

GOING ALONE.

With curls in the sunny air tossing. With light in the merry bright eyes. With laughter so clearly on ringing-- A laugh of delight and surprise; All friendly assistance disdaining. And trusting not strength but its own. The past fears and trials forgotten, The baby is "going alone."

A CLEW BY WIRE

Or, An Interrupted Current. BY HOWARD M. YOST. Copyright, 1896, by J. B. Lippincott Co.

CHAPTER IX.—CONTINUED.

Sarah greeted me effusively. The good soul seemed to have a constant fear that each time she saw me would be the last. "Can you let me have a saw, a chisel and a hammer?" I asked. "Ach, yes. Bud what for, Nel?" "I am going to find out what is in that cellar," I answered.

CHAPTER X.

I ushered the old lawyer into the room. After a few commonplace remarks he said: "That walling-up of those cellar doorways has made quite an impression on me. Suppose we have a look at them." I was very willing. Together we descended the stairs to the storeroom. Mr. Sonntag examined the place where the door had been, minutely, as though he expected to find in the stones of the wall some intimation of what was on the inside. He even went so far as to scratch off patches of the whitewash.

limestone. You will find the foundations and walls under your house are built with this kind. If any other kind was used it would have to be brought from a distance. Sandstone was used for the two doorways. "And was therefore brought from a distance?" I asked. "Perhaps not in this case." "But you said there is nothing but limestone quarried about here," I suggested. "And that is true. The stones used in the doorways had been used before, for they are old and weatherbeaten. Do you remember a small stone building up at the mountain, which years ago was used as a schoolhouse?" my lawyer asked.



Mr. Sonntag examined the place minutely.

ones we are accustomed to, of course, but one formed by nature. Certainly there are possibilities in electric force which we have not yet discovered. You say the sounds occurred only when a wind was blowing which caused the wire to swing against the lightning rod?" "That was surmise, for I have had no opportunity to watch when the wind blew. But it seemed the most natural explanation of the rappings." "And you had no way of ascertaining whether the sounds in your room here and in the attic were produced by the same voice and at the same time, or whether there were two voices independent of each other?" "Why, you know it was impossible for me to be in the attic and in my room too," I answered.

"never find--" "it unless you--" "talk wisdom I shall--" "go for it this very--" "night and take--" "it away and not one--" "dollar will you ever--" "Right here is where the shock came," I said, after reading the last phrase. "Of course I took no more notes after that. Have you any more?" "No. The flame came, and I got no further," Sonntag answered. "This certainly is curious. There seems to be a complete circuit formed somehow, or, more properly, two circuits; when one is closed the other is opened by that closing, and vice versa."



Where I had heard the voice I took my stand.

wall, which had been covered with whitewash. A flannel coat which I had hung on the nail the night before was now lying on the floor, a charred ruin. The nail itself was blackened, and was quite hot, as contact with my fingers told me. "Great heavens!" I exclaimed, starting back, "this is the strangest phenomenon. What a wonder the house is not ablaze!"

EXTRACTING INFORMATION.

How Mr. Spurgeon Prepared His Sermons.

The man who sits in a city railway station at the "Bureau of General Information" must, like "the little busy bee," gather honey "from every opening flower." When off duty, he should be re-filling his memory with all sorts of knowledge, for at the bureau he must be "on tap" to every man, woman or child thirsting for information. A similar burden rests on lawyers in large practice, and on clergymen whose popularity makes the public their parishioners.

A Mean Parson.

When Wilberforce became rector of Brightstone, in the Isle of Wight, he was waited on by an old farmer, whose one desire in life was to rent the glebe land. "Why?" asked Wilberforce. "Well," said the old fellow, with a look of business shrewdness, "when t'other parson was here, he used to farm it himself, and, there being so little of it, he always got in his hay before anybody else. Then he clapped on the prayer for rain."—San Francisco Argonaut.

An Old Story.

Frank—Some genius in Birmingham has invented a buttonless shirt. Billy—Why, that's old. I've worn them ever since my wife learned to ride a bike.—Tit-Bits.

The Infant Class.

"Bobby Longears, give the plural for 'child.'" "Twins."—L'Illustrate de Poche.

COLUMBIA BEVEL-GEAR CHAINLESS FACTS.

