

argued in favour of the increase to the Chief Watch.

27. Howbeit they promised to consider the matter in the leisure of their own homes, for many of them remembered what lately befell their brethren when they had decided too hastily on a previous occasion.

28. So they returned, every man to his house, and not one of them was able to read the cunning riddle aright.

### CHAPTER III.

1. Now was the anger of the people not yet appeased which had been stirred up against the Chief Watch of the city.

2. For many of them thought and asserted that their liberties were in great danger, and that the law was perverted so that it became a terror to those who did well.

3. And one of the citizens spake the following parable to his brethren—

4. "A certain man went to his house to partake of the chief meal of the day, as was his wont;

2. And, lo! when he cometh to his house, the wife of his bosom was not there to receive and welcome him as had been her custom hitherto; and the fire also had gone out.

6. Now did this man marvel greatly for the like had never happened to him before in all the days of his life.

7. So he made diligent inquiry amongst his neighbours, but none could enlighten him in regard to this strange occurrence.

8. But while he still wondered, behold a messenger came with a letter which he hastily opened and read.

9. And the writing thereof was to the effect that his wife had been cast into prison, and that he must come and bring ten pieces of silver to release her therefrom.

10. So he went and brought her home, marvelling much what she had done against the law, so he asked her to explain how she came to be imprisoned.

11. And she told how that while passing through the streets of the city, she had paused to look in at one of the many windows where the merchants exposed the goods which they sold;

12. And while she still looked she felt a hand rudely laid on her shoulder, and while she remonstrated with the man of the law, she was conveyed to the prison.

13. Moreover, also, while she was there, a message-boy also was brought in for daring to walk on the wayside with a burden on his head.

14. And they told him he must henceforth walk on the part of the street set aside for the lower animals."

15. Now did the citizens marvel at these things, and he upbraided himself greatly, for