feet deep; hot water heater, hot and cold bath, toilet, city gas, city water; every convenience found in the best class of city residences. Cement walk (cost $200) and best neighborhood in town. House would cost at least $3,000 to build today; ask any one to build it for less and see what they say. You can buy this beautiful home for $2,800, and have your own way about payments. Ask the man at the bank.

216

A new, modern dwelling, constructed by a well-known builder for his own use, from best concrete blocks, hollow walls, 2 stories high, in one of the best localities in our village; lot 60x100 feet; 11 large apple trees; bath, water-closet, hot and cold water, cess-pool, hot-air furnace, 9 rooms beautifully finished in hard wood, large attic. Best of reasons for selling. Price $3,800. Let us show it to you any day—any time.

219

Tidy little place for some one with moderate means. Corner Chestnut and Palm, Campbell Addition. Lot worth at least $500, and the house is insured for $1,200; that's $1,700, and prices are advancing all along the lines in that location. If you come right away we will consider an offer of $1,500, and if that is too high after we have shown you over the premises, we will introduce you to the owner and you can make your own terms. Dia.

222

Two-story tenement or terrace, on the east side of Woodward Avenue. Two distinct 2-story houses of 8 rooms each. Furnace, water-closet, bath, hot and cold water, city water and gas; each independent of other apartment. Rents for $15 per month each. Forty dollars per year will pay all taxes and insurance. Good barn on the premises, and the lot is 70 feet front on the best frontage on Woodward, and 185 feet deep; room for a nice garden; can live in one apartment and have a steady income from the other. This is something to ponder over. Come and let us help you ponder. Always at your service. If you can't call, write.

227

Five acres just outside of the corporation limits of Birmingham, about 10 rods frontage on Woodward Avenue, on the Pontiac electric line; car stops in front; about 80 rods deep, with nice little creek (branch of the River Rouge) crossing the back end of the premises. Finest location in the county for a nice little chicken farm. No buildings, but can be bought cheap enough so that you can build to suit yourself and have one of the finest homes among the many in the Bloomfield Hills district. Postal card request will bring prices and particulars. Rather show it to you, though.

229

A pleasant and sightly farm of 71 acres in West Bloomfield, ¼ mile from the Northwestern electric; acres orchard, 4 acres good timber, 5 buildings worth $3,000, and the price is $5,000—and it is well worth it. Soil sandy loam and clay loam, under high state of cultivation. Better investigate.

232

Farm of 27½ acres, just outside the Village of Birmingham, on the D. & P. electric line; 15c fare to Detroit, half-hour service; land all cleared; two acres; four buildings, all in good condition. Best open location between Detroit and Pontiac.

241

Fine new house with all modern conveniences, within 300 feet of the west side of Woodward Avenue; 8 rooms, hard-wood finish; lot 50x100; plenty of fruit. You could not build the house for $2,000, and that's all we ask for the premises. Well worth looking at.

243

Farm of 160 acres, Saginaw county, 2 miles from Fergus Station, on the M. C. R'y. Clay loam, good buildings valued at $5,000, and $3,000 will buy the farm if you come right away—now. The place is within 2 miles of active coal mines, and there is a rich coal deposit under the entire farm; 6 miles to Chesaning; 16 miles to Owosso; 4½ miles St. Charles and 22 miles to Saginaw. Well drained, good fences, and altogether worth the money.

244

If you could buy an acre and a quarter of land with a brick house equipped with hot and cold water, bath, water closet, furnace, and every possible convenience, and barn, chicken house, plenty of fruit and cement walks—and the house alone cost $5,000—for $3,000 on easy terms, you'd call it a snap, wouldn't you? Well, we can do it. Come on and we'll show you.

246

One hundred and twenty-seven acres in the Township of Avon. Six buildings worth $5,000, 7 acres of timber, 5 acres of orchard; well watered (Clinton river runs through the farm); no marsh; land is 120 feet above the river; fine cedars, 4 wells, 2 good houses, 2 barns in good repair, well fenced, and only a mile from the thriving Village of Rochester. Will trade for a smaller farm or will consider an offer of $8,500, with one-third cash. Take you to see it any old time at all.

247

House, barn, and about an acre of good garden land on north side of Middle Street. Good, old-fashioned house, and a cozy home at a low price. Party has decided to go West and wants to sell badly enough to make a decided sacrifice. Ask the man at the bank about it.

249

Nice, warm, old-fashioned house on the south side of Maple Avenue, among the best class of residences in the village. Plenty of room for a good garden, and it can be bought for $1,500. Not Why not? Well, just come and talk it over with us; and after you look the premises over you will make us an offer anyhow.

