The Observer
MORO, OREGON.

SUMMARY OF THE OREGON NEWS

The Rapid Reader's Review of Recent Reports Rewritten

BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

Approximately $114,650 was spent by Douglas county in building roads and erecting bridges during the year 1914.

The entire cost of the Tumalo irrigation project was $447,795.70, according to the report to the desert land board, submitted by Project Engineer Laurgaard.

A four-week course in scientific agriculture and home economics, the first of its kind in the state, was begun Monday at the Harney county high school in Burns.

According to a compilation of the state highway engineer the expenditures in Oregon for roads and bridges from 1903 to October 1, 1914, were approximately $22,000,000.

Senator Chamberlain is advised by the treasury department that the drawings are completed for the Pendleton postoffice, and bids were advertised for February 1.

The construction of the Willamette Pacific bridge across Coos Bay has progressed so that the engineers predict its completion by summer if no unseen difficulties arise.

The ninth annual convention of the Oregon Retail Merchants' association will be held in Portland February 15, 16 and 17, when an attendance of more than 1000 merchants from every section of the state is expected.

Attorney-General Gregory has approved the deed by which the federal government will acquire title to the Oregon City locks, and sent his letter of approval, with the deed, to Secretary of War Garrison for acceptance.

Porter Bros. are planning to build a railroad up the South Santiam valley from Albany, via Lebanon, this year, according to a statement made by A. Welch, of Portland, former owner of the Portland, Eugene & Eastern railway.

Permanent organization of the Lane County Jersey Breeders' association was effected at a meeting in Eugene. F. B. Chase, of Eugene, was chosen president; C. S. Calef, of Eugene, vice president; C. A. Swarts, of Springfield, secretary-treasurer.

Representative Lafferty has selected as principal and alternate for admission as cadet to Annapolis Ross A. Dierdorff, Linnton, principal; Ed. Towle, William S. Kinney, James I. Teed, all of Portland, first, second and third alternates, respectively.

A bequest of $500,000 has been made to the Methodist Church of Oregon. Announcement of the fact was made in the Pacific Christian Advocate, the official organ of the Methodist Church in this district. W. W. Brown, of Portland, and Malheur, was the donor.

Substantial increases in the loans and discounts and capital are shown by the combined statement of all the banks of the state of Oregon at the close of business December 31, 1914, according to figures given out by S. G. Sargent, state bank examiner.

Yellow after 69 years of existence but still legible, a copy of the first newspaper printed west of the Rocky Mountains, the Oregon City Spectator, will be sent to the Panama Pacific exposition and will occupy a prominent place in the Coos County exhibit.

Three acres of land lying east of the normal school building in Monmouth will become a school garden early in the spring, according to arrangements now made by the agricultural department of the Oregon normal school. Under the new plan of giving instruction to the teachers, agriculture is to receive no small share of attention.

An appropriation of $2,000,000 for continuing work on the north jetty, at the mouth of the Columbia river, is provided in an amendment to the river and harbor bill, agreed to by the subcommittee of the senate commerce committee. The house bill carried $1,250,000, which was all, the engineers said that would be required to carry the work forward during the coming fiscal year. This increase was made by the sub-committee in lieu of placing the Columbia river project on a continuing contract basis.

In the third biennial report of the desert land board, just completed, it is recommended that the legislature provide, by suitable enactment, that all moneys received on account of land sales or from other source on the Tumalo project, except maintenance fees, be placed in a special fund to be known as a Tumalo project fund, and that the desert land board be authorized to make disbursements from this fund for the necessary expenses in connection with the Tumalo project not covered by the regular maintenance fees.

Preliminary estimates of the output of metals from Oregon mines in 1914, made by Charles G. Yale, of the United States geological survey, show general decreases from the figures for 1913. The gold yield for 1913 was $1,627,710, and the estimate for 1914 is about $1,600,000. The silver output for 1913 was 179,036 fine ounces, and the estimate for 1914 is 126,000 ounces, or 53,000 ounces less. The yield of copper in 1914 was about 5000 pounds, or 38,000 pounds less than 1913, and the yield of lead was 41,000 pounds, or 46,000 pounds less.

