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Am putting this on a separate page in case you file this separately.

No success whatever tracking down the Constable from Barnstable. Finally last week had the right kind of time when the Mill Valley library was open and spent most of one afternoon there with a very helpful librarian, a very stubborn lady who became so frustrated she did almost nothing else but help us search, and was still at it when we had to leave. We checked all the books they had on quotations (quite a few), limericks, Gilbert and Sullivan (Pirates of Penzance, because of the locale); she suggested children's counting-out rhymes, but that book was out. When we left she was still turning pages and muttering to herself, "Perhaps Ogden Nash ... ?" Unless the Constable is in a first line, though, that would be quite a job. ~~W~~ Toward the end she was all for sending a message to the reference section of the state library system but we dissuaded her, not knowing - after all this time - how interested you are now in tracking this down.

On the second visit presented the problem to the children's librarian, also most helpful. (She was not on duty the first day we went.) The Constable from Barnstable rang a small bell in her mind but she couldn't think where it could be found. (This was also true, by the way, of friends we asked. Some had heard of it but couldn't think where it could be found.) This librarian thought it was the kind of thing one might find in books by an English author of children's books, E. Nesbit, but that would mean reading all of them and they have almost a shelf-ful. We asked about counting-out rhymes and she named the same one in the adult section which was out.

Seems to be the end of the line here, Constable-wise. Sorry it took us so long to end up with zero.