with blue. with black. It was made and whirled out on eter-

· nity's track - To just make a playground all colors and gold,

All sapphire, and uniber, and green

That we who are old are permitted to To help you, and guard you, and watch o'er your play.

For we who are old yesterday were as We were babies with black eves, and gray eyes, and blue:

We romped in the meadows, and laughed in the sun

And at night, tired out with our frolic and fun. We crept to our mother so loving and

And she in one hand held our two tiny

taught us to pray. Ah. yes, we were babies like you yesterlay!

And our papa stood by us as yours stands by you, And he stooped, just like this, for a

aweet kiss or two: And his look as he held out his arms wide apart—

His look-why 'twas just like the throb in our heart When we stand by your mothers and watch while you pray

An, babes, we were bables like you yesterday! And the Lord lets us stay here, and

play here with you. Because when you're weary we know what to do.

-Houston Post.

## Yortune.

BY JOHN FORKMAN.

all the talk of Paris turned on the your signature," added M. Latour, as drama which had taken place in the he drew from his pocket two manusdreamy little village of Belsance, in cripts, and placed them on the table. the Alpes Maritimes, eighteen hours "Well, if I must," sighed M. Ville. by rail from the gay city and twenty bois. minutes' walk from the beautiful blue Mediterranean.

Till then not one man! burly of a hustling world!—in the life- hours after possession. time of the late lord of Chateau Brian- "Very good," exclaimed M. Latour. -court, this now lonesome spot was the placing the document in his coat rendezvous of sportsmen—the center pocket. of revelry and festivities which attracted the elite of the province, and property from this moment." Then not a few aristrocrats from the capi- whispering in the ear of M. Villebois,

The lord of the manor, M. Villebols you only, you understand. You must de Briancourt, had lived a life of find a pretext to send away that serpleasure, within and without his do- vant of yours till tomorrow morning. sixth on the list in fourth class of main, to such an extent that when he I will be here at 6 owlock this even. fices. Pennsylvania follows New died in 1845, leaving an only son who ing. Be alone and ready with a pick, York on the presidential list, but expected to inherit his apparently bril- a shovel, a lantern and a stout rope." leads all the states on the fourth liant financial position, his debts were Then with a lordly flourish of his class list. The states having upward so large that all that remained for the left hand the new owner of Chateau of 100 presidential offices are given heir, Richard Villabois de Briancourt, Briancourt badé adieu to the bewil-below according to rank: was the chateau with a rent roll of a dered M. Villebois and departed. hundred and fifty pounds a year.

tachment to the old family mansion. mental agitation. Overtures had been made to him again "Is all ready?" inquired M. Latour, staces and conditions. The states and again to sell the chateau, £10,000 | gayly. being the last offer, which he had re- "Yes, I have everything here," re- offices are given below in the order fused to entertain for even five min- joined M. Villebois. ntes. The solitude of the chateau "Follow me then, to the kitchen," Pennsylvania 4,208, Virginia 3,515. was shared by the old servant Jean- said M. Latour, leading the way. "I Kentucky 3,145, Texas 3,013, North tion ette, who had lived there since the have the whole plan of the place in my Carolina 2,803. New York 2,715, Missbirth of her young master, M. Richard, mind's eye." and for whom she bore an affection Taking the pick in hand, he wrench. West Virginia 2,209, Georgia 2,121, almost maternal.

Villebois received the unexpected visit ring in it. On raising the slab a flight gan 1,574, Indiana 1,498, California of a stranger, who, coming by rail of narrow stone steps was discovered. 1,492, Minnesota 1.379, Wisconsin. from Paris to the nearest station, and Down went M. Villebois with the lan- 1,333, Iowa 1,278, Louisiana 1,278, thence by fly to Belsance, called upon | tern, followed by M. Latour, carrying | Kansas 1,227. Florida 1,137, South him about 11 o'clock one June mern- the tools.

man, with a bald head, about fifty he strode forward and suddenly stop- achusetts, 602; New Hampshire, 460; gears of age, correctly attired in town ped. "This is the spot-just here. Vermont, 459; Connecticut, 347; Delcostume, which had undoubtedly seen Now we shall have to raise these aware, 112, and Rhode Island, 112. better days.

bols, as he scanned the card brought ing out the brick and the earth below | Maryland. to him by Jeannette. "I don't recog- them to a depth of four feet, when the In the matter of gross receipts nis: that name; but let him com; in." pick struck something very hard.

ancourt."

his interlocutor. "But I am not mistaken, I hope. You the pick." are M. Richard Villebois de Briancourt, owner of this chateau, are you bois seized the pick and labored with \$3,582,713; Indiana, \$3,555,735; Iowa,

"Oh, yes; but I am better known as rounding earth. Villebois."

wealthy man, is anxious to acquire this | crouched down to draw the end over to demesne, and if you are disposed to the other side. sell it you have but to name any reaonable figure, and we can finish the when we've got it up?" gasped M.

business forthwith." "I have not the least intention to sell the property," replied M. Villebols,

"But—say the chateau alone, with.