TOUCHING A CONSCIENCE

How a Crime Was Robbed of Its Reward.

By EUNICE BLAKE

David Herrick and his wife had no children, and as they were growing old they decided to adopt some one to be with them while they lived and to enjoy after their death a snug property they had accumulated. There were two persons from whom they were disposed to select this companion and heir, the one Julia Andrews, the daughter of a sister of Mr. Herrick; the other Kate Armitage, a girl who had at times been employed by them for various purposes.

Mrs. Herrick let out the secret of their intention to a friend who told it to Kate Armitage. The consequence was that when Julia Andrews was chosen Kate was much chagrined. Quite likely, if she had not received the information given her, this story would never have been written.

Julia Andrews was a lovely girl, very sensitive and high spirited. She entered upon her life as companion for her uncle and aunt and resolved to do all she could for their happiness. Not long after she did so a will was made in her favor.

Kate Armitage found it impossible to relinquish not only the comfortable home, but the fortune, that would have been hers had the decision been in her favor and resolved to make an effort to oust her successful rival that she might step into her place. When a person is determined to ruin another, if the work is properly planned and without any regard whatever to truth or justice, in many cases the effort will be successful.

Kate Armitage's first object was to get possession of a specimen of the handwriting of the girl she was desirous of supplanting. She wrote Julia a note under an assumed name, taking care even to disguise her hand, telling her a pitiful story of a sick mother and a lot of starving children and begging her to send her a little pecuniary assistance. Julia inclosed a bill in a sympathetic letter and thought no more about the matter.

Not long after this Mrs. Herrick received an anonymous letter inclosing one purporting to have been written by Julia, in which she said that she was getting very tired waiting for the old couple to die, and she wished they would hurry up. The letter began "My dear" and ended "Your loving Julia." Therefore the identity of the person to whom it had been written was concealed. The person who sent the letter—evidently a woman—declared that she could not bear to see a good woman so basely deceived and had therefore sent her the proof of her niece's ingratitude.

Mrs. Herrick was naturally very much shocked. She recognized at once Julia's handwriting, or supposed she did, for she did not know that Kate Armitage had practiced for weeks imitating it, and it seemed to her that there was no question as to her niece's guilt. Her husband was not at home then, and she could not wait till he returned to charge Julia with her baseness. Julia, who did not suppose she had an enemy in the world, was thunderstruck. She denied having written the letter, and when her aunt called upon her for proof of the fact, yielding to her sensitive, high strung nature, she walked out of the room, put on her wraps and left the house.

When Mr. Herrick returned and learned what had occurred he was not so disposed as was his wife to believe in his niece's guilt. He explained to his wife that the law was full of peculiar checks that were intended to protect persons accused of crime, not only from false evidence, but from the taking of steps calculated to place them in false positions. He therefore advocated recalling Julia and hearing what she had to say in her defense. His wife opposed this because, she maintained, Julia had acknowledged her guilt by going away.

Having failed in their first effort to get some one to be a comfort to them and inherit their property, they decided to make another trial in the person of Kate Armitage. She was asked by Mrs. Herrick to a conference which resulted in her being invited to live with the couple on trial. She quickly assented and became a member of the family. She proved more satisfactory than Julia as a helper, because what Julia had done for her aunt and uncle from choice Kate did to make herself solid with those from whom she hoped to inherit a fortune. Nevertheless there is a difference between true and false affection which appears at times, for it is a different matter for the pretender to keep up the pretense. Mr Herrick regretted his niece and failed to take any interest in Kate Armitage.

Kate proving eminently satisfactory to Mrs. Herrick, the old couple decided to make a will in her favor. Mr Herrick had accumulated the property, and he willed the property to his wife, who made a will in favor of Kate. The attorney who drew these wills recommended certain restrictions. If Mrs. Herrick should be disabled from making a subsequent will the one she had made must stand. It was therefore possible for Kate to marry, leave her benefactress and yet inherit the property at the latter's death. A clause was therefore introduced into Mrs Herrick's will that in case Kate married the will should be void. In such event, there being no will, the property would be distributed among the heirs-at-law.