250

Now, here is a "Beaner!" House, barn and chicken house, with two acres of land on westerly side of Woodward, opposite Electric Park, known as "Elmerest." Ten rooms, bath, toilet, two cellars, furnace room, good hot-air furnace, two grates and mantels, one of the best equipped lot of buildings in the village, city water, drains, fine shade trees and beautiful lawn; buildings insured for $4,000. $3,500 cash will buy it, and the balance of purchase price can be had on long time and low rate of interest. Without exception, this is the finest location and the best lot of buildings on our st; and the price is right.

251

House and lot in Campbell's Subdivision; corner lot 60x110, fine hedge on front and side, cellar, city and cistern water in the kitchen, fine veranda on front and side; cherries, peaches, pears, crab apples all bearing—and some smaller trees. $1,450 will buy it, and terms can be made so that it won't take a millionaire to handle it. Come on.

252

Eight acres of land in Newaygo county, Michigan, listed "A No. 1 sandy soil;" no buildings, 10 acres oak timber; price $5 per acre. Won't cost anything to investigate. We're ready to answer all questions you may ask—wise or otherwise.

253

Two hundred acres of sand and sandy loam, 40 acres of mixed timber, 20 acres cleared; two buildings of little value. Price $10 per acre. Is in the Township of Big Prairie, County of Newaygo. And then we have 440 acres more, in the same township, with 5 buildings, 2½ acres of orchard and 100 acres of mixed timber; all at $10 per acre. We'll just dare you to dig into this proposition—and you know what our opinion used to be at school regarding any "feller" that wouldn't "take a dare."

258

Lots 23 and 24, Buell's Addition, Birmingham. Price $400 for both lots. Terms, $25 cash; balance on contract.

265

Eighty-acre farm in Ionia county, Town of Easton. Will exchange for small farm or residence. Property is described as w ½ of s e ¼ of sec 36, town 7 n, r 7 w. Nine buildings insured for $2,250 mortgage of $3,500, which can run; $2,500 cash will secure balance. 2 miles from Ionia; 9-room white brick house; all kinds of fruit; no hills or waste land; excellent soil. This offer is good for 30 days only, so you'd better get busy.

269

House and lot, east side Woodward Avenue; will exchange for other property; lot 105x97; house 6 rooms; small barn, large garden, some fruit; $1,000; buildings are insured for $600.

270

House and lot, west side of Ann Street; 2-story frame cottage, cement-block foundation, 8 rooms and cellar; one block from Woodward Avenue; $1,800; terms easy.

271

Forty feet front on Southfield Avenue, 176 feet deep; 2 buildings, 6-room house, 3 bedrooms, water in house, garden, fruit, new cement walks; $1,350.

273

New cement house, one block from Woodward Avenue, 4 bedrooms, bath and closet on second floor. 4 rooms downstairs; large veranda, hot-air furnace, hot and cold water, hardwood floors, good barn large enough for horse or auto; cement walks, cistern, etc. Worth looking at; also worth more money than we ask for it, but we'll sell it for $3,500 on easy terms.

274

Nice little country place for some one of small means. House, barn, and all necessary outbuildings with two acres of good land; buildings insured for $725; cistern, good location, 2½ miles from Clawson on the Flint electric line; $900; terms easy.

275

Fine new house and 102 acres of good land on west side of Woodward Avenue, near Pontiac; 14 acres timber, 5 acres orchard; 2 buildings, valued at $7,000; hot and cold soft water, tubular hot-air furnace, bath, toilet, water closet; grapes, peaches and apples in great abundance; one mile from Pontiac on D. U. R. electric. Prices and terms on application.

276

Farm of 160 acres, west of Birmingham: excellent soil, good buildings, fine location; 16 acres orchard, 20 acres timber; one of the finest farms in the country. Price low and terms. Take you to see it any day.

267

Forty acres on the line of the Flint electric, at Harris Corners, in Troy township. Excellent soil, clay loam, no waste; one of the pleasantest locations for building a nice country residence. The place is held for more money, but make us an offer of $2,600 cash, and we will see what we can do for you; or, will sell from one to 20 acres in any sort of parcel, or any part of the 40, at prices which cannot fail to interest you.

277

Farm of 160 acres in Southfield; gravelly loam and clay; 4 good buildings, 6 acres orchard, 40 acres oak timber; 1 mile from cheese factory and Village of Franklin; 2½ miles from electric road; telephone, R. F. D., and $45 per acre will get it if sold before March 1. Postal will get full particulars, or we will take you to see it at any time.

278

How would you like a good big farm in Crawford county, Michigan? 640 acres, and the north branch of the Au Sable river runs across it. 90 acres cleared, 2 acres orchard, 2 buildings valued at $3,500; good house 8 rods from the river; abundance of game and fish, fine climate, pure air, school house on the same section; only four settlers in the township; ideal place for club buildings for hunting and fishing. Price $15 per acre; terms easy, and we will take some stock in a corporation to buy it. A postal will bring full particulars, photographs and map.