"I have refused that sum aiready." "I'm a busy man, M. Villebois, and things are going to the dogs in Paris whilst I'm away. A hundred thousand pounds, cash down: what do you say?" a hundred thor and pounds!" ex-1 claimed M. Villebois. "Am I had or are you? The place isn't worth it.

"You'll think me real enough when I count out the bank-notes to you. Well, what is it. You accept?"

this a dream, parbleu! or am I talking !

"Yes. I'll take a hundred thousand pounds; but where's the money?" ejaculated M. Villebois, deliriously, as recovering men a trance.

"Oh, it's not a mile off." replied M. agree, here are the conditions."

"You have, no doubt, heard that goar grandfather, who died during the revolution, left a will and a vast for-"Yes, my farier told me all about

Well, in those troubled times, he was fortunate enough to be able to realize ad his investments in and near Paris—everything he possessed, fact, except this far off chateau-and convert the same into hard cash. His fortune over and above this property exceeds a million sterling. Both the will and all traces of the where-

abouts of the fortune were lost until a few weeks ago. They are i Paris now in the hands of my client. Attached to the will is a plan marking the exact spot where the iron chest containing the fortune lies buried. is on this very property, M. Villebeis; but neither you nor any man in all, creation could discover it, even though a life-time were spent digging into the bowels of the earth. These are my terms, M. Villebois. You must sign a deed making over to me one-half of your inheritance. Out of that half I will pay to you the hundred thousand pounds purchase money, so that you

will receive about six and I four hun-प्री dred thousand pounds." "But the fortune's my birthright.

surely a commission—" "You have heard my conditions, A Villebois. If you want the whole ්පුවෙන ප්රත්ත ක්රීම් search for it, especially if you want to shorten your life by bitter disappoint-It was in the summer of 1855 when ment. Here are the deeds ready for maintenance.

"No, no! all you must do is to please

So M. Villebois, without further hesin a hundred thousand could recall to itation, seized the proffered pen and mind that pretty hamlet charmingly signed the two documents which resituated on a rising ground dominat- lated respectively to the assignment ing the picturesque shore of the lovely of half the fortune, and to the sale Riviera. Yet ten years before—how of the chateau for the sum of one hunfast the memory fades in the hurly- dred thousand pounds, payable twelve

"The Chateau Briancourt is my he continued: "The secret I sell to

became a misanthrope with only one the door, which was opened by M. Vil- Jersey 127. strong affection — an inordiante at lebois, whose features betrayed his

The stranger was a little dapper of the bottom step," said M. Latour, as fourth class; New Jersey, 739; Mass-

'Andre Latour?" queried M. Villa- Then the two men set to work hack- all the states last named, except

M. Latour was a business man, ev- "It's the chest!" murmured M. La- \$23,391,241, a sum almost double the ery inch of him, and with scant pre- tour, in a suppressed tone, as if he total received at the offices of Illiamble he explained the object of his were afraid the very walls might hear nois and Pennsylvania, the two states him. "That's right, shovel out the ranking next to New York. Follow-"I am a financial agent, M. de Bri- earth. Here, give me the rope. As ing were the receipts from the states soon as we get down to the handles I named: New York, \$23,391,241; Illi-"Villebois, if you please," interposed | will slip it through them and pull up | noise, \$14,858,880; Pennsylvania,

With feverish excitement M. Ville- 843; California, \$4,286,060; Minnesota,

"There, I've got the rope through 068,420. Very good. A client of mine, a one handle," said M. Latour, as he

FEMININE FACTS.

"Oh, leave that to me. All the needful for that little job is in my pocket." So they picked and shovelled until | man. the second handle was free for the out a foot of land around it; shall we rope to pass through it. Then a knot say ten thousand pounds?" asked M. was adjusted, so that both the men could pull on to a single line to raise the chest to the surface.

