

Pine Co. Pioneer.

W. P. GOTTRY, Publisher.
PINE CITY, MINN.

JANUARY—1897.

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31

A great many inquiries are constantly made in regard to the size of Cuba. It is 730 miles long and from 30 to 150 miles wide.

Three expeditions are going to try to discover the south pole next summer. If they find it they may use it to punch out the north pole with.

Boston's police records show that there were 31,200 cases of cholera in Boston in that city last year. It doesn't sound so bad when you put it that way.

The list of patients from the general commissioner's office in Washington for the other day shows that a total of 18,940 patients were issued the past year.

It is now claimed that cholera can be easily cured by a wonderful new remedy which has been found, however, who is willing to have the cholera just to test the medicine.

Cancer lakes in Oregon, has the distinction of being the deepest lake in the world. It is only five miles in circumference and 2,600 feet deep. It is a bowl of water in the heart of an extinct volcano.

A new instrument, called the phonendoscope, enables the skillful medical man to hear the sounds emitted by all the organs of the human body—the heart, the lungs, the liver, etc.—and discover if they are in a healthy condition or otherwise.

Judge Parker, of Fort Smith, Ark., died a few weeks since, was known for a long time as the "hanging Judge" of the West. He had given his services on the bench as judge of the western district of that state 154 persons were convicted in his court for capital offenses, 84 of whom were hanged.

A new gunboat, the Annapolis, was launched in New Jersey the other day and was christened by Miss Emily Porter, the widow of the late Admiral Porter. A boat christened with champagne by a lady of the name of Porter and launched in water should be acceptable to the adherents of every class of beverages.

Medical men are calling attention to the dangers from the abuse of cocaine. It was found to be an excellent remedy for colds, but it is now known that it is an intoxicant, and when used to excess breeds serious disease in the throat. That it is used to excess and a dangerous habit is fixed upon the users are facts now well understood.

It would be untrue to assert that the Connecticut Yankee's inventive genius began and ended with the original wigmaking machine. The descendants of that shrewd gentleman and the descendants of his neighbors clearly possess the same creative gift. During the past year it appears from the patent office report that 240 inventors were granted letters patent of invention, or one patent to every 294 inhabitants of the state. No other state can show such a record.

The New York Advertiser notes that the idiot who "did not know it was loaded" is the woman who locks her children in the house while she goes to visit a neighbor and the man who thinks out of doors of dynamite. The Hebrews are doing their part almost daily towards removing the superfluous population. It will not do to say that these persons should have read the news paper, for it is evident that the Hebrews had something to say about the importance of removing their folly from a fool, even if he be hanged in a mortuary.

A German genius has invented "heatable shoes." Within the hollowed-out heel is a receptacle for a substance similar to that used in Japanese hand-warmers. Between the soles of the shoe and the receptacle is a rubber tube which is filled with water. The heat of the body is heated above the heel and is made to circulate. A small safety valve is provided to prevent the bursting of the bag. It is claimed that a temperature of 100° Fahr. can be maintained for fully eight hours. All men need now is a machine to breathe for him and to kick if his meals are not ready on time.

Don't think for a moment that any medicine will take the place of right living. Don't fret, whatever else you do, don't fret; you don't worry, keep cool and your temperament will be maintained for fully eight hours. All men need now is a machine to breathe for him and to kick if his meals are not ready on time.

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CHILDREN BURNED.

Fifteen Infants of a Texas Orphanage Home Lose Their Lives.

A Search of the Ruins Discloses the Charred Remains of the Luckless Little Ones—Several Others Badly Injured.

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 18.—Fifteen little girls and boys are dead as a result of Friday night's fire at the Dallas orphan home and nine others are so cool enough for search for bodies in the ashes until early Saturday morning.

At least five children had been burned to death. The fires which began about o'clock Friday night and raged until the boys' dormitory was destroyed, did not cool enough for search for bodies in the ashes until early Saturday morning.

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PINE COUNTY PIONEER.

PINE CITY, MINN., JANUARY 22, 1897.

CHIPS AND SHAVINGS.

