"Hut what everybody says must be true,"
pers ned Mrs. Jeffrey,
"Hy no means," said Helen Grant. "Once
everybody said the earth was fist, now we all
know it is round."
"Heath for yourself,"resorted Mrs. Jeffrey,
"I don't know it's round, but I'm willing to
believe it on good evidence. Thank heaven,
I'm not so attuborn that I won't believe. I'm
one of the sort that can be convinced of a
thing even it I don't see it."
Mrs. Grant flushed a little, and tears came
to her eyes.

Mrs. Grant flushed a little, and tears came to her eyes.

"She is my friend, and I love her dearly," she said. "She has faults—every one can see that—but this wicked, shameful story, I simply cannot believe it. Oh, Mrs. Jefrey, can you not see that it is a matter of concience with me as well as with you."

Mrs. Jefrey, a little sahamed but of the same opinion still, rose to go.

"If the matter is brought up in the church, you will then hear all the evidence. After you see the letter you may change your mind."

Pine Falls was convulsed over its first even.

Pine Falls was convulsed over its first scan Pine Falls was convulsed over its area condal. The tongue of cansure, that had faintly reproved when Abrim H arris had carried his mother off to the poorhouse, and induiged in audible criticisms when Laura Cowies had been baptieed in the river and died of inflammatory rhounatism a week afterward, had now broken allence and carried the story from house to house until it was on everybody's line.

now broken allence and carried the story from house to house until it was on everybody's lips.

A manie for visiting seemed to have broken out among the ladies. Helf a idozen could be seen any day, with a little bundle of knitting or crochet in hand, going to make informal visits or calle at the home of their intimate friends or near neighbors. To be sure each lady was very particular to explain, if opportunity offered, that she had promised Mrs. So and so a new stitch or pattern, or she had been intending to take her work and "run in" to see Mrs. Such some for six months or more. It was really a shame to neglect one's neighbors so, Mrs. Jeffrey and Mrs. Martin were seated on the back porch of the Jeffrey mansion, engaged in earnest and confidential conversation. Overhead in the apple tree the robin sang unheard. On the floor a mischlevous kitten played with Mrs. Martin's ball of zaphyr, tangling the thread unheaded, while her crochet work lay idly in her lap.

"She always did seem frivolous to me," remarked Mrs. Jeffrey. "No care of her house, no interest in domestic matters. There's a great deal said in these days about a woman's hiding a God-given talent under a bushel, and smothering her genius under domestic drudger; but I've noticed that the

There's a great deal said in these days about a woman's hiding a God-given talent under a bushel, and smothering her genius under domestic drudgery; but I've noticed that the women who are domestic and take an interest in their homes are not the women who figure in scandai cases or elopements."

"Perhaps," replied Mrs. Martin, who was not so conservative as her neighbor, "there's a great deal of human nature in women as well as men. Most of them take an interest in some one thing besides housekeeping. With some it is painting, with others music, others fancy work or religion. I've known women who were really dissipated, you might say, in religious work; they carried it to such unreasonable lengths. You and I, not being gifted in any of these directions, have gone on in pisin, quiet home lite. But we must not on that account, find fault with those who see life from a different standpoint or call them frivolous because they take an interest in things we don't care for. Mrs. Downs was always fond of dress and fancy work, but until this story came out everybody seemed to like her."

"Well, you can say what you please," returned Mrs. Jeffrey, wrathfully, "when a

body seemed to like her."

"Well, you can say what you please," returned Mrs. Jeffrey, wrathfully, "when a woman behaves herself, she won't be talked about. The most shameful part of the whole affair is her assumed innocence. I saw her myself walking the streets with Mr. Colton only last evening, as cool as you please, If there's a man in this village that I pity, it's Jack Downs."

The next day was Sunday, and the minister, Mr. Snow, looked around at the rapidly filling pews with a feeling of calm completency. Every face wore a look of ason expectancy, and when Jack Downs entered with his pretty wise, significant looks were exchanged and a suppressed sensation was visible throughout the sudience.

Youthful and pretty, she added to these stractions by a taste in dress that was simply perfect. As she came slowly up the siale wirling her fan nonchalantly, whispered comments passed from one to a lother.

"How brazen! Did you ever see such effrontery." murmured Mrs. Dorr to Mrs. Cowies.

