The Luck of Edmonton

By Kennett F. Harris.

DMONTON looked worn and haggard-not at all as well as might be expected, as Barkstowe told him. He drew fanciful arabesques with his forefinger in the dust that had settled thickly on the inlaid card table, and his attention seemed to be divided between his visitor and the kitchen, from whence came the sound of somebody beating eggs with a fork. There seemed to be a great deal of dust in the room, with other indications that something had occurred to disturb the even tenor of the housework-as, for instance, a soiled gingham apron negligently draped on the back of a chair, a tray full of breakfast things and a rusty black bonnet on another table, a tin of mustard on the bookcase and an improvised clothesline full of white clothes over the register.

Barkstowe was telling his experience with his two-particularly when little James came to town, "Altogether, I felt much about the same way you're feeling now," he said. "But cheer up, old man; you'll get used to it."

"For Heaven's sake! Is that the best you can offer?" exclaimed Edmonton. "I haven't had any rest by night nor comfort by day for-let me see; this is the third day now. Waiting on a lot of incompetent, sassy females and paying them about ten times what they are worth! Just look at the place! I ain't particular, but-oh, well, I suppose I've got to put up with it for a few more days. But I want to tell you you're mistaken about one thing-I'm not going to get used to it. As soon as Emmie gets downstairs there's going to be a few changes."

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

"What do you mean? You're blamed mysterious all of a sudden. Break it to me as gently as possible, but let me have it.'

"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. They won't even notice when you go off and sulk."

"I'm no bloomin' egotist," said Edmonton.

"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 yourselfa woman who formerly thought that the Admirable Crichton was a poor stick alongside of you-and she listens with a stiff, mechanical smile and then says: 'Yes-no-er-I guess-what was it you said, Henry? I beg your pardon, my dear, but I thought I heard baby. Oh, Henry, you just don't know how cute he has been to-day!' That's what grinds, Eddie, my boy."

"I suppose so," said Edmonton, with

evident incredulity.

"And so far as losing sleep is concerned," pursued Barkstowe, "you don't begin to realize what it is. Wait until the colic period arrives."

"If it hasn't arrived now I don't know what it is," grumbled Edmonton.

"Nowhere near the real thing," said Barkstowe, with a superior smile. "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. You need to train your stomach to take anything that happens to be handy at any time that happens to be convenient and-but then you'll find it all out. The only thing that I want to impress on you is, that your troubles haven't begun, and that when they do hit you you won't be entitled to any particular sympathy, for what you will have to contend with the heft of male humanity is, has been or will be up against, and so it will continue while the grass grows and water runs and people are chumps enough not to know when they are well off. Ponder over that, young man!"

"I will some time when I haven't got anything better to do," said Edmonton, looking at his watch. "I don't want to turn you out, and I appreciate your efforts to console me, but I've got to meet my wife's mother on the 9:30 from Aurora. My mother will be here to-morrow."

"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 sighed again when he reached the hall and said: "Good-by, Eddie," in a sepulchral

It did not need this behavior on the part of Barkstowe to create misgivings in the mind of Edmonton. The young father had anticipated trouble from the time he had received the letter from his wife's mother announcing her intention of coming down to stay with "the dear girl," for his own mother had been beforehand with her telegram. It was not that either of the ladies was especially ferocious, but, at the same time, Edmonton knew that his mother had decided views on the care and management of children, which was largely owing to the fact that she had successfully reared him. He knew also that, while his wife's mother had always been kind and considerate toward him, she also had a Roman nose of a peculiarly aggressive type and a chin that, though double, was determination itself. Also she had not only brought up Emmie, but a younger sister as well, and they had both been most delicate children and afflicted beyond the common lot.

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. He did not think, however, that he was violating this injunction by telling her of the impending visits. Before he started for the train he found that she was going a little worrying on her own account.

"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." "Pshaw!" said Edmonton, believing

it, nevertheless. "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?" "S'eepin'. He doesn't do anysin' clse but s'eep, b'ess 'e pwecious heart. Want to see him, papa? Oh! see him frown, see him frown! Did you ever! Let's cuvvy him up quick. What dweadful

ously of raising her wages." "What was that I heard smash this morning?"

face! Is Mary doing all right, Henry?"

"She's a treasure. I'm thinking seri-

"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 he complimented him upon his well fed and care-free appearance. "Baby don't make you much trouble?" said, inquiringly.

"Trouble!" echoed Edmonton. "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."

Barkstowe looked puzzled. "Well 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 basn't got anything the matter with its

"Oh, I guess mine whoops 'er up all right as far as that goes," said Edmonton, carelessly. "He doesn't both er 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 Barstowe, indig-

"No; I'm still on tolerably good terms with my family."

"That's all right, then. Come and

"I'd like to, but I'll have to get you gression." He deserves the thanks of to excuse me to-night." said Ed. every good citizen for having the courmonton. "I'm going to take my wife age and ability to protest so emphati-

to the theater." Barkstowe staggered back and fanned himself with his hat. When he had sufficiently recovered he said: "I'I give you people up. I'm beat. I fee. as if it was my duty to call up the office of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and ask them to raid your house. What in thunder are you going to do with the baby-take

him along with you?"
"Hardly." replied Edmonton. "His two grandmothers 'll take care of him all right. It's the biggest snap you ever heard of," he continued. "They've been here a month now, and neither o: them wants to go before the other, and they're both of them ashamed to say so. I don't want either of them to go Say! Talk about having a kid taker care of! They won't even let Emmie take the youngster nights. That's at hopest fact; and they're just too politto each other. You see, Emma's moth er knows that my mother feels bad be cause the little chap is such a thorough Swaffield, and my mother feels in her heart she ought to give up to Emmie's mother, because anyone could see tha the baby doesn't favor his mother': folks in a particle, but is just an Ed monton all over, bless his sweet heart They pity each other-that's no josh I don't know whether they ever got to gether and fixed up a schedule or not but it looks like it almost from the way they take turns about to tend hi imperial highness.

