THE THREE LOAVES.

The day was bitterly cold in Virginia City, as winter days most generally are in that Alpine town, and though the sun was bright, it was as cheerless and hill almost as moonbeams. gusts whistled through the streets. breathing icicles and frost in their furious course, and driving every living thing away to seek shelter from its biting, penetrating breath. And yet not every one was housed and sheltered from the pitiless gale, for he who had work to do or business to transact was summoned by inexorable duty to come forth to his post, or else, when the day of reckoning came, abide by the con-sequences; but, with such exceptions as these, the male population generally sought the warm and friendly atmosphere of the drinking saloons, where with "hot Scotch," and a glowing furnace, they managed to keep themselves from freezing. Of these luckless ex-ceptions, Abe Denning, the baker, was one. In sunshine or storm, hail, rain or snow, people must eat-eat, in fact: all the more voraciously because it does hail or snow, as if to perpetrate an unseasonable joke upon the baker, who, especially in appetising weather, must see to it that his customers' larders be properly stored with the rarest and best productions of his oven.

Even such cold weather as this did not deter Mr. Denning from attending to the wants of his customers with the assiduity and attention characteristic of of his class. While disappearing into a customer's house with an armful of bread, a girl of some fifteen years of age emerged from a miner's cabin close by, and, first casting wild and hurried glances around her, rushed to the baker's cart, and had just abstracted therefrom three loaves of bread, and was carrying them off, when the baker returned and caught her in the act.

Unfortunately, an officer was passing just at the time, and the baker, on the spur of the moment, and without giving the case the consideration which he otherwise might, gave her in custody on the charge of theft. The girl, without any attempt at expostulation or explanation, burst into an agony of tears, a sufficient evidence, perhaps, that she was but a no-vice, after all, in the art of stealing. "Oh!" she exclaimed, "don't take me

in this way. Let me wrap a shawl over my head, or the people will know me. The officer, consenting, accompanied her into the cabin, the baker having driven away, telling the policeman he would be in court the next day to prefer the charge before the police judge.

The officer, on re-entering, found no one in the cabin but three children-the youngest about three years of age, and the eldest six. The hut was cold and cheerless; there was no fire. The two elder children, alarmed at the presence of the officer, exhibited discolored eyes and faces, which bore evidence of suffering and recent tears; while little Willie, the youngest, was crying and inappeas able, moping aimlessly around the cabin, looking into the empty closet, and putting his little hands mechanically into the empty dishes on the table.

"What made you steal the bread, my girl ?" asked the officer.

At the mention of the word "bread, little Willie looked tearfully and pit eously in the man's face. The girl hugged the little fellow frantically in her arms, covering him with tears and kisses. "Oh, my poor little brother!" she

you now? This man is going to take your Lena away with him." Here the child threw his arms around

her neck, as if to detain her by force; while the other two children screamed fit to break their hearts.

The officer, suspecting the actual state of affairs, began to cough convulsively; but instead of applying his hands to his chest or throat, as most people do on such occasions, he applied his handkerchief to his eyes.

"Is there no coal, or nothing at all to eat in the house?" said he, in a gurgling sort of voice.

'No coal, no bread, nothing to eat,' replied the girl, wringing her hands, "and poor Willie and the rest of us have had nothing to eat ever since yesterday morning."
"Here the officer had another fit of

coughing, and went away, saying that he would be back again in a short time. "Is the man gone for bread?" asked

the oldest of the children.
"Hush, Mollie dear!" said Lena. don't know what he is gone for. He's not a bad man, anyhow, for he hasn't arrested me, as I thought he would."