*Great Chips Picked up Around Town
and Shavings Clipped From Our
Exchanges.*

—For Rent—One store and three rooms upstairs. Call at Mrs. Conner's.

—W. F. Glascow spent Wednesday in Stillwater on business, returning on Thursday.

—Make your arrangements so as to take in the masquerade Washington's birthday.

—We are selling Mufflers and Muffs below cost. G. A. CARLSON, Rush City, Minn.

Kashik & Hoeder have a number of fine milk cows for sale. Go and secure a bargain.

—J. Y. Breckenridge spent a couple of days in the middle of the week in the Twin cities.

—The Minneapolis Bargain Store, at Rush City, is closing out stock at 50 cents on the dollar.

—Everything must be sold with in 20 days, at the Minneapolis Bargain Store, Rush City, Minn.

—Last Sunday was a genuine old Dakota blizzard day. The snow was piled in drifts as fast as it fell.

—Remember, you buy for one dollar, two dollars worth of goods at the Minneapolis Bargain Store, Rush City.

—Further particulars next week in regard to the masque ball given by the band boys the twenty-second of next month.

—The First State Bank buys and sells domestic and foreign exchange, draws its own drafts on all the principal cities of Europe.

—On Tuesday morning A. E. Webber departed for Chicago to see about disposing of the piling he has purchased this winter.

—Two missions are holding services in the Presbyterian church every night this week. They report having good congregations.

—For the past two days Robert Hoffman's sawing machine at his mill has remained idle, it being the first time in over three weeks.

—A. G. Perkins departed on Friday of last week for Rush City to be doctored by the physicians of that place. At last report he was improving.

—The recent snow has somewhat stopped the hauling of logs to this village, but as soon as the roads are again broken out, they will come as fast as ever.

—Mrs. F. J. Brady and child returned to her home in St. Paul on Tuesday, after spending a few days at the residence of her mother, Mrs. M. Murphy.

—The proceeds of the masquerade ball to be given by the band boys next month will go toward buying new instruments, of which the boys are sadly in need.

—Mrs. F. A. Hodge accompanied by her son Webster, departed on Tuesday to spend the week with Senator Hodge at the Merchants Hotel in St. Paul.

—The following contributions have been made toward the erection of the new G. A. R. hall:

Fred A. Hodge \$50.00 Mrs. J. Stens \$10.00 John F. Stens \$5.00 W. S. Johnson \$10.00 George W. O'Brien \$10.00 John Fletcher \$5.00

—Whoever thought that the logs in and around this place were cut years ago should go down to the mill. Mr. Greig has a white pine 18 feet log there that scales over 900 feet.

—Services in the M. E. church Sunday next as follows: Morning, at 10:30, subject, "The Believer's Privilege." Evening at 7:30—"Highway of Holiness." All are welcome.

—Just a year ago the twentieth of this month H. J. Rath bought the first load of logs. This year on the twentieth he had bought four hundred and twenty-five thousand at the mill besides what he has on Pokegama and Cross lakes.

—Goodrich & Jennings, of Anoka, had an agent in this vicinity during the past week, selling their extracts, liniments and salves to lumbermen and merchants throughout the country. He left on Wednesday for Mora, and from there he goes home.

—Found—On the streets of this village, one day this week, a brown clasp pocket book, containing articles of value. The owner can have the same by calling at the Central meat market, proving property and paying for this notice.

—We won't agree to pay your fare to Rush City if you buy too many dollars worth of goods of us, but we do agree to sell goods so cheap that you will save more than enough.

G. A. CARLSON,
Rush City, Minn.

—The band boys will give a grand masquerade ball on Washington's birthday, the twenty-second of next month. The arrangements are all completed and those that enjoy tripping the light fantastic, will have a chance to do so in fine shape at the masque ball February 22.

—The social given by the ladies of the M. E. church at the residence of H. Taylor as advertised last week was a decided success both socially and financially. The program consisting of singing, recitations, readings and charades, was fine, and reflects credit upon those who took part.

