

### A MISER WORTH \$50,000.

The Brooklyn Police Took Steps to Have Bertha May Cared For.

A policeman on duty in Lafayette avenue, near Franklin avenue, in Brooklyn, early on Friday morning met an old woman apparently in pitiable destitution. Her feet were bare, she had no covering on her head, and the single skirt she wore was fastened to her waist with a coarse piece of rope. She was trembling with cold, with emaciated and was altogether the most deplorable looking human object the policeman had ever encountered.

He was about to take her to the police station to give her shelter when she told him that she was looking for a Mrs. Townsend, who lived in the neighborhood. The policeman found Mrs. Townsend, and the latter said she would take care of the woman, with whom she was well acquainted.

It turned out that the woman was the owner of a fine four story brick house at 834 Bedford avenue, had a bank account of \$15,000 and possessed other property, and that her entire wealth was estimated at between \$50,000 and \$60,000. Her name is Bertha May, and she has long been the solitary occupant of the big Bedford avenue house. Not even a dog, cat or bird had shared her seclusion. She is 74 years old and has been a widow for nearly 30 years. Her husband, Edward May, had a wig store in this city when she married him, and she has carefully watched over the fortune he left her.

Mr. Townsend escorted the aged recluse to her home yesterday morning and then went around to the Clermont Avenue police station and called the attention of Captain Hardy to the wretched condition of the woman and the necessity of providing for her. Captain Hardy sent Detective Sergeant Fitzpatrick to the house to make an investigation. Fitzpatrick secured an entrance by representing himself as a building inspector and made a tour of the premises. He reported to Captain Hardy that from cellar to roof the house was in an intolerably filthy condition, and that there were several years' accumulation of dust on the old fashioned furniture.

So miserably is the old woman that she will not even buy the food she needs and would starve to death did not a benevolent family in the neighborhood supply her daily with bread and coffee.—New York Sun.

### A ROMANCE ON WHEELS.

Two Young People Make Love on Bicycles and Are Married in Best of Circumstances.

It is not often that a bride and bridegroom appear at the altar rail clad in bicycle costumes to be united for life. That was the case on Tuesday night in Newark, however, when Charles Lader, a well known bicycle rider of that city, and Miss Violet Hervey of Ringoes were married.

Mr. Lader last summer spent most of his idle hours on his wheel, and when he had the time took long jaunts through the country. One of his trips led him to Ringoes, a little village back in the country.

While in the village he staid at the farm of Mr. Hervey. During his visit he became acquainted with the farmer's daughter, Miss Violet, and fell in love with her. Needless to say, it was not long before his wheel bore him toward Ringoes again. From that time until the move fell Mr. Lader no longer wandered aimlessly about the country, but instead his wheel was always pointed either toward Ringoes or from it. Miss Violet learned to ride and became as fond of riding as was Mr. Lader. Before long he gave her a wheel, and from that time they were often on the road. Mr. Hervey liked the young whiteman, and when he was asked for his daughter's hand he consented.

Tuesday night the young couple wheeled to Newark. The Rev. Mr. Espwood, the pastor of Calvary church, had been engaged to perform the ceremony and was waiting when the couple dismounted in front of the church door. Miss Hervey waited while Mr. Lader chained the wheels. Then they entered the church and walked to the pulpit rail. There the ceremony was performed, and they walked out, remounted and rode away on their wedding trip. When they return, they will live in Newark.—New York Tribune.

### Tolstoi and the Americans.

Count Tolstoi is lamenting the growth of vicious tendencies in society and in-bred sin in all countries. He was asked by an interviewer the other day what people become the most abnormal in this respect. He replied:

"At any rate, not the Americans. To their credit must be put the immense national self love, which cannot exist in an abnormal people. I one day wrote an article on America and the Americans in which I did not particularly overload the letter with flattery. Nevertheless I sent the manuscript over the ocean, thinking it would be accepted by any paper so eagerly as my other productions. Not a bit of it. The translator took it to 14 editors without getting it accepted, and finally it had to be sent to England."

### Wearing of the Green.

A man wearing a \$1 greenback note in place of a shamrock pinned on the lapel of his coat paraded North Broad street on St. Patrick's day and attracted considerable attention. At Filbert street he encountered some acquaintances, whom he asked into a nearby saloon, and taking the note from his breast they all drank to the memory of St. Patrick. Pinned another greenback of the same denomination to the spot from which he had taken the first, he started out, presumably to meet more friends.—Philadelphia Record.

