

MRS. MINTON'S PRESENT

"One moment, Charles—I have forgotten something!" cried pretty Mrs. Minton, darting from the side of her young husband, as he stood in the hall, valise in hand, about to start for a week's travel.

Upon reaching her room, she seized a bottle from a drawer in a bureau, and then, as her face lit with a smile at a happy thought, she seated herself and wrote a few lines upon a sheet of paper, which she placed in the bottle above the powder it contained. Reckoning it, she again rushed to her husband, and said:

"It is time you paid attention to that cold of yours. It is becoming chronic. This may be a patent medicine, but everybody recommends it, and I thought it for your yesterday. Now you will use it, won't you? The directions are within."

"Certainly, love—certainly. Thanks! Good-by!"

Giving his wife a hurried but ardent embrace, Mr. Minton put the bottle in his overcoat pocket and departed.

"The silly darling!" he smilingly murmured, as he turned the corner of the street. "If I should out myself shaving, should I wish to send for a surgeon; and now I'm loaded with a bottle because I sneezed at breakfast. I must rid myself of the incubation at once."

As he thus commended with himself, advancing rapidly, he struck his valise against the legs of a gentleman before him, and raising his head to apologize, saw an aged neighbor.

"Ah, Mr. Johnson, beg pardon! Am in a hurry to catch the train."

"Ugh, ugh! It's—ugh!—no consequence."

"That's a bad cough of yours. I think I've something that will help you. Highly recommended. Take it."

The old gentleman mechanically extended his hand, and as he received the bottle, Mr. Minton bowed and passed on. The gift was scrutinized with a doubtful sneer.

"Ugh! ugh! ha! So Minton has gone into the quack medicine business, has he? I'm too old a bird to be caught with chaff. He shall poison me with drugs. I'll stop it right here. Stop, no—ugh! ugh! ugh! I'll give it to my housekeeper; she believes in such stuff."

Mr. Johnson pocketed the bottle, and slowly shuffled toward his home. His housekeeper was profuse in her thanks as she was presented with the "perfect cure."

"I'm sure I'm much obliged to you, so! It's the very thing for me sister's cough. Has it made yer own better, so?"

"I experience relief from it," said Mr. Johnson, with a cynical smile, "at this moment."

"I'm expectin' no sister this very mornin'. We are both so much 'blegged to ye!"

But the housekeeper's sister proved, on arrival, to have well-nigh recovered from her trouble, and was averse to trying a new remedy. Being, however, a provident person, she accepted the gift, saying that it would be a good thing to have in the house.

It was not destined to remain long there. The husband's notice was attracted to it as he ate his lunch, the mantelpiece upon which it had been placed being opposite his seat at the table.

"More purchases!" he growled. "What have you got there? What's the use of throwing money away like that? Who's sick now?"

"You're altogether too quick to find fault. It was given to me," responded the wife.

"What is it, anyway? Let's see it." "A mere cure for catarrh."

The man read the label and then put it into his pocket, saying: "I'll take it to the shop. It hasn't cost us anything, and I'll give it to the boss. It may do us some good in that way."

"Unless you're sure he wants it, you had better leave it where it is."

"I know what I'm about," replied the man, as he arose to put on his coat.

"Mr. Dennis, I've heard you say there was no cure for catarrh. Now here's a remedy that's warranted perfect. If you'll try it I wish you'd take it from me."

"Thanks! It's the very medicine I'm using now. Got bottles of it. Keep it, or give it to some one who has need of it. Thanks, all the same."

"I'll take it," cried a fellow-workman, with jocular eagerness.

To him the bottle was handed. "And now you've got it, what are you going to do with it?" asked the giver. "You haven't got any catarrh."

"No; but I've got children."

"Pretty nearly as bad, I suppose."

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mr. W. E. Forster, the late Irish secretary, is a crack shot with a rifle and revolver, and is said to carry one of the latter.

The King of Siam, who has just built a new palace for one million dollars, is furnishing it with four hundred tons of furniture at a cost of five hundred thousand dollars.

"My dear," said a husband to his wife, "what kind of a stone do you think they will give me when I am gone?" She answered, coolly, "It might be brimstone, John."

The wonderful Kentucky revivalist, Barnes, has begun work in Frankfort, with the avowed intention of converting the governor, secretary of State, and other official State officials.

The Boston dry goods firm of Jordan, Marsh & Co. will send twelve of their employes on a European tour this summer, paying all expenses. This is to be made a yearly practice.

The room in the Franklyn cottage, Elberon, in which President Garfield died is closed and draped heavily with mourning. In this condition, it is stated, it will always remain.

The wife of John Harriman, of Moretown, Vermont, presented him with four babies the other day, and John is going to move at once from Moretown to a place with a less cumulative name.

A Missouri woman was astounded when a man took her suddenly in his arms and jumped into a pond with her; and grateful when she learned that her dress had been in a blaze, which the leap extinguished.

The longest line of fence in the world will be the wire fence extending from Indian Territory west across the Texas Panhandle, and thirty-five miles into New Mexico. We are informed that eighty-five miles of this fence is already under contract. Its course will be in the line of the Canadian river, and its purpose is to stop the drift of the northern cattle. It is a bold and splendid enterprise and will pay a large percentage on the investment. The fence will be over two hundred miles long.

"Any book in the Seaside or Franklin Square Library sent on receipt of price by the N. P. News Co., 145 E. First street, Portland. Dealers in all kinds of books and stationery."

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George Kaine and Lester Howard are still drawing crowded houses at the Klite theater in Portland. Kitty and Carrie Armstrong in their respective comedies, and the whole company are strong and talented.

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