Mr. Herrick died when Kate had been living with them three years, and his wife followed him six months later. Kate had been told by Mrs. Herrick that she had made a will in her favor, but the restriction was not mentioned. After the old lady's death the lawyer who had drawn it and in whose care it had been ever since produced it and signified to Kate that he had deposited it with the surrogate. She had only to go to that official to sign the necessary documents and receive her inheritance.

It is not to be assumed from this narrative that Kate Armitage was a good girl. Not long after she went to live with the Herricks she fell in with a young man, and a love affair resulted. She could not marry without leaving Mr. and Mrs. Herrick, which would be equivalent to relinquishing a fortune. After Mr. Herrick's death she consented to secretly marry her lover, she to retain her residence with Mrs. Herrick. The marriage was performed by a clergyman and with witnesses to whom the bride was personally unknown, for she would trust no one except her lover with a secret on which so much depended.

Kate concluded to receive her property under her maiden name, though she had been advised that property left her as a spinster was equally hers as a married woman. She went alone to the surrogate, who showed her the will. She read that all Mrs. Herrick's property was hers and breathed a sigh of relief. Then she read on and saw that provided she married the will was void.

She uttered a suppressed cry.

All that she had sinned for, all that she had waited for during five years, was lost. But was it lost? One who had ruined another by a forgery was not incapable of signing a lie. Might she not receive the property as an unmarried woman?

The surrogate obliged her before acknowledging her right to the property to sign a statement under oath that she was not married. This was a more serious matter than forging a letter. She did not dare sign without consultation or at least deliberation. She went to a lawyer and stated her case hypothetically. He informed her that a married woman under the circumstances signing a statement that she was not and had not been married would commit a felony and was liable to imprisonment.

In her perplexity she informed her husband what she was obliged to do to secure the property they had been waiting for. He saw at once that it could be secured only by the perpetration of a crime and told her so. A quarrel resulted between them, and he left her.

The fear of prison kept the beneficiary of the will from signing a falsehood, and after much delay she was forced to admit to the attorney who had had charge of the Herrick property that she was a married woman and had no claim on the property. The lawyer before notifying the heirs-at-law that Mrs. Herrick had died without a valid will made a search among the family papers to be sure that there was no prior will. He found one that had been made in favor of Julia Andrews soon after she had gone to live with the Herricks.

One morning Julia Andrews received a letter informing her that she had inherited an estate worth $300,000. Julia believed there was some mistake. She called on the lawyer who had sent the notification, and he told her that Kate Armitage, who had taken her place in the Herrick household, had been left the property, but with a proviso which had nullified the will.

Julia had known that her uncle and aunt had supplied her place, but knew little or nothing about the person who had taken it. If she accepted this property she would take advantage of a technicality to secure an inheritance that was not rightfully hers. She thought the matter over, then asked for an appointment to meet the person whom she considered the rightful heir.

The two women met at the lawyer's office and were left alone in a private room. Julia was as calm as a summer sky. Kate was pale as a ghost.

"I presume," said Julia, "that you went to live with my uncle and aunt with the understanding that you were to inherit their property."

"I did," said Kate in a faint voice.

"How came it that my aunt put the provision in her will that if you married you should lose your inheritance?"

"I don't know. I never knew of such provision."

"You completed your part of the contract, I believe—you remained with my aunt so long as she lived."

"I did."

"Then the property rightfully belongs to you."

Kate made no reply to this. She hung her head to conceal her features, which showed the workings of conscience. There was a long silence, at the end of which Julia continued:

"I cannot accept this property for two reasons. The first is that my aunt did not intend to leave it to me; therefore it is not mine. In the second place, when I was wrongfully accused by means of a forged letter my aunt believed the forgery instead of my denial, and I am too proud to take it on this account. I am ready to turn it over to you."

No police inspector could have applied the third degree to a criminal more effectively. Kate broke down and confessed that she was the author of the forgery.