In a very few minutes the officer returned with his arms full of bread and groceries, not forgetting some cakes and condiments for the smallest children, while another man at his heels carried a

big sack of coal on his back. At the sight of the bread the children screamed with delight, while the officer now laughed, now coughed, and fre-quently applied his handkerchief to his face, to wipe off the inspiration, as it

While Lena cut up large slices of bread, and helped the children and herself, the two men set at work and made a large fire in the stove, the glow of which soon diffused warmth and comfort through the cabin. Then they cooked the meat and made the tea, and spread a steaming meal on the table, for the four orphans, while they carved and attended to their wants until they were fully sat

Happy, happy childhood, whose prerogatives are innocence, mirth and joy The children, after their dinner, didn't look like the same children at all. Their faces were bright and joyous, happy and handsome, and in a few minutes they were playing and laughing and romping.

as happy as if they had never felt the pangs of hunger.

"And now," said the officer, delighted at seeing the children so happy, "sit down, Lena, and answer me a few ques tions. Have you no father or mother?"

"We have no mother," was Lena's reply. "She died about a year ago, father went away to Eureka to work "She died about a year ago, and about eight months ago, and we hain't seen him ever since.

"What is your father's name?" "Dawson-Jim Dawson." "And he has sent you no moneynothing?"

"Nothing. Never heard of him since he went away. But when he was going he left us a bag of flour, and lots of groseries and things-as much as would last us for aix months, and he'd be sure to be back before the provisions were all

"And you have got no letter from him "Not one," replied Lena, with a deep

Poor Dawson had written to his children, however, but postal communication being at that time very irregular and uncertain in the Silver State, the children did not receive his letters.

"Well, I must go now," said the officer after a pause, "but I will call tomorrow, and you'll have to accompany me up to the police station, for I must do my duty, you know. Good-bye."
And Leno Dawson was left alone with

her little brothers and sisters. She felt sad and lonesome after the departure of her kind benefactor, but the buoyance of childhood soon gained the ascendency, and before bed time the orphans were as happy as any group of little children in Virginia City.

Meantime, the report about the stealing of the bread and the destitute condition of the children got abroad. Jim Dawson, a miner himself, was well known and popular among the miners, and the case created such sympathy and elicited so many reminiscences and commentaries, that quite a crowd was attracted to the police court.

Judge Moses presided. The judge bore the name of being upright and honest, kind and benevolent, and if fault he had at all, it was thought to be somewhat uncompromising rigor in the discharge of his official duties. It was hard to say how the case would go.

After the transaction of some prelimi-nary business the case was called. The baker swore to the stealing of the bread, and identified the defendant as the thief. The officer testified to the famishing condition in which he found the children, but said not a syllable about what he had done to relieve them.

Poor Lena stood trembling before the judge. Thereupon a miner rustled through the crowd and stood before the bench, eyeing the judge with a deprecating look.

"I declare to the Almighty, Jedge, said he, "I never knew the state of Jim Dawson's children, and if I did-' He dropped a twenty into Lena's trem-

bling hand. "You jest knowed as much about it as other folks," exclaimed another miner, excitedly, walking up and putting another twenty into the girl's hand, with an indignant air that flung back any latent suspicion that he kney anything of the children's distress any more than anyboky else.

Here Long Alec, a miner—so called on account of the height and size—slid timidly and bashfully up to Lena's side.

"Leeny," he said, in a half whisper, "hold yer pinafore," and he slipped two twenties into her apron, and then slid back behind the crowd into a corner, and holding his hat to his face, glanced timidly around, to see that he was completely out of sight.

Then came Wabbling Joe, who was far more bashful than even Long Alec, but put on a bold face, and laughed and talked loud to make believe that he was not bashful at all.

"Jedge!" cried Wabbling Joe, laughing and nodding familiarly at the court, to disarm that functionary of possible rigor in the trial of the case in hand-'Jedge, let the girl slide. She ain't done nothin' but what you or I would do if we was hungry.'

And poor Lena was once more the recipient of another present.

The court held down his head and

smiled gravely at Wabbling Joe's defense of the accused, but immediately recov-

ering his gravity, said:
"Gentlemen, I appreciate your liberality and generous sympathy for the young offender, and am particularly impressed with the ingenious defense made by my friend, Wabbling Joe"—here a good natured laugh escaped the whole crowd, as if to put the judge in good humor—"but," continued his honor, "whatever might be the sympathy of the court for the sad condition of the accused, there is a public duty to be performed, and the case must therefore pro-

"What is your name, my girl?" asked the Court.