"She's a plucky little piece !" said Mr. Martin to his wife, in a tone in which surprise was so evidently flavored with admiration, that his better half bestowed on him a glance

of withering scorp.

"What audacity!" said Mrs. Brown to her daughter Cora.

But that young lady, who rejoiced in the distinction of being the village poetess, was wrapped in poetic contemplation. Sha know.

(b) wrapped in poetic contemplation. Sie above that Mrs. Downs had failen under public disapprobation because of a love letter that had been found by some one, addressed to her and in Mr. Colton's hand-writing. Other people saw the reprehensible mar-

Other people saw the reprehensible mar-ried firt accepting protestations of love from a gentleman acquaintance. Not so, Miss Cora. This Byronic state of affairs did not so much shock her moral sensibilities, as it presented a theme for her muse to portray the agontes of mispiaced affection. Viewing the whole matter simply as an abstraction, abe surreptitiously drew out her hymn book

and slyly penciled on the margin :

and slyly penciled on the margin:

Let the cold world deride me,
I will but love then more,
Whatever late betide thee—
Here she stopped, the only rhyme that suggested itself being "gore." Struggling with the situation, she had just changed the line,
"I will not shed thy gore." to "My heart but can adore," when she was recalled to herself by the sound of Mr. Snow's voice as he finished reading the usual list of notices.
"A most painful circumstance having arisen, that seriously affects us as a community as well as a congregation, since it comprises the good names of two of our members, I feel it a duty to afford an opportunity for a full explanatior. The congregation is invited to meet at the personner to member of this congregation will be present."

After that it mattered little whether the sermon was a marvel of brilliancy or the dui-

After that it mattered little whether the sermon was a marvel of brilliancy or the dulest disquisition that ever bored a long-suffering audience. No one paid the slightest attention to it, except old Major Dorr, who was so deaf that he only caught about one word in ten, and had thus missed the story of the love-letter that the school-leacher had written to Mrf. Downs.

After the conclusion of the services, Mrs. Cowles, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Jeffrey stopped in the sisle for a moment's conference.

conference.

"I shall take Beatrice Cenci out of the school," said Mrs. Jeffrey. "No child of nine shall be under the instruction of a teacher who writes love-letters to's married waman."

"And to think that Mr. Show should attempt to cover it up and excuse it!" added Mrs. Cowies. "I don't know but we shall be obliged to withdraw from the church. My husband thinks there is a great deal of corruption among ministers themselves nowadaws."

Certainly no one was better able to detect Certainly no one was better able to detect corruption anywhere than Mr. Cowier, if half the stories of his own immoral secapades could be relied upon. But Mrs. Cowies' triends remained discreeily silent on this

"I shall not allow Cora to go to the parson."

"I shall not allow Cora to go to the parsonage to morrow evening," interposed Mra. Brown. "I think the discussion of such subjects has a most demoralizing effect on young people. It is a deplorable aff. It all around."

But when the evening came Cora did go. More than that, to her mother's great horror, she crossed the room and sat down by Jack Downs and his wis, who sat alone together on the long sofs, although a great many were standing up around the large partors.

This was not so much from sympathy with Mra. Downs, as a professional justicet such as that which impels a surgeon to investigate all sorts of pathological monatrosities. She wanted to observe for hereoff the ravages of remores, humiliation and unhappy love, the better to finish her poem.

But Mrs. Downs was as pretty, as gay and as nonchainat as ever. Once or twice she whispered behind her fan to her husband, and once she actually laughed, which so outgreed the sensibilities of the more severely virtuous metrons that they shuddered with horror.

Mr. Colton was a romantic looking young

virtuous matrons that they shuddered with horror.

Mr. Colton was a romantic looking young man, with disheveled hair, and a look of general shrewdness. He had lately come to Pine Felis as a teacher, and now stood leaning against the mantel. His remantic appearance, so attractive to the ladies, was due to his hair, which he wore long on account of his cars, they being enormously large, and an interesting pallor which was caused by dyspepsia, and not unhappy love, as the young ladies supposed.

"I have here," said Mrs. How, "a letter which has been a theme of much severe comment. The envelope is addressed to Mrs, Down, and it was picked up in the street by Mrs, Martin's little con, who took it to his

father's greery. The contents are in a different pennancial, with Mr. Colton's name as a signature. I will set Mr. Colton's name as a signature. I will set Mr. Colton to make an explanation, which will no doubt be estimatory?"

