

and saw, as the only serious piece of business before the meeting, the Councillors clubbing pennies apiece, in order to defray, in the utter lack of town funds, the expense of a nine-penny postage. And then, with, I fear, a very inadequate sense of the responsibilities of my new office, I stayed away from the Council board, and did nothing whatever in its behalf, with astonishing perseverance and success, for three years together. And thus began and terminated my municipal career,—a career which, I must confess, failed to secure for me the thanks of my constituency ; and then, on the other hand, I am not aware that the worthy people ever seriously complained. There was absolutely nothing to do in the councilship ; and, unlike some of my brother office-bearers, the requisite nothing I did, quietly and considerately, and very much at my leisure, without any unnecessary display of stump-oratory, or of anything else.