

READ AND YOU WILL LEARN

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THE SHELVING OF MISS BECKY.

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SCISSORS, needles, thimbles and tongues were unusually busy that afternoon. The Pimlico Sewing society had a reputation for promptness...

At first the conversation was desultory in character. But like the preliminary skirmishing that ushers in the real battle, it but preluded the discussion of matters pertaining to the general welfare of Pimlico and its inhabitants.

"Mrs. Blythe isn't coming to-day, not being very well. I've had no word from Miss Becky, so I suppose she'll be here before Miss Becky comes."

Mrs. Parkinson had grown excited. Her low, mysterious utterances had risen to full oratorical crescendo. She wiped her glasses deliberately, put them on and looked around.

"My mother wasn't married till she was 32, but in she hadn't wore posies in her bunnet for so long 'fore that time she felt ez though ev'ryone in the meetin' house wuz eyelin' her when she wore her weddin' bunnet with a bunch o' white bows on it."

"I've been keeful about sayin' anything that might cause trouble for comin' to the years o' Mis' Blythe an' Becky," Mrs. Rigge remarked.

"Near 30!" old Mrs. Tracy exclaimed, with some scorn. "Becky'll never see 30 again. She's one age to my Joe, an' he's been married goin' on nine years now."

"That was only the beginning. All efforts to entice the young man from the dangerous Miss Rebecca proved unavailing. Indeed, he appeared to spend far more time at the Blythe home than he did with his good uncle and aunt."

MURPHY

Jeff Lindsay is erecting a new house on his place. We are seeing candidates every day, first one, then two.

We are having a new school house built, which was badly needed. Stock are coming through the winter finely without very much feed.

Chas. Berkhalter and crew are busy placer mining on Oscar creek this winter.

Zeb Hyde and Oscar have been mining on Nine Mile on Williams this winter.

Miss Ella Williams returned to her home on Applegate after a brief stay in Grants Pass.

Arch Bunch has a stump puller in use on his place. Say, that is easy work beside the old mactack.

Everyone seems pleased over the prospect of getting telephones and are waiting to say "Hello, Central."

There was a dance in the new school house last Friday night which was well attended and all enjoyed a good time.

Hurrah for March! He is acting the lion alright; snow six inches deep and still falling.

The writer was out on a trip two days of last week and found a country that is not any better than our own.

Ed Swinden is working his mine this winter with a good output of the yellow metal.

Cured Memorhages of the Lungs. Several years since my lungs were so badly affected that I had many memorhages.

"I can't stay to-day," she announced. "I am sorry, for I know how much there is to be done."

And then Miss Rebecca Blythe came in, looking happy and rosy, and not a day over 25. She wore a trim winter coat, and two bright yellow wings were sticking straight up in the little jaunty felt hat that perched defiantly above the wind-blown waves of Miss Rebecca's shining black hair.

"I can't stay to-day," she announced. "I am sorry, for I know how much there is to be done; and mother was not well enough to come."

Mrs. Parkinson's face was a study. She said nothing; but Miss Flint had a malicious light in her eye as she asked: "What air ye goin' to do, Becky, on Thanksgivin'?"

"It is our turn to go to Sister Martha's this year. We'll take the train in the morning, you know, and come back the next day."

Then Miss Rebecca laughed merrily, as she added: "Oh, just let me tell you. Brother Tom actually made that man promise to spend Thanksgivin' with Sister Martha to taste her cake."

"You know what a famous cake-maker Martha always has been. But I must hurry away. You all look so cozy in here, and so industrious; it makes me feel quite good for nothing."

Miss Blythe left; and a hush fell upon the assembly.

Then there was a rush for the window. Various complimentary remarks were made about the personal appearance of the doctor from the west, and a few uncomplimentary things said about the deep-laid scheme of his designing companion.

The meeting adjourned at an earlier hour than usual, much to the relief of the ladies. On the whole, the afternoon had been an uncomfortable one.

But Mrs. Parkinson did not acknowledge defeat. Early the following morning she "ran in" to consult with Mrs. Tracy, one of her staunch supporters.

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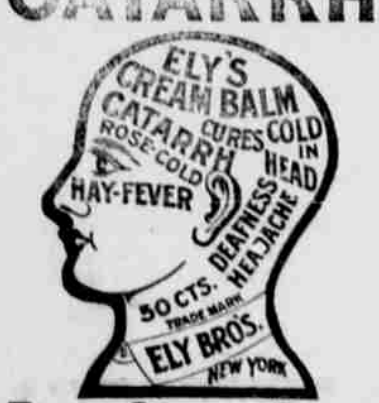
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