Because of her repentance Julia granted her an allowance as long as she lived.

Putting It Gently.

"Are you trying to accuse me of overcharging you?" asked the taxicab driver.

"No," replied the man who is mild, but tenacious. "All I say is that your fare indicator ought to be arrested for exceeding the speed limit."—Washington Star.

Effective Cause.

Smith—I understand that some of your hens have stopped laying. Jones—Two of them have. Smith—What's the cause? Jones—Motorcar.—Stray Stories.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, } ss.
Lucas County.
Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.
FRANK J. CHENEY.
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.
(Seal) A. W. GLEASON,
Notary Public.
Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free.
F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.
Sold by all Druggists, 75c.
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Superb Sculptured Group Will Exalt Pioneer Mother at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition

THE woman of the pioneer era will be exalted in the Pioneer Mother Monument, the work of Charles Grafly, one of America's foremost sculptors, which will be shown at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. This monument in bronze is designed to perpetuate a spirit of love and veneration for the women who crossed the plains and played their parts in the settlement of the west. The school children of California helped pay for the statue.

Charles Grafly at Work on His Monument.

The Mystery of the Pelican

A Story of the Sea During Wartime.

By F. A. MITCHEL

On the 3d of October, 1914, the ship Julia Gowan sailed from New York for Genoa, Italy. She was an English bottom, owned by Americans and converted after the great European war broke out to a United States vessel. She carried a cargo of copper. Whether it was intended for Italy or was to be forwarded to a country engaged in war I never knew, but I did know that copper was in great demand for the manufacture of ammunition. And I further knew that, although we were sailing under the stars and stripes, our captain was constantly on the lookout for war vessels, though I am not sure whether at that time copper had been declared contraband of war.

We steered a course south of that usually taken by ships bound for the Mediterranean in order to take as little risk as possible. There are few vessels to be met with on that part of the world's waters, and we did not speak a ship till we were in longitude 32 degrees 40 minutes west, latitude 28 degrees 20 minutes north, and then we spoke a vessel we came upon because she had been abandoned.

She was a small steamer of about 800 tons. Our captain, after satisfying himself that he could get no reply to signals, sent me aboard of her with a dozen men to examine her and report. I found her in good order, but the only living thing aboard was a dog. He was dying of hunger, but I considered that he could not have been left there very long or he would doubtless have died, for I could not find any indications that food had been left for him.

I went below to have a look at the cargo and found the hold full of rifles. The machinery seemed to be in good working order, and there was a trace of fire left in the furnace. The only thing wanting was the lifeboats. I saw no reason why she should not be taken into port as a prize. I signaled the captain telling him what I had found, and he came aboard to have a look at the ship and cargo himself.

We concluded that the vessel had sighted a man of war and that the crew, expecting capture, had concluded to get away themselves. There were several ways by which they might have escaped—in a fog or by boarding a faster vessel than the pursuer. The absence of the ship's boats tended to confirm this theory.

The captain concluded to try to get the vessel into port as a prize. If she could be taken to Europe her cargo would be very valuable, but of course there was danger of capture by war vessels, for there was no doubt that a cargo of rifles was contraband of war. Anyway, the captain directed me to remain aboard with the men I had with me, including an engineer that he would send me, and ordered me to try to get the ship to either a Spanish or a Portuguese port. If I could get far enough north to reach the western coast of France, better still, but he advised me not to try for France unless I was chased and saw a chance to escape in that direction.

Since there was fuel for power and food for a prize crew there was nothing to be sent me except the engineer. Soon after his arrival the fires were relighted, and steam having been generated, we parted with the Gowan, because I took a more northern course, and the next morning she was out of sight.

I found that our prize—her name was the Pelican—was a faster ship than might have been expected from her size. She could do fifteen knots an hour. There were flags of all nations aboard, which was not surprising, considering that she was carrying a contraband cargo. Indeed, there was every indication that she had been taking big risks.

