## TOO MUCH BEST MAN.

## A BACHELOR WHO OFFICIATED AT FORTY WEDDINGS.

Why Liestenant Prince Has Such & Fine Collection of Scarfpins-Each One of Them is the Key to a Romance-A Warning to All Young Men.

Listemant Oscar Prince is rapidly reaching the age when his friends will stop raking him the question, "Why don't you get married?" and substitute for it, "How did it happen, old man, that you never married?" Lieutenant Printed is as acceptable as the avorage man, and he has no antimatrimonial views He is, however, a victim of weddings, and therein lies the explanation of his failure to marry. One of the finest collections of scarfplus in this city may be found in his bachelor apartments, but no wife.

"My collection of scarfpins was begun about ten years ago, " he said, "and each one represents a scar more or less serious. They have simply made a pin-cushion of my heart. My case, I am sure, is an unusual one, and I am willing to discuss it, that it may serve as a warning to young men. Let me start with the ascertion that I believe in the noble institution of marriage, and it was probably my advocacy of it while I was at West Point that suggested to a clasmate-i.rowu-to write me to his lest min when he got marnet all ried Let me see The date on that pend pin is 1887, isn't it? Yes, that was Brown's little token. Brown had a fine wedding, and as I had been sta-tioned west at a God forsaken post since leaving the Foint it was my first opportunity to get at short range with eastern girls There are no girls like them, my boy, and don't make any mistake about that.

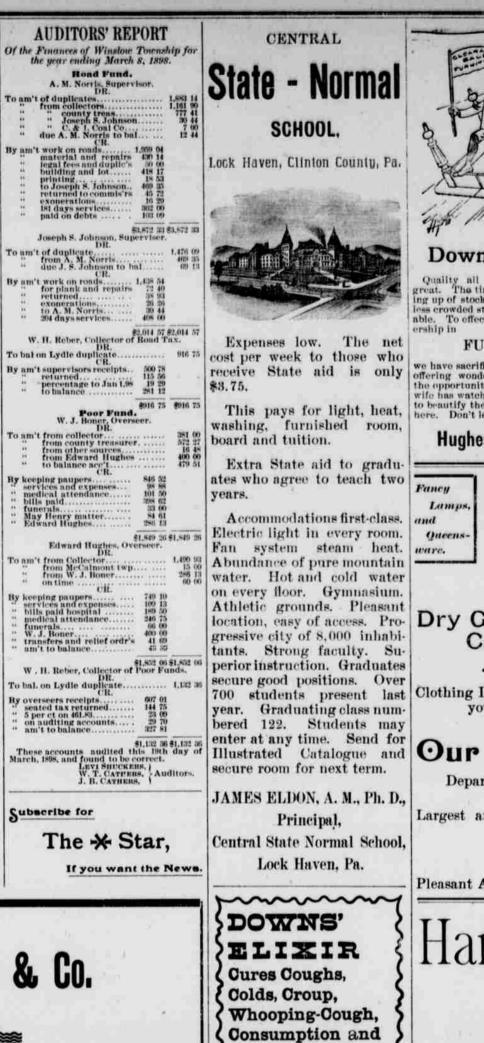
"Brown was married in Newport, and we did have a good time. Let me look at that pin again. Yes, Ethel was her maine. You see, I have it tagged on We hit it off together in fine shape. Who was Ethel? Why, in this case, she was the maid of honor We had a delightful week at Newport, and when I went back to my post I had Ethel's permission to write to her. I heard the other day that her oldest hopeful was the star boy in a kindergarten.

Licotepant Prince pailed his pipe hard for two minutes.

'littlel was, all things considered, about as nice as any of them. We might have een very happy together, but for Jone wedding I think it was Jones and me that little clover leaf pin, Just ou? Yes, it was Jones. Here is will are, 18-8, and tagged to the pin is 12100 1 Manit a name You don't understand. course not You haven't acted 112 as been man or usher in 40 weddings. I it a lot about Ethel while on the thorn d train that took me to Boston, rail when Jones married, and there 1 met Manul There is something very demoralabout the mesociations of a wed-12111 orty if a chap is at all susceptiding be girls all rejoice with the bride, bey are all in their best frocks. ble and w you begin to speculate about Som if, you know, and wonder how ould appear as the bridegroom you with one of the bridesmaids as bride. Mau was different from Ethel, more viva lous, and then she was short and Eshe was tall. On the night of the wed ing I as of Maud if I might write Dear Maud! I wonder what has to be been of he l'sept back all of her lette and h r photograph just a short time after Adams got married. That is the pla in the cushiou-the one with the small dia person in the center Adams arried three months after Jones, and | was an usher Those three months were happy ones, and I shall always rement or Mand. 1 had been sent east just before Adams was married, and he wan i i mo to be usher because, as he put to I had been in the game before. Mary was her name at Adams' wedding. That doesn t describe her at all No name could. She was just as attractive as Ethel and Maud, but different. We discussed very serious matters, did Mary and I, and I knew that she was a girl who would make a sensible, thinking man happy for life. "It was a discussion of telepathy that made use forget Maud, that is a discussion and a subsequent attempt to experi-ment Mary didn't ask for her letters back after Rogers wedding I told Sal-ly-sho was one of the bridesmaids, and a very jolly southern girl-all about Mary and she said she didn't mind. I came very near proposing to Sally, but by this time I had become a professional as an other and best man, and since Sally there have been by actual count 33 other cirls, any one of whom might have made me happy. I felt after meet-ing each one of them that if I could ouly k ep away from weddings my hap-pinces might be assured I could marry the hast girl-that is, of course, if she would have me, and they were all very sympathetic—and feel that I was lucky. I coul in't dodge the weddings, though. "All my friends are married now, "All my triends are married now, and have assisted in each case. It gos so that while I was at work I would us assisted in each case. It gos so that while I was at work I would us assisted in each case. It gos me slow on parade. I couldn't keep up with my company. I have, I am glad to say, done my duty by my frienda, but it has runnbd me sentimentally. When I look at that collection of scarfpins, each one labeled with the name of a girl who was the only one in the world for me, I has it the nerve to propose. I am a victum of circumstances. Now all of my friends are married and I am not likely to march again to that familiar old music. I have the finest collection of scarfpins in this city, but I am still a bachalor. Let my examples be a warn-ing to all young men. "-New York Sun.

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