Stevens' Institute of Technology.

Department of Tests.

Hoboken, N. J., March 11th, 1898. Pope Manufacturing Co., Hartford, Conn. My Dear Sir: I send you herewith the results in detail of my investigation of the efficiency of your chainless wheel No. 566, which was referred to in the article on the Overman dynamometer published in "The American Wheelman," December 25, 1897, as affording an efficiency of only 35.9 per cent. at 21 pounds pedal pressure and about five miles per hour. The substance of the detailed report is as follows: The wheel was tested by me in connection with your engineers before it was sent to Chicopee, and found to be fairly equal in efficiency to your best chain wheels. After its return from Chicopee I examined the wheel and found it badly out of adjustment. Upon readjustment it showed substantially the same efficiency as those at the first test, and, under conditions as nearly as possible those I believe to have existed in connection with the Overman test, its efficiency was 52.7 per cent.

My tests were all made with the Webb dynamometer, and with the assistance of your engineers. This apparatus, which is extremely accurate and delicate, is explained in detail in my report to you which was published in the "Iron Age" of October 21, 1897.

Regarding the Overman dynamometer I know but little as your request that I might be allowed to witness Mr. Overman's tests was not acceded to by him. Very respectfully, (Signed) J. E. DENTON. Prof. Mechanical Engineering.

Letter from Prof. R. C. Carpenter, of the Department of Experimental Engineering, Cornell University, to L. A. W. Bulletin.

Ithaca, N. Y., March 14, 1898. Dear Sir: My attention has been recently called to an extract from a report of mine in relation to the efficiency of bicycles, which, from the heading of or from accompanying references is calculated to convey the impression that the chain-driven bicycle is much more efficient than the chainless. The report in question, taken as a whole will not, I believe, give the impression that there is any material or sensible difference. The report does show that the chain-driven bicycle was on the whole slightly more efficient than the bevel-gear driven machine, but this difference was many times less than that due to tires of different construction and in many cases less than that due to individual tires of the same kind and make. It follows from the fact that riders have been unable to detect the great difference which existed in the friction caused by different tires that they will be entirely insensible of the small amount of difference which may be due to the substitution of the bevel-gear as a driving mechanism for the chain. I am, Very Respectfully yours, (Signed) R. C. CARPENTER.

The letters presented herewith from two such eminent authorities as Prof. James E. Denton and Prof. R. C. Carpenter, stamps as unfair and unwarranted the recent attacks upon the bevel-gear chainless construction, made by a manufacturer of chain-driven bicycles, through advertisements and distribution of other literature.

The bit of inside history conveyed by these two letters show how easily an expert report if not given in full, may be twisted to favor either side of a subject. As soon as these unwarranted deductions appeared in print, Prof. Carpenter publicly pronounced them unfair to him and to the bevel-gear chainless construction. Prof. Carpenter claims to find by dynamometer tests a slight but insensible mechanical superiority for the chain. Prof. Denton, in his article in the "Iron Age," shows that no superiority can be demonstrated by dynamometer tests for either chain or bevel-gears. Both agree that under ideal conditions, by the dynamometer the two mechanisms are practically equivalent. Our experience, however, demonstrates that this equality ceases the moment the bicycles are put in actual service on the road. In a dynamometer test the chain-driven bicycle meets the most favorable conditions, which do not exist for it on the road. No bicycle rider need be told that the moment a chain and sprocket is exposed to the weather the lubricant begins to dry, the blocks and teeth to clog with the dust and mud of the road and deterioration commences.

Even if protected from the foregoing influences, stretching will occur with the best chains and sprockets, causing back-lash and consequent inability of the rider to maintain a straight track in hill climbing, thus necessitating more exertion. With the bevel-gear chainless wheel, the high efficiency shown by the dynamometer continues indefinitely under actual service. Owing to the fact that its driving mechanism is not affected by the weather or road conditions, and the further fact that there is no back-lash, and consequently a uniform pressure can be maintained upon the pedals, this uniformity of pressure giving the rider perfect control of the wheel and enabling him to maintain a straight track, thus obtaining the benefit of every ounce of applied power, the Columbia bevel-gear chainless, by this great saving of muscular energy, enables the rider to ride at least ten per cent. farther with the same effort than he could on the chain-driven bicycle. Expert cycle engineers state positively that the best bicycle chain and sprocket ever made cannot retain their highest efficiency after 700 miles of riding, and that the rider who desires to conserve power should not use the same chain and sprocket for over 2,000 miles of riding. After 35,000 miles of road riding a bevel-gear chainless bicycle has retained its highest efficiency. How many more thousand miles of riding the bevel-gears would undergo without deterioration can only be conjectured.