### Last Month's Record.

William Johnson of Boston, who has taken weather observations at 5 a. m. every day for years, reports that the glass averaged at that hour 41½ degrees all last month, and that it was the warmest March within the 40 years he has been keeping a record.

### IN THE QUICKSANDS.

Thrilling and Almost Fatal Adventure of a Pennsylvania Sportsman.

Quicksand swallowed W. A. Finley, a hotel proprietor of Norristown, Tuesday, to the waist, and but for the heroic assistance of two friends he would have met an awful doom.

Finley, William Shine and John Goodwin started out to catch snipe and snappers. They drove to Patuxent and then started on foot up the Skipack creek, which flows a mile from the town. They chose this spot for their tour for game because it is rarely visited. Finley and Shine waded in the creek searching for snappers, while Goodwin remained on the bank gunning for snipe.

Without knowing it, Finley walked into a bed of quicksand. He did not realize for some minutes the peril he was in. Rapidly he began to sink, and then the horror of the threatened doom confronted him. He tried to lift his feet, but his legs had sunk to the tops of his boots in the consuming sand, and the water touched his waist. Finley pulled and tugged at his right leg. It yielded, but at the same time his left foot penetrated deeper and deeper into the mysterious substance. Then he reversed his efforts and with all his strength pulled at his left leg. It yielded, but the right leg went down to an alarming depth.

Finley called to Shine for help, and the latter responded quickly. He tried in vain at his own peril to extricate his friend. By this time the quicksand had almost swallowed Finley's legs, and the water was gradually rising and nearing his shoulders.

Then Goodwin was summoned. The victim was sinking more rapidly now, and the water was getting alarmingly near his chin. The combined efforts of the two friends checked the descent. They tugged for 10 minutes before Finley, utterly exhausted, was pulled from the quicksand. For curiosity they afterward tried to reach the bottom of the bed with long sticks. The sand was found to be over six feet deep.—Philadelphia Record.

### THE CHAIR TELEPHONE.

A New Invention Which Might Be Used to Advantage in Barber Shops.

An Ohio inventor has just patented an effective auxiliary telephone, which is designed to be used in connection with a specially constructed chair. The back of the chair is so made that it will act as a transmitter, so that a conversation may be carried on with perfect ease while the operator is seated in the chair. The principle on which this patent operates is the vibrations produced in the body of the speaker, which are transmitted to the chair back and thence over the line in the usual manner.

This chair telephone is so designed that the chair will answer the purpose of an ordinary office chair. Mr. McKelvey, the inventor, is now making experiments with a view of putting this attachment to any ordinary chair now in use. In devising this telephone Mr. McKelvey has departed from the usual paths followed by inventors and has proceeded along new lines, employing a simple nonmetallic diaphragm as receiver, a compound induction coil, the tertiary coil of which is connected in series, and an amplifying magnet located immediately behind the diaphragm in the transmitter. This telephone has been successfully worked over 115 miles of telegraph wire with earth return, and it is believed that when further experiments are made a distance much greater than this can be successfully worked.—Electrical World.

### He Unearthed a Law suit.

The inquisitiveness of a boy in Allentown the other day resulted in the fact that a \$5000 will came to light. The personal estate of Silas Camp, a rich old bachelor, who died a month ago, was sold at auction. Among the goods disposed of was an old safe, which was knocked down for \$2.50. The safe had been used by Camp, but after his death it was opened by his relatives, and everything of value was taken out, as they supposed. Before the purchasers had an opportunity to take it away, however, a small boy worked the combination and opened the door. While examining the interior he pulled out a private drawer, and out rolled a pile of goldpieces. When counted, they were found to amount to nearly \$5000. The money was taken in charge by Camp's brother under the protests of the new owners, who say they will bring suit for the gold.—Allentown (Pa.) Leader.

### A Hayrack Ambulance.

A rather curious spectacle on Court street in Auburn recently was a hayrack containing a bed made up neatly. In the bed was a man, evidently an invalid, for he lay back weakly upon the pillows. A hat was upon his head, contrasting rather strangely with his surroundings. Beside the bed sat a lady and over him bent another carefully attending to his wants. This sickroom on wheels was part of a spring moving and will go on record as one of most novel loads of the season.—Lawston Journal.