"And say!" Edmonton continued. "I ain't only the baby, but it's things it general. That blamed nurse went kit ing about an hour and a half after Mrs Swaffield got in the house, and th woman we got in to help Mary wen after her. I was going to fire Mary but you ought to see the way they've got that girl trained now. Smooth You don't know how smooth thing can run around the house until you ge two rival grandmothers and mother

in and put 'em both on their mettle." "Don't tell me anything more abou voice. "I'm an orphan and my wife is, too. Some men have all the luck!"-Chicago Daily Record.

Significance of the Cypress. The cypress, which is regarded by us as an emblem of mourning and death has been from ancient times associated with births, marriages and rejoicing in the east. In the Grecian archipetage when a daughter was born a grove o' eypress trees was planted by her fathe: as her future portion, a dowry which increased with the years.

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. Nearly everything in use, from the swaddling clothes of the infant as it enters the world to the shroud of the corpse as it passes out is in the control of a

Thousands of the best and most intelligent citizens of the United States, as well as of Belgium and other countries, have petitioned President Mc-Kinley, asking him to offer his services toward mediation in the war between the Boers and the English. They have made the mistake of addressing the wrong man. Hanna is the man who paid off McKinley's debts a few years ago, and he keeps a tight hold on the string attached to the ring in the president's nose. Marcus is the man to consult on all these matters, for he is but clay in the hands of the potter

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. In order to deserve this support Democrats must select men whose character and intelligence entitle them to re-It will not do to put anti-Quay Republicans in the position of having to choose between a Quay Republican and a doubtful Democrat. Quay rooters are already at work in some sections of the state to have Democrats nominated who will be weak before the people.

According to the Eric 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. Hence they had not talked five minutes before a dividend of \$250,000 was declared on an investment of \$250,000, or a profit of 100 per cent in one year. This is another good illustration of the beneficent results of a protective tariff, and will be published as an evidence of prosperity. It is not necessary to argue with any man of sense that no true prosperity exists where some men are making 100 per cent and others just as good and just as willing to work having trouble to earn the bare necessaries of life.

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. He tells so much truth that is distateful to tyrants and territory grabbers that he comes in for a good share of abuse, which they hope will answer for argument, after the adice of the old attorney who advised a young lawyer to abuse the other side when he had no case. Senator Pettigrew can well afford to be called a traitor as long as his treason consists in giving aid and comfort to those who believe in the take dinner with me and we'll go to Declaration of Independence, and de-the theater after. We don't meet every nouncing the policy which McKinley cally against the criminal folly of our government in dealing with the Fili-

> 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. Mr. Frick declares under oath that the profits of the Carnegie Steel company this year will not be less than \$40,000 -000, and he thinks they will reach \$42,-000,000. This is on an original capital stock of \$25,000,000, or a profit of 160 per cent. Mr. Carnegie's share of this will be \$23,4999,000. He says that he doesn't want to die rich, but it looks as if, under our great system of public robbery called protection, he will be compelled to die a millionaire in spite of himself. If he would would found a sixty thousand dollar library every day of the year, including Sundays, he would still have \$1,500,000 left of this year's profits. How much longer can protection be used as a political bait to catch silly voters?

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. The report is signed by Professor Schurman, Admiral Dewey, Colonel Denby and Professor Worcester. This volume deals largely with the kind of government that the commission thinks we should establish over the Filipinos, while the volume to follow will treat of the resources of the islands, or in other words offer an apology for our taking them by conquest. The commissioners refer to Great Britain as an example worthy to follow, and says that she has been brilliantly successful in governing dependent peoples. The commissioners after this outburst of English sentiment might be expected to express their sincere regret that our forefathers in 1776 were so criminally it," said Barkstowe, with tears in his foolish as to shake off English rule and ask to govern themselves, just as the Filipinos are asking of us today. Our imperialistic friends declare that the Filipinos are not capable of self government, but so did England de-clare of us in 1776. The commission does not refer to the millions of English subjects who are starving in British India, but it does recommend that we violate the constitution by imposing a tariff on the Filipinos' products we have forced them under our dominion. Schurman was not an imperialist until he was bribed by being sent to the Philippines as the head of the commission,

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. Of this sum \$42,500 was expended as compensation for the embalmed beef commission, some of whose members were also in the enjoyment of large salaries. Besides this, \$12,000 was expended for their meals, to say nothing of several odd thousands for cost of travel, Pullman car accommodations, carriage hire, etc. Although the full report of this luxurious commission, which was printed by the government at a cost of \$18,831, has never seen the light, the commissioners were supplied with fountain pens costing \$12 each in order that they might make precise notes of testimony. As Alger has recently pro-nounced William J. Bryan a "curse to the country," is he to be accepted as a blessing?-Pittaburg Post.

A grain of sand in the eye can cause excruciating agony. A grain of pepper in place of the grain of sand intensifies the torment. The pain is not confined to the organs affect The whole body feels the shock of that little irritating particle. It is so when there is any derangement or disorder of the d licate womanly organs. The disorder may seem trivial but the whole body feels it. The nervous system is disordered. There are fretfulness, irritability, sullenness and de-pression of spirits. The general health of voman depends on the local health of the organs peculiarly feminine. Remove the frains, nicerations, bearing down pains, and o her afflictions of woman, and the whole body feels the benefit. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a specific for the disease that _ndermine the strength of women, is free from opium, cocaine and other parcotics, poisons which enter into many other preparations for woman's use. It makes weak women strong and sick women well.

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