—Samuel Leslie, of Waseca, who has been visiting his daughter Mrs. Chas. Mosher, returned to his home on Monday. Mr. Leslie holds the first premium and one of the premium medals of the World's Fair Exposition for dairy butter. He also holds the first premium of this state.

—Louis Sticha & Petricka, of the firm of Sticha & Petricka, informed us of Wednesday noon that he had sold seven car loads of wood to a party by the name of Sullivan, of Minneapolis, and was to ship it from here during this week. The best of the deal is that Sullivan paid the cash down as soon as the deal was closed.

—Robert Greig informs us that in the near future he intends to go into the poultry business. He will build a large barn thirty by forty feet and cover it with a hip roof. He will then use the building he now uses as a hen house for the cutting and hauling the piling and they have been strapped for some time, but now they will be flushed again. The piling men had stopped hauling thinking that there would be no sale for them, but we notice at this writing that they have commenced to haul again. There are thousands of feet of piling cut in the timber yards and the market is dead. We are pleased to know that the Coolee company have decided to purchase piling in this place; they have purchased piling here before, those selling to them will be sure of being used right. The price we understand is eight cents per foot.

—Mr. Blomquist, of Minneapolis, was here last Wednesday, looking after some land that he recently purchased in this section of the county. Mr. Blomquist says that he will have a crew of men here in the spring to open up the NE1 of Section 1, Township 38, Range 21, which lays on the south bank of the Snake river, and will bring in a beautiful summer resort.

—Mothers whose children are troubled with bad colds, croup or whooping cough will do well to send what Dr. R. E. Robey of Olney, Mo., says on this subject. He writes: "For years we have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and always keep it in the house. It is regarded in our family as a specific for all kinds of coughs and colds. The 25 and 50 cent bottles for sale by J. Y. Breckenridge, Pine City.

—Persons who are troubled with indigestion will be interested in the experiences of Wm. H. Penn, chief clerk in the railway mail service at Des Moines, Iowa, writes: "It gives me pleasure to testify to the merits of Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy. For two years I have suffered from indigestion, and am subject to frequent severe attacks of pain in the stomach and bowels. One or two doses of this remedy never fails to give perfect relief. Price 25 and 50 cents. Sold by J. Y. Breckenridge, Pine City."

—W. P. Gentry spent Tuesday afternoon and evening in the Twin cities. He went down to see about changing the make up of this paper which goes into effect this week. We have been cramped for room for some time on account of legal and other advertising so that we have not had space for locals and reading matter. By the change we make about a column and a half more space which will greatly improve the reading portion of this paper. We will now be better prepared than ever to publish the news of the county, and this we will strive to do and make the PIONEER the best and newest paper in the country.

—Paul Perkins came up on Monday to spend a few days at his home in this place. One of the ninth of months Paul was going from the Plymouth, where he is employed in the fur department, to his boarding house he jumped on to a delivery sleigh to ride home. The horse became frightened and threw him out, striking his head on the pavement. He was taken to Asbury hospital and remained unconscious until four o'clock in the morning. The doctor informed him that if he had not had on his thick cap and coat collar turned up it would be all probability have killed him. He will return to work on Monday of next week.

—Dr. Cady's Condition Powders, they just what a horse needs when in bad condition. Tonic, blood purifier and vermifuge.

—We take this method of expressing our sincere thanks to all our friends, neighbors and especially the Riverside Circle, who so kindly assisted us during the deep trial through which we have just passed.

—My daughter, when recovering from an attack of fever, was a great sufferer from pain in the back and hips," writes Loudon Gruber, of Sardinia, Ky. "After using quite a number of remedies without any benefit, she tried one bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm, and it has given entire relief." Chamberlain's Pain Balm is also a certain cure for rheumatism. Sold by J. Y. Breckenridge, Pine City, Minn.

—The progressive ladies of Westfield, Ind., issued a "Woman's Edition" of the Westfield News, bearing date April 3, 1896. The paper is filled with matter of interest to women and we notice the following from a correspondent, which the editors printed, realizing that it treats upon a matter of vital importance to their sex: "The best remedy for croup, colds and bronchitis that I have been able to find is Chamberlain's cough remedy. For family use it has no equal. I gladly recommend it." 25 and 50 cent bottles for sale by J. Y. Breckenridge, Pine City.

