

he was one who had voted for the increase to the Chief Watch.

16. But many greater things were also laid to the charge of the Chief Watch, and the ruler of the Foot-of-the-Dee swore that he would avenge the wrongs of the people.

17. For he had much enmity to the Chief Watch, for they had long quarrelled one with another, and they held far different creeds.

18. So they waited only a chance for one to pounce upon the other, and the citizens watched them closely, for they knew that the day of battle was close at hand.

19. And the women and maids of the city dared not stir out after the setting of the sun; for if any ruffian molested them they had no remedy.

20. Moreover, in times past, they would have called for the watchman, but the time is now come when they fear the one as much as the other.

21. Verily had evil days fallen on the city, yet was not vice any the less rampant, but only that it was done more

secretly, while the method of detection was annoying to the better class of citizens.

22. Howbeit, the citizens bore it all with patience, for they knew that a day of reckoning was near, and it comforted them greatly to reflect that the great men of the nation were even now about to consider their grievances.

23. For it was openly stated that they had molested a respectable widow, who earned a precarious income by the plying of her needle, and who had occasion to be in the streets of the city after the setting of the sun.

24. And people also wrote letters to the scribes from distant parts of the earth, setting forth that they had also been the victims of the over-officious members of the watchmen of the city.

25. So the citizens waited patiently until the higher courts of the land should prove the truth or falsity of these reports, although many were meantime afraid that great influence would be exerted to hush these matters up.