One unexpected discovery was made—there had been a woman aboard. We found in a stateroom we supposed to have been intended for the captain a lot of feminine paraphernalia. Thinking that in this room I might find something that would throw light on the case, I made a careful search. I found nothing except a crumpled bit of writing paper on which had been written in a woman's hand:

Father—I by am I locked in my room? I am frightfully worried about you. Something must have happened. I will try to get this to you, but I don't know how.
HELEN.

There was just enough in this to be tantalizing. Who was "father?" And who was Helen? She had evidently not been able to send her message and had crumpled it and thrown it into one of the drawers.

I would have proceeded at once to look for further evidence, but at the time I discovered this message I was called on deck by the watch, who had sighted a line of smoke on the starboard quarter. I kept on the same course till the steamer came near enough for me to see with a glass that she was a cruiser, though she displayed no flag; then I put the ship due north, which would place the cruiser astern. She was evidently coming for me, for she increased rapidly in size. I put on all steam, but the cruiser must have been making from three to six knots more than I, since she drew up on me rapidly. It did not matter much what was her nationality, for if she caught us she would take our cargo. If she were a neutral and we could prove ourselves neutral we would not be liable to seizure, but unfortunately for us we had no papers at all.

It was about 5 o'clock in the evening when we discovered the cruiser, and by the time it fell dark she had approached within five or six miles of us. I ordered every light put out, but she brought a searchlight to bear on us and immediately after fired a gun after us. Then a friendly fog came along and threw a mantle about us that not even a searchlight could penetrate. The cruiser lost us and did not find us again.

The next day one of the crew came to me and reported that the men were in great fear that the ship was haunted. Moans had been heard. I sent for the man who had heard them and ordered him to take me to the part of the ship from whence they seemed to have emanated. He led me on to a lower deck, where there were a few staterooms. I opened several of them, but found nothing. Then suddenly a sound of some one crying came from one of the others. I opened two doors before I located the sound. Then, trying a third, I found it locked.

I knocked, but my doing so only seemed to increase the sobbing within.

"We are friends," I said, "and wish to serve you."

"Then why have you locked me in here and left me without food or drink?"

The voice was that of a woman. I told her that if she would open the door I would explain certain matters to her of which she might be ignorant. She replied that she could not open the door, for she had not the key, whereupon I decided that if she could not open it I would.

"Look out!" I cried. "I'm going to break down the door!" Then, drawing back, I put my heel against it, and it flew open.

Inside was a girl about nineteen years old. She was dressed, but had got into a berth to avoid the opening door. Crouching back, she was evidently uncertain whether we were friends or coming to do her harm. She was very pale and weak, and I saw at once that she was starving. Before questioning her I sent for food, of which I gave her sparingly. Then I carried her up to the stateroom where I had found women's clothing.

She told me that this had been her room and she had been taken from it by several members of the crew to the one in which I had found her.

As soon as the girl was able to talk, fully believing that the mystery of the Pelican was about to be solved, I asked for her story. I was doomed to disappointment. She knew very little more than I did. Her father was or had been master of the Pelican. He had sailed from a small port in the States. He had told his daughter before sailing that she might go on a trip with him, but nothing more. One morning when she had tried to leave her stateroom she found the door locked. The same evening she had been taken to the room in which I found her and was confined there. A supper had been given her and the next morning a breakfast. That was all she knew. She was much surprised to learn that the ship had been deserted and greatly feared for her father's safety, for she was sure that, if free to act, he would not have left her to perish.

I cross questioned Miss Bradford—Helen Bradford was her name—hoping to get some clew that would enable me at least to form a theory which would solve the mystery. I got nothing. She did not even know that the cargo consisted of rifles. She was aware that a great war was being fought, and her father had told her that the ship was liable to be overhauled by a cruiser and searched, but whatever happened she would be in no danger. The only incident she mentioned bearing on the case was that the porthole in her stateroom had been darkened at night.

Our voyage proved an exciting one, chased as we were on several occasions by cruisers. We always showed a neutral flag and at the same time a clean pair of heels. The worst of it was that we were driven off our course several times, and thus kept wandering about in the Atlantic ocean. On one occasion, being chased by a gunboat, we would have been taken were it not for the fact that we could do about a knot more than she.