—The agent for the Coolee company, of Minneapolis, arrived on Tuesday to inspect and purchase the piling that has been drawn in here during the past two months. This company pays cash for all they buy, and as there is a great many feet to be bought here, when the boys get their cash times will pick up in this place. This is what the boys have been waiting for; most of them having paid out their money for the cutting and hauling the piling and they have been strapped for some time, but now they will be flushed again.

—About the most pleasant sight ride party this winter left here Saturday evening for Gus Section's camp on Willow Lake. Despite the heavy snow and the fact that the trail was turned out, and voted it a most enjoyable time, and when a supper in the party was twenty people, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Atwood, having come up on a special car for the purpose.

—*An EDITOR'S SUPPLICATION.*

N. J. Smith, editor of the Ackley Phonograph, and publisher of the Primary School, says the Mariontown Press, and was called to lead in prayer, to whom he said to have responded in the following and appropriate fashion:

"Lord, we thank Thee for the privilege we have had to lead in prayer to Thee, we thank Thee for the opportunity we have had to serve Thee. We are pleased to know that the Coolee company have decided to purchase piling in this place; they have purchased piling here before, those selling to them will be sure of being used right. The price we understand is eight cents per foot."

—Mouton, of Hopkinsville, Iowa, was in this village last week looking over the country preparatory to settling there. He represented eight or nine families, who sent him out here to look over the country and report to them. Mr. Mouton was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Hause, and this place, and all of the land he looked at, and places he visited this place struck him the most favorably, and the land on the West side of Mission creek, between the creek and the Snake river, was the best of any he had found since he had left home. Before leaving home a gentleman told him that he could not bring an heir of course raised and that got ripe in this country, he was so sure of it that he was willing to buy an acre or two at a time. He was to set some in every place he was but did not succeed, when he received here a reporter of this paper took him out to Arthur Stephan's place and went out into the field and hauled about a dozen of ears, which were very good, compared with any grown in Iowa. When he then drove to John Li VanGordons where he got a dozen more ears, which he said was better than any he had seen at home. He informed us that down in his country they do not grow any kind of corn or climate to have here. One man said when he told him where he was going, "Why Marion, Pine County is just the place for you to go to, for when you want ice all you have to do is go out on the lake and break and cut it, even in the middle of the winter." We are of the opinion that if that gentle man was here one of our hot days in July he would change his mind in regard to the climate of Pine county.

—CARD OF THANKS.

I desire to take this opportunity of thanking those who in any way contributed to the very pleasant surprise that came to me on the evening of Thursday, January 14. Though completely unexpected, it was none the less appreciated. I shall always regard it as my most valuable possession, and will always consider it a memento of many friends in Pine City. On behalf of myself and family,

H. TAYLOR.

—CARD OF THANKS.

We take this method of expressing our sincere thanks to all our friends, neighbors and especially the Riverside Circle, who so kindly assisted us during the deep trial through which we have just passed.

JOHN W. HUNT AND FAMILY.

—DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

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JOHN W. HUNT AND FAMILY.

THE COZIEST TIME.

On, the five-o'clock chime brings the cessation of work in the whole of the day, When I leave this and the others of us Come in from our study and the room. When we push the big chair to the heart, And pile the wood higher and higher, And make her a space in the very best place.

And mother sits down by the fire. There's a great deal to say at the close of the day, And much to talk over with mother; There's a continual sight or a horrid plight. Or a sad game, or something or other. And shell laugh with Larry, and sing with Harry.

And make our hearts a little deader. At a trumphant war, a little dead. When sitting down there by the fire, Then little shall care for the clothes we wear.

"Oh," said she, "you ain't got m'nough money to subscribe to the paper. If one o' you gentlemen 'll be good enough as to place himself under my direction I give you my honest word we'll have the only half in this head town."