280

Farm of 228 acres in Troy—15 acres oak and maple timber, 5 acres orchard, 4 acres apples 7 buildings valued at $4,000, insured for $3,000. No waste land. Soil rich loam; flowing wells; tank and tank house; buildings fair; one mile from Rochester electric; 9-room house with good cement bottom cellar; 200 rods of new Page wire fence. $85 per acre will buy it, and the terms are easy at low rate of interest.

281

Two very desirable lots in the Buell Addition can be bought for $325 on account of the owner leaving town. Bound to go soon, as same class of lots in the neighborhood are selling for twice the money.

282

Lot 4 in Block 7, Campbell's Subdivision; good house insured for $850; fine location; price $1,200. Nice cozy little home for some one with enough cash to make a small first payment.

283

Lots 23 and 24, Buell's Addition; one of the best locations in the whole plat; can be bought for $400, and you can get them by paying only $25, and the balance on land contract with easy payments.

284

House, barn, and 1¼ acres of excellent land, with plenty of fruit; 8-room house, good barn with cement floor; fine location on west side of Woodward Avenue, near Electric Park; good drainage; cement walks. Price $2,500.

286

Fine farm of 55 acres on Franklin Road, 1½ miles from Court House in Pontiac. No buildings; good well and new windmill, no waste land, well fenced, nice grove of 3 acres on west end, new gravel State road ½ mile to city limits, ½ mile from electric; fine view; farm well fenced. Price $6,000; enough cash to secure, balance on long time at 6 per cent.

288

Acreage, 16 acres one block from Woodward, streets on two sides, excellent land well drained; just the thing for platting. Price $4,000. Terms, $2,600 cash and balance on mortgage; easy terms.

289

Two-story frame house, practically new; 10 rooms, good furnace, nice barn and carriage house, 120 feet frontage on south side of Townsend Street, two blocks from electric, cement walks—everything in excellent condition; city water, all conveniences, and will be sold for $3,000 cash, or enough to secure and balance on easy terms. One of the best bargains on the list. Come and see it.

292

One of the best equipped and loveliest little farms on our list. 47 acres, new stone house, 10 rooms, furnace, bath, hot and cold water, city water, ½ acre beautiful grove of native trees, 18 acres of best orchard just coming into bearing, all kinds of fruit, fine hip-roof carriage house; just outside of village limits; 20 rods to electric; no waste land; prettiest location in the country. Owner has business which takes him to other parts and will sell at a great sacrifice. For price and terms call at the Exchange Bank and if you want something better than the ordinary at almost your own price you will go with the man and look it over. Any time—any day.

293

Forty acres good farming land suitable for cutting up in lots or parcels for building to suit purchaser; on line of D. U. R., 18 miles from Detroit. No nonsense. No buildings. No trade. Price $2,100. Let's go and see it.

294

ACREAGE—32 acres, high and dry, in the village of Birmingham. Just the thing for platting. Street on two sides and through the middle. One block from Woodward Avenue. Price low; terms easy. $3,000 will handle it. R. E. Dep't Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Michigan.

295

Nice little Chicken Farm on the Rochester electric line, 7½ acres, 9-room house with furnace, bath, and toilet, flowing well, barn and chicken house, all new buildings and finely equipped. Owner going South on account of health. Can be bought for what the buildings cost, and all the cash required is the equity above the mortgage, which can continue. Worth looking into. You can't help liking it, and we will show you the premises any day, without expense to you.

296

Nice 8-room house, built last year in Village of Royal Oak, one block from both electric railways—cellar, cistern, lot 50 feet front and 120 feet deep. Cost owner $2,600, but will sell for $2,100.

297

Without exception, the finest farm for stock raising or high-class farming in the county. On the line of the Rochester electric, 18 miles from Detroit, 2 flowing wells, pond of nearly an acre of pure spring water furnishing an abundance of pure clean ice, 9-room house, new silo, barn 74x40, accommodation for 30 heads of cattle in cement-floor stable, milk house with flowing well, 16 acres timber, 345 rods new wire fence with cedar posts, 142 acres of black-loam land and not a foot of waste land; pretty little creek runs through farm. Nothing finer on our list, and less than $100 per acre will buy it on easy terms. There!

298

House, barn, wagon shop, blacksmith shop, two lumber sheds, two acres of land, fine orchard; buildings in good repair; 2½ miles from electric, in Village of Franklin, prettiest village in Michigan. All ready for an enterprising blacksmith and wagonmaker to make a good living in a prosperous farming community. Best of reasons for selling, and $2,000 cash will buy it right off the bat.