> "lt's coming! It's coming! By Heaven, the million at last!" cried the excited M. Villebois.

But M. Latour kept a cool head, and lineeling down, he placed the shovel in | caricatures. manner to prevent the chest slipping

Pulling with all their might, Mr. La four at the pit's mouth and M. Ville bois just behind him, the chest was slowly drawn to the surface, and M Latour knelt again to detach the rope while M. Villebois seized the pick, and raising it high in the air, ( ve the

hairless skull of his partner. Hurling aside the lifeless mass, with the implements found in his victim's pocket he labored with almost super human force to break in the chest. And when, at the end of an hour, the lid gave way, exposing the contents he took off his coat to make a bundle of them, and carried them up the make a new crown for the reputedly steps away to the dining room, where

he spread them out on the table. What a treasure to behold! Instead of gold, it consisted of a million pounds in notes issued by banks which existed before the Revolution, before the restored monarchy, and before the First and Second Empires! Alas! where was the coveted fortune now? Irretrievably lost in the bygone strug

gles for national liberty! Jeanette returned, and when, after four hours' knocking in vain, she called the villagers to smash in the door of the chateau, forsooth! they found madman sitting at the table, his arms sprawled aimlessly over it, with crumpled banknotes in his frenzied grasp, as he moaned "'Tis mine! 'Tis all mine! A mil

My heritage!" - New York

71,131 POSTOFFICES.

New York Has the Greater Number of Presidential Offices.

Washington special to the Philadelphia Ledger: Accompanying the report of the fourth assistant postmaster general are tables showing in detail the number of postoffices of every class in the several states, the amount of business done, and the cost of

There are 5,365 offices of the presidential class, whose postmasters are appointed by the President and whose salaries are \$1,000 and upward. These offices are subdivided into three classes, the classification being based on amount of business done, which n turn determines the salary of the

There are 65.766 offices of the fourth class. For these the postmasters are appointed by the postmaster general. Like the presidential offices, salaries of postmasters of the fourth class are regulated by the amount of business done. The total number of postoffices of all classes is 71,131. During the year there was an increase of 226 presidential and a decrease of 3,364 fourth class offices. The latter change is attributable to the extension of the rural delivery system.

New York has the largest number of presidential offices, but stands

New York 407. Pennsylvania 387, Jeanette was pleased to hear that Elinois 334, Iowa 293, Ohio 276, Mich-Resourceless by character and with- she could go to visit some of her rela- igan 239. Texas 214. Indiana 196, out any profession or initiative, Rich- lives about four miles away and re- Missouri 183, Massachusetts 182, Minnard Villabois—for he has dropped the turn the next day. Punctually at the esota 176, Wisconsin 174, Kansas 170, Courses. seigniorial appellative of Briancourt— appointed hour M. Latour tapped at California 162, Nebraska 134, New

The number of fourth class offices is largely controlled by local circumhaving more than 1,000 fourth class of their importance:

ouri 2,550, Ohio, 2.373, Alabama 2,343. ed up the wooden flooring, under Mississippi 2,068, Arkansas 2,007, itox 190 At the period of this narrative, M. which lay a stone slab with an iron Tennessee 1,926, Illinois 1,895, Michi-

Carolina 1,119, Maine 1,037. "One-two-three paces to the right | Maryland has 955 offices of the Oklahoma, with 796 offices, outranks

those at the New York offices were while you loosen the earth around with \$12,284,103; Ohio, \$8,201,932; Missouri, \$6,550,984; Michigan, \$4,498,all his feeble force to remove the sur- \$3,496,755; New Jersey, \$3,453,588; Wisconsin, \$3,298,927; Texas, \$3,-

The crew of a Dutch fishing vessel which was in a collision in the North "But how shall we open the chest Sea resently were all down below at nrovers when the dieseter occurred.

The Queen of Greece is a Jachtswo-

Queen Alexandra is greatly interested in photography The Queen of Italy has chosen shooting and motoring as her principal hob-

There is a boat in a canal north of London which is entirely "manned" by The Empress of Russia has a passion for caricaturing and the collection of

Mrs. Louise G. Smith, whose mother was a sister of Thomas Jefferson, j dead at Louisville.

The Queen of Norway and Sweden outside of her family and public life, is devoted to religion.

When an unmarried woman dies in Brazil the coffin, hearse and livery of the coachman are all scarlet. Although eighty-five years old. Mrs.