"Well, perhaps we didn't pump the offer, and, after he'd picked out his name, made him tell what plan we was. 'Pm going to have you carry it out. The next morning we went looking out for a game and cheerful, a contrast to the gloom set we had been. Whenever anybody gave us the razzle-dazzle, begging your pardon (the apology was in the Poet's direction) we were to get general and specific."

When mother sits down by the fire — Martha Burr Banks, in N. Y. Independent.

THEY ABDUCTED THE BAND.

And Spoiled the Dance Given by the Rival Set.

The returned Cow Puncher set down his cup of black coffee after he had taken the first sip, and pursed up his mouth into an expression of scorn.

"Slop," he said, briefly. The Poet made a gesture of protest.

"Others say it's strong enough for you," said the Cow Puncher.

"What?"

"The coffee."

"It was your expression to which I objected."

"When I said the stuff was—"

"Spoil us a repetition?" interrupted the Poet.

"Well, I suppose my imagery is rather too epic for you. So would the coffee be that I had in mind—I wish I had it in this cup as well—when I spoke. U-m-m!" And the Cow Puncher closed his eyes with the look of a satisfied epicurean. At last he opened them again, and then pointed the finger at us, when we had them at the proper point, we swore to them that no hand was coming that we knew it, and they were willing to stake all our future chances as entertainers on it. Well, they were so anxious to have us come to our party that the hand didn't turn up, and that was all we asked. Our Kentucky cavalier had the band.

"That's some more of your epic imagery," laughed the Boys' Own Story Writer.

"Pretty strong coffee, evidently," remarked the Poet, "but it doesn't seem to have been able to affect brass."

The Cow Puncher carelessly knocked the ash off the end of his cigarette and recited this: "Food's out of the tail of his eye, but 'Terror's a great state' was all that he said."

"It was two years ago," he resumed, after a pause, "that we gave our famous dance, upon which glorious occasion we exuberantly scrooped the royal cover of the other end of the town."

"I thought you were a poet," interposed the Poet, with deep suspicion.

"Did you think I spent three years on there and saw only one view? But then you don't understand the lives of men of action, I suppose, and I must be too hard on you."

"About that dance?" asked the Poet.

"Ah, that was a great event!" exclaimed the Cow Puncher, lighting a fresh cigarette. "You see, the idea originated with our end of the town, and naturally it felt that we'd had a right to an employment like that, too. Anybody, that is, except our deadly rivals. No sooner had the news of our scheme got out than they began to lay their plans for a how-doyou-do, and on the same night as ours, mind you!"

"What differences did that make?" groaned the Poet.

"Well, it made just this difference:

There wasn't room in that town for two bulls, and everybody knew it. It lay between us to get the crowd. We couldn't both get it, and neither of us could get half a crowd. Things don't go well when you're in competition with each other."

"Every day I go to the town where they are, and the other one doesn't have a temporal guard. We know this, so we have taken care to engage the only man in the town before we let a word of our plans get out. This music consisted of a fiddle (cracked) played by a fiddler (who was also cracked), accompanied by a violinist (who had a way of going off into a fit of gamps when you were most depending on him).

"It was a great thing for us to have secured the music, because that, we know, would provide a terrible handicap to our rivals. But we were able to do something better than that of their own men who played the mouth organ, and didn't amount to much even at that, inasmuch as he had only one lung. We felt pretty jubilant, I tell you; and the other fellows looked correspondingly blue. But this didn't last long. One day we heard the other one say, 'We could scarcely believe our ears, but ample proof was soon furnished us that the dreadful tale was true. Our rivals had hired a Mexican band from a town about 50 miles away.'

"That settled our case. We had a considerable time and came home to the conclusion that we must compete with them, but we had to admit that they were as good as hopeless. We immediately enlarged the scope of the supplier we had promised. Of course there was to have been black coffee—that was what reminded me of the dance—and we promptly sent out an embassy to spread the news in the town that our eating programme had been doubled. All the time, though, we knew it was a forlorn hope.