I spent whatever time I could spare in trying to comfort Helen Bradford, and since pity is akin to love, I may have been in love without knowing it. I certainly had enough on my mind to keep me from anything sentimental. I found out afterward the nature of my feelings for the girl I had been instrumental in rescuing.

During a spell of bad weather we lost our reckoning, and one still morning, enveloped in a fog, we went ashore on the coast of Morocco. We had various visitors, among them an Italian trader, to whom I confided the secret of my cargo. He proved wealthy enough to buy it and paid me in gold. I went ashore with Miss Bradford and the crew, and the next night a storm made kindling wood of the Pelican. I married Miss Bradford, and we returned to America. I constituted myself a court of admiralty and divided the price for the Pelican's cargo as I considered just, my wife getting the principal part. We have not as yet heard from her father, and the mystery of the Pelican is still unsolved. My theory is that the crew mutinied; that, being chased by a cruiser, they left the ship in the ship's boats, taking the captain a prisoner with them. His daughter may have been left in the hurry of departure.

Lampblack.

A German process of collecting lampblack consists in placing two electrodes in a flame rich in carbon and passing a direct electric current of about fifteen volts. The lampblack deposited on the negative electrode consists of much finer particles than the ordinary, the material being especially suitable for fine printing inks and high grade paints.

BRIDLE THY TONGUE.

Let me no wrong or idle word
Unthinking say.
Set thou a seal upon my lips
Through all today.
—Samuel Wilberforce.

A PLEA FOR DANGER.

This Writer Argues That Too Much Safety May Breed Weaklings.

In these days of the placarding of "safety first" and the juxtaposition of "safe and sane," is a voice necessarily that of a madman if it be heard in the land singing the praises of danger and risk? With all our laws and movements and committees for the elimination from our daily life of all chances unfavorable to life, limb, health and property are we in no danger of saving the body at the expense of the spirit?

Too great security breeds weaklings, and too nervous a regard for physical safety is not only craven but ultimately unwise. Our nation, if it is to be great and free, must set high value on the courage, resourcefulness and high spirit of the individual citizen. Now, courage is nourished on dangers coped with, and the prudent soul that always "plays safe" cannot be called high or noble. Our evolution up to this point has always been conditioned by the need of self preservation in the face of innumerable enveloping dangers. The creature that hesitated to take chances or always avoided threatened injury soon ceased to exist, either as species or individual.

Hence our bodies, our minds, our very spirits have been evolved, in part at least, to fulfill this function of coping with some kind of danger. For what purpose our eyes, our ears, our nerves, our muscles, our sense of right and wrong? A removal, then, from our environment of this element of danger tends to be followed by degeneracy and atrophy in all parts of our natures. Indeed, in modern life we are prone to become stall fed in body and spirit. This we tacitly confess in our passion for sport, which is essentially mimic hunting or war and for the vicarious adventure of romantic fiction.—Scribner's.

A Counsel For Life.

What never ran smooth yet can hardly be expected to change its character for us, so we must take it as we find it and fashion it into the very best shape we can by patience and good humor.—Charles Dickens.

Best Diarrhoea Remedy.

If you have ever used Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy you know that it is a success. Sam F. Guin, Whatley, Ala., writes, "I had measles and got caught out in the rain, and it settled in my stomach and bowels. I had an awful time, and had it not been for Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy I could not possibly have lived but a few hours longer, but thanks to this remedy, I am now well and strong." For sale by all dealers.—Advertisement.

How They Became Acquainted

By MAY C. ETHERIDGE

Mr. Tinkham came home for dinner tired after a hard day's work. Usually his wife listened for him to come home after business and either met him in the hall or called for him to come upstairs for the connubial kiss. Today she did neither. Mr. Tinkham, hearing or seeing nothing of her, went up to her bedroom. She was sitting before the window with her back to him.

"My dear," he said, and paused.

No reply.

"What's the matter?"