No radical change in bicycle construction has ever caused us so little trouble as Columbia bevel-gears. We have had fewer complaints and fewer difficulties than we have ever had with any new construction during our 21 years experience in bicycle building.

The change from the ordinary to the safety wheel, from solid to cushion tires, from cushion to pneumatic tires, and other improvements were not made without encountering obstacles and opposition, but Columbia bevel-gears have proven successful from the time of their first introduction to the public.

Up to date we have shipped our customers over 4,000 Columbia bevel-gear chainless bicycles. All who have ridden these wheels admit that they are better hill-climbers than any chain wheels yet made. The purchasers of these bicycles are unanimous in the opinion that in ease and noiselessness of running, in strength and lasting qualities, in the time saved in cleaning and adjusting the driving mechanism, they are vastly superior to any other form of cycle construction. To ride a Columbia chainless bicycle, is to be convinced of its superiority and to enjoy to the fullest the pleasures of cycling.

POPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

March 25, 1898.

A Thoughtful Parent.

Pettered Daughter—Papa, what has come over you? I never had a wish you were not anxious to gratify, and you even anticipated my wants, and handed me money for all sorts of things I hadn't even thought of. But now I have to ask you for every cent I need, and you growl and grumble, and ask if I think you are made of money, and you rail at women's extravagance, and invariably ask me what on earth I did with the last check, or dollar or dime you gave me. Don't you love me any more? Papa—My darling, I love you as much as ever, but you are soon to be married, and I am trying to gradually prepare you for the change.—N. Y. Weekly.

Balances.

He was making a hollow pretense of being hungry at breakfast.

"Had to stay at the office to balance the books last night, my dear," he remarked.

She was gazing gloomily out of the window, and upon the lawn there were divers tracks.

"I hope the books were better balanced than yourself when you got through," she answered, not without bitterness.—Detroit Journal.

On the Yukon.

Panner—I don't see how you stand the cold so well, you must have been born in a very cold climate.

Miner—No. But I got hardened to the cold in the states.

Panner—How did you do that? Miner—I married a woman with cold feet.—Up to Date.

His Assurance.

Old Billy—What assurance have you to offer that you really love my daughter?

Anxious William—Why, I have promised to come and live with your family as a member of it for her sake. I wouldn't do that for mere money, 'pon my word.—Chicago Daily News.

She Meant Business.

Ardent Lover—For ye, my bonnie lassie, I wad lay me down and dee.

Practical Maid—O, you make me weary with your imitation Scotch dialect. What I want is a man who will get up and hustle for me.—Boston Traveler.

Discussing a Doll.

Mrs. P.—I told that girl just what to do and she hasn't done it at all.

Mr. P.—I presume your orders went in one ear and right out the other.

Mrs. P.—Oh, no, indeed! She never gets anything through her head as easily as that.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Only One Omission.

Landlady—Is the oyster soup to your liking?

Boarder—I never find fault, madam. The salt, pepper, water and butter seem fully up to the standard, but I think you will find that the cook neglected to use the oysters.—Detroit Free Press.

Not a Popular Kind.

"They say that ghosts appear in the windows of that old haunted house every night."

"Boo! I must say I don't fancy that kind of window shades."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Too Precious.

Grace's eyes are full of tears. She's caught cold, I fear! She donned her new biking garb Too early in the year.

—Up to Date.

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.



She—But, George, suppose papa settles my dowry on me in my own right? He—Well, my dear girl, it's—er—nothing to me if he does!—London Punch.

Serves as an Alarm.

Hassick—A baby is a good thing to have in the house.

Walker—Yes, if you want to prevent oversleeping yourself.—Boston Transcript.

Brief Peace of Mind.

"Clara, I love to be with you." "Why, Edith?" "When I'm with you I know you are not gossiping about me."—Chicago Record.