"You see, it was this way: The feminine element of our community was limited. Females were at a premium, even if every woman in the

place turned out, and where the women went, there you could be dead sure the men would go, too. Well, the women wouldn't tolerate a minute if it came to a choice between a good meal and a poor and a good deal better music. We knew that, and we felt as if we might as well lay our hands down and give up the game. There was a fellow there from Kentucky, though, and the day after the band came he brought with him a good enough instrument to make a road band come out looking for him at the corner with one of his most effective blue-grass-country salutes. We returned the compliments of the evening, and he sat down at the table.

"How's the party comin' on?" he asked.

"We groaned.

"Oh," said he, "you ain't got m'nough money to subscribe to the paper. If one o' you gentlemen 'll be good enough as to place himself under my direction I give you my honest word we'll have the only half in this head town."

"Well, perhaps we didn't pump the offer, and, after he'd picked out his name, made him tell what plan we was. 'Pm going to have you carry it out. The next morning we went looking out for a game and cheerful, a contrast to the gloom set we had been. Whenever anybody gave us the razzle-dazzle, begging your pardon (the apology was in the Poet's direction) we were to get general and specific."

When mother sits down by the fire — Martha Burr Banks, in N. Y. Independent.

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

WORKING THE ROADS.

Farmers Can Well Afford to Devote Their Time to This Task.

Much has been said and written about country roads and the proper way to keep them in repair during the year round. But much of it applies only where gravel or crushed stone can be obtained with which to make a road bed unaffected by rains and standing water. In many sections of the country gravel is obtained upon a perfectly flat surface, it becomes mixed with the soil during wet weather and soon is lost. The first thing to be done is to grade the road. The graveling or macadamizing can then be done at leisure. The graveling is the easiest part of the work of the roads. The dirt from the ditch at the sides is carried to the middle and left in a rounded form, highest in the center. Care must be taken to obtain the sides slope all the way from the center to the bottom of the ditch. The material is then packed and rolled across the roadway, making it soft and muddy. Make good efforts for these ditches to carry the water off and keep the road dry, and also that they may serve for outlets for the for and oil tanks.

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TAKE COURAGE.

We think we suffer greatly now,
Through the loss of or mind or right
In the loss of our love or our health.
We toss till morning light.

Dear friends forsake us and we mourn
Their loss, or fortune fails.
Or we are poor, or we are assaul
A truth or cause we prize.

"This world's a wilderness of woe,"

"We solemnly declare."

"The world is ours, we inquire,

Does joy dwell anywhere?"

Methinks the out-born sower had

The same doubts as it lay

Down in earth, and cold

And dead day after day.

But life within could not rest.

It struggled to free,

With all its might, burst its bonds,

And 'tis a great kick!"

Lotty and strong and beautiful,

Its branches spreading wide,

The leaves quiver in the breeze,

It stands in power and pride.

And so to us will come a change

More beautiful and grand,

Than ever mortal man knew,

In life or in death.

The God within us cannot rest,

But will at length arise,

In might and in power forever

And bring the skies above.

Then let us courage take, and strength,

Though rough may be the way,

Each step will lead us higher on

The path of realms of perfect day.

—Elizabeth A. Almstrum, in "Woman's Journal."

MR. KERSHAW'S BABY.

BY W. FELT RIDGE.

WE knocked about a pretty tidy bit in my time—indeed, as much as 15 years ago, I don't write this story from the standpoint of a grown-up, but it is ignorant of the world. The wonderful occurrence, and I take notice of little incidents sometimes in a way that surprises even myself. Incidents, I mean, that other people overlook. The junior partner called me the other evening a sharp fad, and "pon my word he was for sure a sharp fad." I said, "I'm not sharp, I only wish to hint that what I don't notice isn't worth noticing. I've picked out a horse sometimes, and I've—

But I want to tell you about Mr. Kershaw. Mr. Kershaw is one of the senior clerks in our office; he's the one with either rough hair, and a collar turned down low all the way round. Most of the clerks are smart and wear high collars, and they wear neckties, too, though, I must say. All nice gentlemanly fellows there were, but I never heard Mr. Kershaw use such language before. He was a tall terror.

"Billing, why aren't these inksafe seen to?"

"Peg pardon, sir, but—" "I've had to speak to you before about the Billing."

"I can't do 40,000 things a minute, sir."

