

Three Warnings

D. TOWNLEY'S lips twitched, but he controlled himself. It was a very serious case. And he knew that men and women had died of fright.

Everybody in Torbett township knew just what was the matter. Miss Saline Jones, a very estimable lady in middle age, had lain down on her bed knowing that she would soon die.

After examining her carefully with a puzzled expression he entered the little parlor, which was darkened to keep the flies and the light out, and conversed with Miss Jones' niece, a bright and fairly well-educated girl.

"She told me it looked like an angel with wings. She could see the angel's head better than the wings. But the wings were there."

"Well?" growled the doctor, "did he see the second warning myself?" "What was it like?" "It was on a melon, too. It looked just like Miss Jones told me. It was just like the branches of a weeping willow."

"Then she went to bed, did she?" "No, she wondered what it meant—asked me what I thought. And I didn't say what I thought. It was the first sign I ever saw. And I hope I may never see another."

"Did she show any signs of fright—did she lose her appetite or cry. Was she nervous. Or did she talk much?" "Neither of the three. She just sat down and rocked herself. If anybody spoke she just looked at us, as much as to say, 'You don't know anything about it. It can't be helped. Wouldn't be couched to eat. We couldn't get her to swallow a cup of tea.'"

"Well—and then?" "She got the third warning." "What was it?" "It was on another melon. But hundreds have seen it. It was an over-ripe melon.

The pale face of the spinster flushed slightly as the room filled with her friends. "Miss Jones," began the doctor in a hearty voice, "I've brought these ladies here for a purpose. I am sure they will like it and you will like to make as much chicken soup, waffles, gravy and mashed potatoes as they can prepare in an hour's time.

"I have brought you these stonies to show you where your three warnings came from. I found them in the old melon patch where they have been lying ever since Jaher Strong smashed his wagon and broke the headstone designed for his third wife into smithereens. He tossed them over the fence. There are enough left, I should judge, to make a dozen more warnings. Provided the melon lying on them is big enough to gather eight or ten.

"Of all the women present no two can be found who will agree as to the precise words Miss Jones used. She lifted one stone, smiled, sat up, demanded her clothes immediately, got up, selected two of her visitors to assist her, drove the others out of the room amid peals of laughter and speedily repaired to her kitchen.

"All the women agree upon one thing: that she got up one of the best dinners they ever ate, and one and all aver that she violated all rules by the way she ate when she had served her visitors.—Chicago News.

OUR BASE BALL STARS.

"TELL YOU what, base ball isn't the thing it used to be in these sections," said the gray-headed base ball enthusiast, as he tilted his chair back, and gazed wistfully at the ceiling. "No, sir," he reasserted, "it's lying out. And yet in its time, some of the greatest ball players on the diamond at present have played here, and Scranton is the home of some of the kindest youngsters that ever swung a hickory.

"Today he is one of the best outfielders and hardest hitters in the National league. He led that organization's batters in '95 and '96 and last year gave Ed Delehanty, of the Phillies, a good run for his premier position by hitting in a .302 clip." "That's Del's 498. Another old-timer who has made his mark is Childs, the round St. Louis second baseman, who played here about the same time that Burckett did, and who is now one of the steadyest basemen in the National.

"Eddie Burke, who is now a fallen star and has drifted back into the minor league ranks, but who was a few years ago considered one of the crack pitchers of the country, when he played with New York and Cincinnati, played here in his younger days, catching behind the bat.

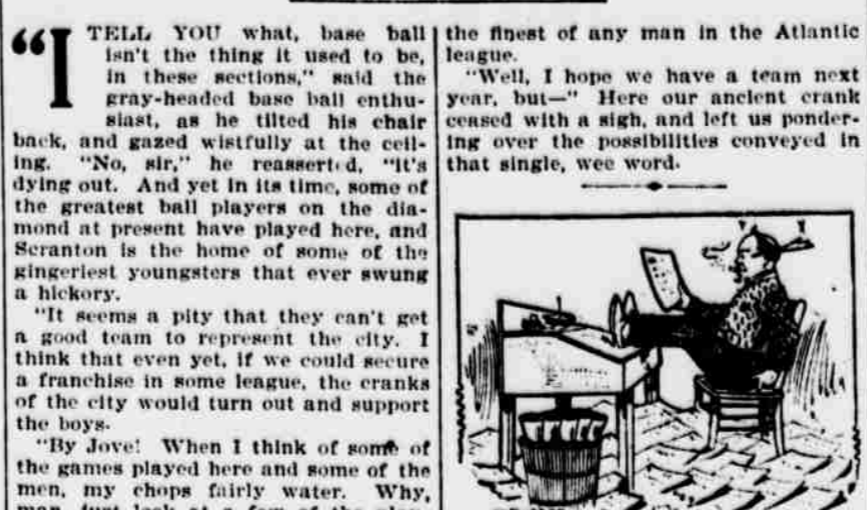
"One of the funniest examples of base ball judgment I ever saw manifested occurred here in Scranton, a few years ago. The Baltimore team was sent to Baltimore, to take Heine Reitz's place. Heine being ill. Gleason went in and played a game that kept him in the middle sack for the rest of the season.

"Young Keister, now with Baltimore, played here last year. He was sent to Baltimore, and was never considered anything particularly startling, but nevertheless last year he fielded excellently in the short-stop position at Baltimore and batted at a .321 rate.

"Among the other men who have played here recently are those who are noted for themselves in the ladder of base ball fame, are 'Old Hoss' Childs, of last year's Phillies, who played with Scranton a few weeks under McDermott's management, and then skinned the town for Hornellsville. Childs' record is now standing for Baltimore and batting at a fierce rate, and young Barry, who played a short while with Scranton's last Eastern league team, is utility man on the Washington Senators. On the same team is Jack O'Brien, who was a prime favorite when he played under Sandy Griggs in the Scranton outfit. Jack fielded well last year and lined the leather out in fine shape.

"Frank Dillon, first baseman of Scranton's Atlantic league effort of last year, made a very favorable impression at the initial sack in Pittsburgh, and in the games he played had an almost errorless record.

"Then take the local players in the city. If one should be mentioned more than any other it ought to be Jack Dunn, who last year twirled magnificently for Hanlon's Superbas, or champion Brooklyn team, and then, too, can be spoken of 'Bill' Coughlin, a stout, third base work at Wilkes-Barre was



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