### An Intermittent Well.

There is a spouting well on the place of William Deutch, four miles south of Anacortes. The well is 112 feet deep and has only three feet of water in it, which cannot be lowered from its present depth. When the well begins to spout, it continues for several days at a time. It roars precisely like the Ohio gas wells and forces the water and spray several feet above the top of the well. Then for the same time it will cease to breathe and remain perfectly quiet.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

### Humiliated Athens.

The Greek capital is threatened with a humiliation which never could have been imposed upon ancient Athens. The city is apparently unable to pay its gas bill, amounting to 447,000 drachmas, and the company has notified the authorities that the gas will be cut off unless the bill is settled within a few days.—Paris Western.

### AGONY.

The music ceased, the curtain rose. I did not head the play. But gazed upon her lovely face— She sat five empty seats from me. Her cheeks like thinned apple blossoms. Her teeth like gleaming pearls. Her eyes as blue as summer skies. A wealth of golden curls.

And as I gazed upon her face There came a look of pain. Like closely shadowed over the land. It passed, then came again. I saw the tears upon her eyes. The roses that fade away. And that fair cheek grew deathly pale In ceaseless agony.

She turned and touched her escort's arm. Then slowly went away. My heart beat fast with sympathy. I did not heed the play. He soon returned and took his seat. I gazed in great surprise. He read the question I would ask Flash from my eager eyes.

And as the music died away His lips this answer bore: "My sister's feet are number five. Her shoes are number four." —Boston Globe.

### Creeds.

"You will not find one woman in a hundred who is familiar with the rules of heraldry," said a fashionable stationer. "Ladies insist on having crests embossed on their writing paper, even when I tell them that they are permitted by the usages of centuries to use only the arms of their husbands." A handsome woman came in the store one day and said: "Mr. B.—I wish you would put a crest and arms on my paper." I knew it would be useless to argue about the crest, and so I asked her: "Have you any crest with you?" "Oh, no! I haven't any," she answered. "You can make a nice one, can't you?" I learned that her husband was a grain dealer, so for a crest I designed a sheaf of wheat. For the arms I designed some hawk heads or a shield with the arms of her husband. The shield is impaled, symbolizing her unmarried state, while her arms and the arms of her deceased husband remain impaled as formerly.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

### In Duplets.

Gus de Smith came down Harlem avenue with his chin cut in several places, so that it looked as if a drunken barber had been practicing on it.

"Never! heaven, Gus!" exclaimed Pete Amsterdam. "What did you do to the barber? You ought to have murdered him. That was the least you could have done."

"I didn't do anything of the kind. After he was through shaving I invited him across the street and treated him to a cocktail and a cigar."

"Well, you are a fool."

"I ain't a fool, after all," responded Gus. "For you see I shave myself."

"Oh, that's a different thing. You are a kind of a double barreled fool."—Texas Sittings.

### Getting Trees by Electricity.

Trees are felled by electricity in the great forests of Canada. For cutting comparatively soft woods the tool is in the form of an auger, which is mounted on a carriage, and is moved to and fro and revolved at the same time by a small electric motor. As the cut deepens, wedges are inserted to prevent the risk from closing, and when the tree is nearly cut through an ax or hand saw is used to finish the work. In this way trees are felled very rapidly and with but little labor.—London Tit-Bits.

### Growth of the English Language.

In the year 1794 the habitual users of the English language numbered over 1,000,000; in 1892, 105,000,000. If these figures are correct (and they are from a recognized authority), by the end of the present century not less than 120,000,000 people will use the language in their daily conversation. If the same ratio of increase holds good, English will be spoken by at least 840,000,000 of people in the year 2000.—St. Louis Republic.

### One Child's Vocabulary.

The statement that a child 3½ years of age would not have more than 100 words in its vocabulary that it was able to use understandingly led a careful mother to note for a month the number of words used by her child. All the parts of speech used were recorded, with the result that in this case the child appeared to have a vocabulary of 1,028 words.—New York Post.

### At the winter palace, St. Petersburg.

There is a room full of diamonds, pearls and other precious stones. The empress of Russia is allowed to borrow from this room after giving a receipt for what she takes, and generally the grand duchesses are allowed to borrow from it also.

Jewelers are fervently wishing that the styles prevalent in France in the tenth century were revived for the sake of business. Judith, the wife of Caipuchin, wore a solid girdle of gold that weighed four pounds, and all the fashionable dames followed her example.

Hoopskirts, which came into vogue in the year 1830, weighed between 20 and 40 pounds, but it was the "fashion," and they were lugged about by the belles of the period despite the discomfort.

### Professor Karl Pearson pronounces the Monte Carlo roulette wheel, as viewed from the standard of exact science, "the most prodigious miracle of the century."

The Thingit tribe of Alaska numbers 4,800 persons. For generations they have spent the greater part of their time in caves.

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