"Another word of your confounded insolence, and I shall speak to the firm to discharge you from service."

"That ain't insolence, sir, it's simply a fact. If I want to be insolent I know a lot of words."

"Go away, Billing! I'll have a perfect nuisance in the office if I shall take an extra moment of talking the firm to gods out for decent food."

That's the sort of thing that went on day after day, me and Mr. Kershaw going at it hammer and tongs. I should have got really cross at it only that Mr. Kershaw was just the same with all the other clerks, and I didn't care. The grumpiest man, I venture to say, that ever came to the city from Dulwich of a morning since the line's been opened.

One night Mr. Kershaw went away for three weeks' holiday, and when he came back, the first news was that he was married.

"Now," I said to Linkson, who copied the letters, "now you mark my words, Old K—'ll change his manner."

"For better or for worse?" asked Linkson.

"There's something wrong

Kershaw hanging up his hat and smoothing his hair high. "One of the young partners said she was as neat a girl as ever I saw."

"Billing," shouted Mr. Kershaw, furiously from his office, "come here at once!"

I save argument I went.

"Wilson's good enough to explain," demanded Mr. Kershaw, hotly, "to explain. Billing, the condition of this table? Look here! I can write my name on it."

"So could I, sir," I said. "There's nothing clever in that."

"Why on earth isn't the place dusted properly?" I shouted. "Why do I come back here?"

"Eavesdrop!" I snarled.

"And this place neglected in this manner? Get a duster at once."

"Right, sir."

"But it is not right, Billing!" he declared.

"Very good, sir," I said. "It's wrong. I'll fetch the duster in 'half a tick.' But first of all I 'op' it won't seem out of place if I congratulate you, sir, on what I may term a recent matrimonial event."

"I'm a duster at once, Billing," he said, sharply, "and don't let us have quite so much talk. It's not business."

I felt very glad that Linkson hadn't booked that bed of three hours, because I most certainly had to have a seat.

Mr. Kershaw's marriage surprise, I suppose, I'm not at all aware that it wasn't used. I used to say to Linkson he'd done his duty on that bed, and when he had their trunks in the city were generally men who were not allowed to show them in their own homes. But, somehow, I'd an idea that this was not the case with Mr. Kershaw.

About 12 months after his marriage the alteration that I want to tell you about came. I was the first to notice it, and I passed the news round the office. There happened to be a number of clerks in the office that afternoon to see some people my mother-in-law was for. What does Mr. Kershaw do but look up from his table quite cheerfully and say:

"By all means, Billing."

"Much obliged to you, sir."

"Please to take your young lady out for the day, Billing!"

I never saw Mr. Kershaw smile before, and upon my word it took my breath away for a moment.

"No, sir," I said. "I've broke it all off with her."

"Sorry to hear that."

"Fact of the matter is, sir, she was a bit too fond of fourpenny iceas. Turned up her nose, bless you, at twopenny ones. Worse, though. And when she began to shell out fourpence after fourpence, and saw her getting losable at each icea, why—"

"It is not with her then, that you wish to spend the afternoon?"

I explained, and Mr. Kershaw rose from his desk and sat on the corner of a table, just as though he was the most cheerful gentleman in the city.

"Why, that's singular," he said, good-temperately.

"I don't know about that, sir," I answered. "There's nine of us at all."

"But, what I mean to say, it's odd. Because, do you know, Billing, I have a little arrival at home. And that's a boy, too."

"Oh, boy, sir, may I say?"

"They've just called, and I thought perhaps you wouldn't mind if I slipped out for a few moments to show mother and baby the Tower bridge."

"Billing?"

"Do you mind—do you mind bringing your baby in here for a moment?" He coughed as though there was something in his throat. "I should rather like to see him."

"I thought the baby in myself, because I was afraid mother would drop her sashes and make me look silly in the way. I sat the little beggar on the table, and I'm blest if he didn't put out both his chubby arms to Mr. Kershaw, and he unlocked it."

"Beg pardon, sir, for troubling you, but my mother and baby—the baby—"

"Go on, Billing," he said, and turned his head.

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