

The Luck of Edmonton

By Kennett F. Harris.

EDMONTON looked worn and haggard—not at all as well as might be expected, as Barkstowe told him.

Barkstowe was telling his experience with his two—particularly when little James came to town.

"That's true, too," said Barkstowe. "Yes, that's true enough. Ah! You bet there will be some changes!"

"Well, you are going to find out that you ain't the whole thing any more. You play second fiddle and it's a solo for first all the time.

"I know all about that," said Barkstowe. "I'm one of the most self-forgetful people you ever saw myself, but when you undertake to tell a woman something interesting about yourself—

"I suppose so," said Edmonton, with evident incredulity. "And so far as losing sleep is concerned," pursued Barkstowe.

"I'll tell you what you've got to do now, Eddie; you've got to cultivate patience and acquire a catlike tread and the faculty of carrying on an animated conversation in a whisper.

"I will come when I haven't got anything better to do," said Edmonton, looking at his watch.

"Do you mean that your mother and your wife's mother are going to make you a visit at the same time?" asked Barkstowe.

"Certainly. They're both anxious to see the baby."

Barkstowe rose and heaved a deep sigh. He drew on his gloves, looking mournfully at his friend and shaking his head in a manner expressive of the most gloomy foreboding.

He had not spoken to his wife about his fears of a conflict between the two grandmothers, for the doctor had cautioned him to keep all intelligence of an unpleasant nature from her.

"I wish, as they are to be here together, they could both come together," she whispered, with an eye on the stout woman who was knitting over by the window.

"What difference would that make?" asked Edmonton. "Well, mamma will have a whole day's start of your mother, and she will be telling her all about baby's likes and dislikes and what he's been accustomed to, and all that sort of thing, and I'm afraid your mother may not like it."

"I expect you are having a terrible time right now," his wife continued, compassionately. "Getting along first rate," said Edmonton. "Everything's going along like clockwork."

"You don't miss me, then?" "Miss you! I should say I did. What's Mister Man doing there?" "Sleepin'. He doesn't do anythin' else but sleep, b'ess 'e pweicious heart. Want to see him, papa? Oh! see him frown, see him frown! Did you ever! Let's curvy him up quick. What d'wonderful face! Is Mary doing all right, Henry?"

"She's a treasure. I'm thinking seriously of raising her wages." "What was that I heard smash this morning?" "Smash! Well, you've got good ears. I didn't think you would hear that. What was it? Why, it was a — the saucer of one of the flower pots. She was watering the flowers, don't you know?"

"It didn't sound like that. Must you go? Henry, I don't see what that old thing has to stick around in here all the time for. Don't lean on the baby Henry."

It was nearly a month after that Barkstowe saw Edmonton again, and they had not talked five minutes before he complimented him upon his well fed and care-free appearance.

"That kid has never given me a moment of uneasiness since I last saw you. If you were in the house a week you'd hardly know there was a baby in the house."

"That's a fine thing," he said. "Still, I rather like a baby to whoop 'er up once in awhile. Shows it's alive and hasn't got anything the matter with its lungs."

"Oh, I guess mine whoops 'er up all right as far as that goes," said Edmonton, carelessly. "He doesn't bother me, though."

"You haven't quit your home and gone to boarding just because you think you're going to lose a night's rest occasionally?" asked Barkstowe, indignantly. "No; I'm still on tolerably good terms with my family."

"That's all right, then. Come and take dinner with me and we'll go to the theater after. We don't meet every day."

"I'd like to, but I'll have to get you to excuse me to-night," said Edmonton. "I'm going to take my wife to the theater."

CURRENT COMMENT.

Notes and Comments, Political and Otherwise, on Matters of Public Interest.

In order to kill the trusts we are advised not to use anything produced by them. If we could manage to get along a year or two without food, clothes or fire, the advice might be worth something, but to follow this plan under existing conditions the people would all be dead long before the trusts would begin to feel bad.

Thousands of the best and most intelligent citizens of the United States, as well as of Belgium and other countries, have petitioned President McKinley, asking him to offer his services toward mediation in the war between the Boers and the English.

If the Democrats of Pennsylvania do their duty in selecting candidates for the next legislature they will receive the support of thousands of Republicans who are determined that Quay rule in the Keystone state shall cease.

According to the Erie Times the Jarecki Manufacturing company a few days ago declared a dividend of 25 per cent on a capital stock of \$1,000,000, three-fourths of which is water.

Senator Pettigrew no doubt takes satisfaction in the fact that he is one of the most hated men in the senate by the imperialists of the millionaires' club.

The great law suit between Frick and Carnegie over \$10,000,000, which is comparatively a small sum to either of them, has brought out some interesting facts in regard to the benefits of protection to those who are able through the law to levy tribute on every customer.

The first volume of the Philippine commission's report makes a book of 264 pages and contains a great deal that the commission doesn't know about the Filipinos.

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Official white washing comes dear in this country when on an extensive scale. It appears from a response of Secretary Gage to a resolution of congress in regard to the expenditure of the \$50,000,000 war fund that it cost the United States \$105,144 to white wash former Secretary Alger; and it was a poor job at that.

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