"Satisfactory?" repeated Mr. Cowles, with more spirit than politoness. "It seems to me that when a man writes in that style to another man's wife, calling her husband a base wretch?"—here he cast an indignant giance at Jack Downs—"and urging her to run away with him, a satisfactory explanation is not an easy matter."

"You are mistaken, sir," answered Mr. Colton. "An explanation in this case is very easily made. I am a member of an ametur theatrical club and I wrote out my part at Mr. Downs' one evening, copying it out of a book of his. Mrs. Downs gave me an envelope from one of her letters that lay on the table to put the manuscript in, and I unfortunately lost it on my way home. I will now read the lines, if Mr. Cowles will look over the printed pages and see if I read them correctly."

Shamefaced, Mr. Cowles looked on while Mr. Colton read, with much dramatic effect:

My angel ity with me!

Afar in other lands beyond the sea.

We'll build a home secred to love and thee.

Soorn the base wretch who in your humble home.

Profance the name of love—ah, be my own!

Profance the name of love—ah, be my own! And heaven is not so high, nor earth so vast, But that its treasures at thy feet I'll cast. There is a full page of it, with my name signed at the bottom, but this will suffice, I think," and Mr. Cotton coolly est down white a look of consternation went round the

a look of consternation went round the room.

Mrs. Downs went up to Helen Grant and klassed her.

"Thank you, dear, for your faith in me. I heard all about it, and I'll never forget it as long as I live."

She looked so gentie and girlish in her dainty white draperies, with that look of childien gratitude in her blue eyes, that kind-hearted Mrs. Jeffery went up and put her motherly arms around her, and said, with tears in her eyes:

"Forgive me—forgive us all, won't you?"

Jack answered for her:

"She lorgive you, we both forgive you, neighbors and friends; but if any man repeate such stuff again, about my wife or any other woman, I give him warning here and now that it will afford me infinite pleasure to give him a sound thrashing."

And that was the last of the great scandal at Pine Falls.

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"I am a Haptist minister, and before I ever thought of being a clergyman I graduated in medicine, but left a lucrative practice for my present profession, forty years ago. I was for many years a sufferer from quinsy. Thomas' Eclectric Oil cured the. I was also troubled with hoarseness, and Thomas' Eclectric Oil always relieved use. My wife and child had diphtheria, and Thomas' Eclectric Oil cured them, and it aken in time it will cure seven times out of ten. I am confident it is a cure for the most obstinate cold, or cough, and if any one will take a small teaspoon and half fill it with the Oil, and then place the end of the spoon in one nostril and draw the Oil out of the spoon into the head, by smiffing as hard as they can, until the Oil falls over into the throat, and practice it twice a week, I don't care how offunity their head may be, it will clean it out and ourse their cateris. For deafness and earnobe, it has done wonders to my certain knowledge. It is the only medicine dubbed patent medicine that I have ever felt like recommending, and I am very anzious to see it in every place, for I tell you that I would not be without it in my house for any consideration. I am now suffering with a pain like rheumatism in my right limb, and nothing relieves me like Thomas' Eclectric Oil." Dr. E. F. Crane, Corry, Pa.

For sale by H. B. Cochran, druggist, 137 and II North Queen street, Lancaster.

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A weak stomach or enfeebled circulation is like a rope about our necks. We are strung up and unstrung alternately till existence becomes unbearable. Burdock Blood Bitters will arrest all this misery. "Burdock Blood Bitters" are a boon to the sick. Let us remember this fact. For sale by H. B. Cochran, druggist, 137 and 139 North Queen street, Lancaster.

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i have been for several years a sufferer from hay fever and severe head colds, and have tried other remedies in hope of getting relief but have found none that can compare with Ely's Cream Haim. I would not be without it for any consideration. It is simply wonderful it its effect upon the nasal organs. S. A. Burtt, Wilmington, N. C.

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To make room for the Winter Goods that we have ordered shipped to us next month, we offer the following BARGAINS IN

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We have had a great run on FLY NETS, owing to our Low Frices, but as the plowing season has just begun we offer a 25 per cent-reduction as an inducement to close out the few dozen yet remaining.

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HAMMESS, THUNKS and BAGS as Low as the KRECKEL'S,

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Insurance Company, CAPITAL (Full Paid) - - \$250,000.

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