"They call me Lena Dawson, sir," was the reply.

"Call you Lena Dawson! And I suppose Lena Dawson is your name, is it

not?" observed the judge.
"No, sir, it ain't," returned the girl.
"My father died when I was only three years old, and my mother got married to Mr. Dawson some time afterward. My proper name is Madeline Winters, but they call me Lena, for short."

'Madeline Winters! Where were you

born " asked the judge.
"In Kansas City, sir," was the reply.
"In Kansas City!" echoed the court, in a voice of still deeper gravity than be-"And what was your mother's maiden name, do you know?"
"Madeline Moses, sir," responded

"Madeline Moses! My God! my God!

She was my sister!" And Judge Moses, overcome with emotion, bowed his head on the desk, while a torrent of tears flowed down his face.

Just as the crowd, in obedience to the dictates of delicacy, were emerging from the Police Court, to let uncle and niece indulge the sacred joy of mutual recegnition, Jim Dawson appeared at the door, having just returned from his prospecting tour in Eureka, and with an innate sense of propriety that did honor to his acquaintances, who were all rejoiced to see him, was quietly permitted to join his relatives inside.—[San Francisco Ar-

MINISTER KASSON HAS A ROUGH VOY-AGE.-A letter recieved from the Hon. John A. Kasson, at Liverpool, contains the following personal information of interest to many of Mr. Kasson's friends: "We had a dreadfully rough passage, a bad storm, and several accidents to passengers. I was once thrown across the ship, receiving a wound at the top of my throat, badly hurting my ribs, with other bruises, and was in the hands of the ship's surgeon two or three days, but am now only feeling the soreness, with no broken bones. Twelve persons, sailors and passengers, have been injured, more or less, on the voyage. We did not go into Queenstown, but came direct to Liverpool, arriving in nine days, notwithstanding the stormy weather."—
[Des Moines (Iowa) Register.

Michigan has a female type-setter who set up 8000 ems, made up the paper, took in fifty dollars on subscriptions and sued the editor for a breach of promise, all inside of a day and a half.

curious arabasques produced on window by frost have suggested to a French inventor a system of obtaining designs for printed stuffs by crystillization. He has made experiments with solutions of sulphate of zine, copper, iron, alumnis, and magnesia, into which plates of glass were steeped, and then allowed to dry slowly at different temperpermanent by electrotyping. The great difficulty is to obtain continuous patterns

PATTERNS BY CRYSTALIZATION.-The

atures. The crystals thus deposited formed a great variety of fanciful figures, flowers, feathers, stars, etc. These may be fixed by an addition of albumen or gelatine. If copper plates are used, the designs thus obtained may also be made to be reproduced on the cylinders used for printing; but that may be overcome by using cylindrical plates of copper, and turning them on their axes while the evaporation is going on. The crystillization is, however, frequently irregular and leaves blank spaces which spoil the harmony of the design, but this defect will probably be overcome by experience. It is not certain that the method has yet been practically employed, but the idea is ingenious, and probably will be eventually turned to account.

Sam Joshing was up again yesterday. What brings you here this time?" asked the recorder. "De pliceman, sah; de same what brung me heah last time." "I mean what did you do?" "I was jess passin' a grocery store, when I struck my head agin a ham that was hangin' by de doah. I tuk the ham down to put it somewhares whar it would be safe from folks bustin' dar brains out agin it, when de fust I knowed a pliceman tried to get de ham away from me, and bekase I wouldn't let de ham go he jess brung me along too. - Galveston News.

The most beneficial discovery of the century to man is Ammen's Cough Syrup. A wealthy gentleman, who claims that it entirely cured him of incipient consumption, offered \$5,000 for the formula and the right to manufacture and sell to the world, which was refused. The Remedy stands upon its own merits. A 15-cent sample bottle will convince the most skeptical of its virtues. Try it. It may save your life. All respectable druggists keep it, at 15 cts., 50 cts., and \$1.

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