299

FOR SALE—80-acre farm all under cultivation; good buildings; on rural mail route and telephone line. Four miles from railroad station, in a well-settled country, and ½ mile from a proposed railroad from Grand Rapids to Ludington, which is sure to be completed within two years. This farm is all No. 1 black soil, the very best for corn, hay, oats, onions or peppermint. A good distillery and boiler to go with the farm. One-half mile to church and school. This farm is well worth $4,000.00, but to make a quick sale will take $3,500—$1,500 cash and balance on easy terms.

300

GOOD BUSINESS CHANCE.—Country store, stock of general merchandise, house and barn for sale. Eight-room house, hard and soft water, hot-air furnace in store and dwelling, acetyline gas machine; stock will inventory $2,000; sales run from $20 to $80 per day. One mile from electric. Telephone and R. F. D. Fine farm trade—best of reasons for selling. Will make sacrifice for cash. Take you to see it any day. Address R. E. Dep't Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

301

Good two-story house and barn on south side of Maple Avenue East; 77 feet frontage and 20 rods deep; 10-room house, good cellar, excellent garden, large barn, plenty of bearing fruit trees, and small fruit in abundance. Two blocks from electric. Price $2,800; half cash, balance on long time and easy terms. City water and gas. Conditions make a sale very desirable. Better look it over.

302

Nice little farm of 63 acres, about a mile from the electric, and 1½ miles from Birmingham. Rolling country, beautiful view, 4 acres orchard, fine maples, pretty little brook, excellent gravel State road, 12-room house just finished, fine new barn with accommodation for 20 cows, cement floor, ample hay room, good new stables, 40 acres plow land, 20 acres timber—and a trifle over $100 per acre will buy it. Glad to show you any time, and if you don't buy you will not be scolded a little bit. Worth looking at anyhow.

303

One of the nicest lots on the Buell addition, facing on Woodward Avenue, 40 feet frontage and 120 feet deep. Corner lot, and one of the most desirable building lots in the village. Can be bought for cash at a price that will surely appeal to any one—either for building purposes or an investment.

By Glimpses Only.

We get our knowledge of perfect love by glimpses and in fragment chiefly—the rarest only among us knowing what it is to worship and caress, reverence and cherish, divide our bread and mingle our thoughts at one and the same time, under inspiration of the same object. Finest aromas will so often leave the fruits to which they are native and cling elsewhere, leaving the fruit empty of all but its coarser structure!—George Eliot.

Old and New Drama.

Elizabethan dramatists and Shakespeare, instead of looking out for the meanest samples of humanity for their principal characters, selected, or imagined the strongest. Instead of depressing humanity by showing it what a pitiful thing it is, they tried to inspire and encourage it by showing what a fine and grand thing it might be. The dramatists of the time were men of life, energy and action.

The Weight Man's Woes.

"I wouldn't mind this business," acknowledged the man who guesses the weights of people, "if it wasn't for the automobile coats the women wear to hide their figures—how are you to guess a weight unless you see the figure?—and if the crowd didn't nearly die laughing whenever I happen to guess wrong. A lot of them seem to stand around waiting to see me guess wrong, then chortle like fiends."

Old Salt Codfish Going.

The good old salt codfish is a dish that is going out. We used to get real salt codfish when we bought them hard as a board and with their skins on. Now we get salt "cod" in paper boxes, neatly labeled, of course, but which sometimes tastes like pollock, haddock, or dogfish.—New York Press.

Used His Victim's Care

"It's a good rule never to give your card to a beggar who promises to return your loan of 50 cents or one dollar," remarked a New York clergyman the other day. "Not long ago," he continued, "a man in clerical clothes called on me, presented the card of a minister out on Long Island, and borrowed enough money to get home on. He asked for my card, promising to return the amount promptly, and that was the last I heard of him until I learned that he had been arrested in a near-by town for swindling. As my card was the only one found on him, he was docketed in my name. I discovered in the newspapers that I was behind the bars without knowing it."

Did a man ever ask you to go on a fishing trip with him but what he asked you if you could row?

America's Famous Song.

The author of "The Star-Spangled Banner" was Francis Scott Key, who lives in American history as one of its notable figures. The inspiration for the song came from the bombardment of Fort McHenry, near Baltimore, by the British fleet.

Key had been taken prisoner and witnessed the bombardment from one of the British men-of-war on which he was detained. As the battle progressed the American patriot could catch fleeting glimpses of the Stars and Stripes waving defiance at the British guns from the tall staff on the parapet of the fort.

This suggested the song to Key, and almost before the guns had been silenced he had written some of the inspiring lines which later were completed.

Of Course They Are.

"Shad is a fine thing."

"So is marriage. Sometimes I wonder if either is worth the trouble."—Louisville Courier-Journal.