Without turning she pointed to the bureau. Her husband went to it, and there lay an envelope, unaddressed. He took from it a bit of tissue paper neatly folded. Opening the paper, he uncovered a strand of hair arranged in circular form and fastened with a bit of very narrow blue ribbon.

"Well," he said, "what about it?"

"What about it?" rising and facing him. "I found it in the pocket of your overcoat that you left for me to put away for the season."

"My overcoat?"

"Yes, your overcoat."

"How did it get there?"

"Don't ask me how it got there. You doubtless know how it got there."

"Do you mean to tell me that you found that in my overcoat pocket?"

"I do."

"Where's the coat?"

"There," pointing to a closet.

Mr. Tinkham opened a closet door and took from it his winter overcoat. He had bought it at Stevenson's, ready made. It was the same pattern as the one he had purchased, and the maker's name was on the back. He was convinced that he had not exchanged coats with any one. And yet such an exchange was possible. He had lunched at a restaurant, and a waiter had hung his coat on a hook. Some one who had bought a suit from Stevenson's, made from the same goods, might have got the Tinkham coat, and Tinkham might have got the unknown's coat. Mr. Tinkham gave this explanation to his wife as a possible solution.

It did not work.

Without making any reply Mrs. Tinkham put on her wraps and sailed downstairs and out of the house. Her husband called after her not to make a fool of herself, but come back and help him solve the mystery. She did not heed him.

Mr. Tinkham debated what he should do, then sat down to dinner, hoping that his wife would come back before he had finished. She did not come, and after vainly trying to make out a dinner he arose from the table, put on his hat and overcoat and went out, intending to go to the restaurant where he had lunched and try to discover if any one had exchanged coats with him.

Mrs. Tinkham, nursing her wrath, walked aimlessly about for awhile, when she began to feel faint for want of sustenance. Too proud or too vindictive to return to her home, she went to a restaurant to get a cup of tea. There was one best restaurant in the town, where she had often been with her husband, and thither she directed her steps. While sitting at a table a handsome young man stepped up to her, bowed politely and said:

"Is this Mrs. Tinkham?"

"It is."

"The proprietor has told me that he has seen you here with your husband. I lunched here today, and when I left a waiter handed me my coat. Happening to put my hand in my pocket, I felt a paper, and on examination it proved to have Mr. Tinkham's name on it. This I discovered only half an hour ago and came here to learn where I could find Mr. Tinkham."

The young man held up the counterpart of the coat from which Mrs. Tinkham had taken the lock of hair. Mrs. Tinkham asked him a few questions about the coat, and while she was doing so the young man dropped into a seat opposite her.

Meanwhile Mr. Tinkham, who had been approaching, entered the restaurant at the same time as a young and pretty woman. The lady spied Mrs. Tinkham and the young man sitting at the same table and, with fire in her eye, approached them. Mr. Tinkham, too, saw his wife and followed the lady.

"This is the way you are detained at business," said the latter, "and break your engagements! Please understand that all is off between us."

"And this is the way," cried a voice behind her, addressing Mrs. Tinkham, "that you contrive to meet a lover! A clever device to put a lock of hair in my pocket and then flounce out of the house to come here to keep an appointment."

"A lock of hair!" exclaimed Mrs. Tinkham's companion. "Did I leave a lock of hair in the coat?"

"Whose hair?" cried the young lady vociferously.

"Yours," snapped the young man.

"Excuse me, ladies and gentlemen," said the proprietor, who, hearing the wrangle, approached, "I can have no quarreling in my restaurant."

After considerably more talk the matter was finally explained, whereupon Mr. Tinkham proposed that they all have dinner together. The young man introduced himself and his fiancee. A good dinner was served, and every one was happy. Later, when they parted, the ladies agreed to exchange calls, and in time they all became fast friends.

IDLENESS.

Idleness breeds rust and courts evil. An unhappy life is an idle one. Those who are happiest are the most earnest workers. It is folly to say that we can find no labor. Life itself is a stupendous task. It is cowardly, however, to shirk labor by feigning not to see it. Each mortal, if he does his duty, will have a busy life.