Sarah McLaughlin, of Lynn, Mass., does a good day's work binding shoes. The hobbies of Queen Wilhelmina, the "girl Queen" of Holland, are skating and riding, but from childhood she has devoted herself to raising poultry. Women of the Spanish aristocracy , have given jewels valued at £15.000 to

wonder-working silver image of the Virgin in Seville's cathedrai. Louise Michel, the famous French Anarchist, has almost entirely recovered from the severe attack of pleuropneumonia which nearly ended her stormy career recently. She is seventy.

four years old. Therese Humbert, who is confined in the prison at Rennes, has developed such a mania for writing abusive, incoherent letters to officials concerning the supposed dissipation of the Crawford millions, that the authorities are considering her transference to an asylum for the insane.

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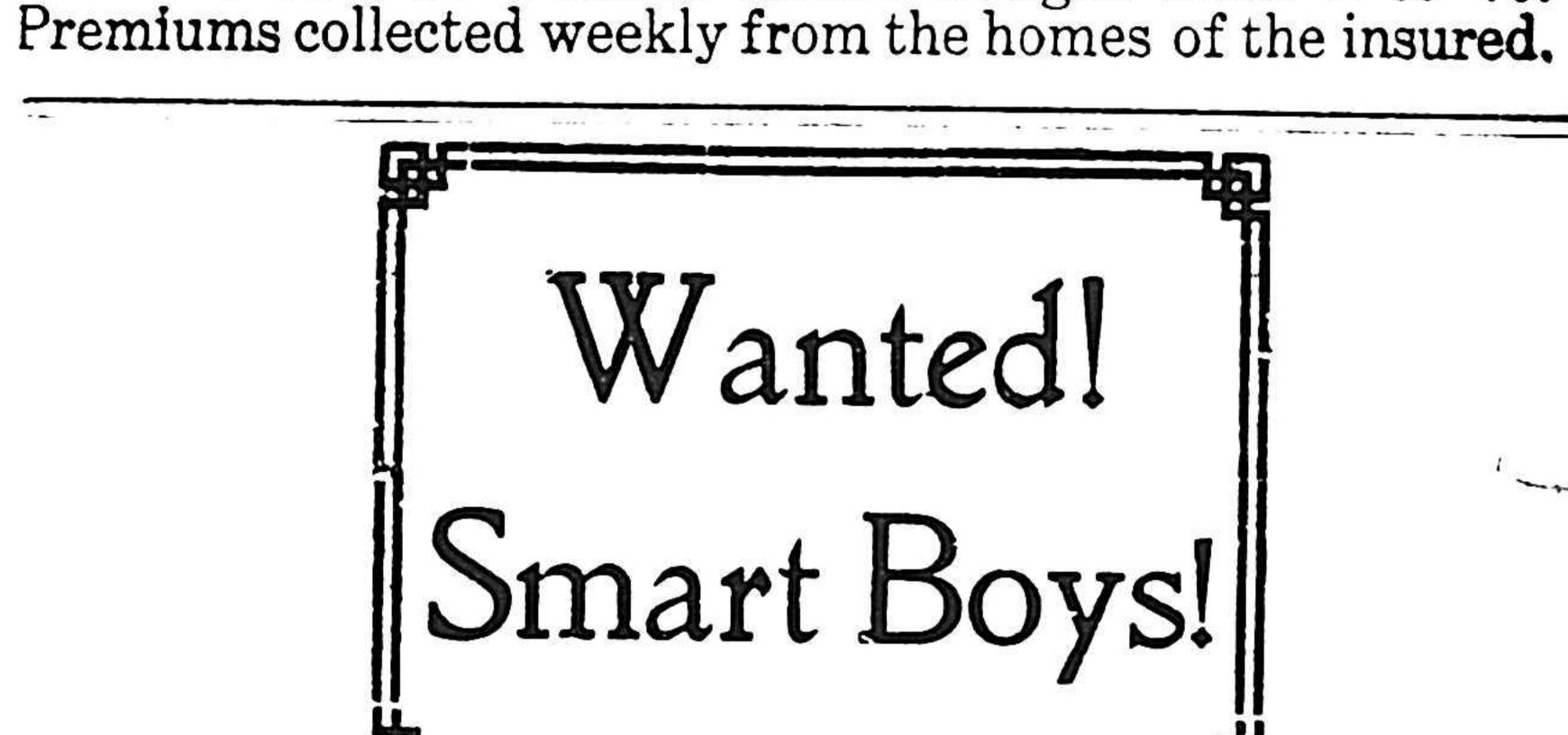
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