



Above St. Irene.

I rested on the breezy height,
In cooler shade and clearer air,
Beneath a maple tree;
Below, the mighty river took
Its sparkling shade and sheeny light
Down to the somber sea,
And clustered by the leaping brook,
The roofs of white St. Irene.

And there I saw a little child
Between the tossing goldenrod,
Coming along to me;
She was a tender little thing,
So fragile sweet, so Mary-mild,
I thought her name Marie;
No other name methought could cling
To anyone so fair as she.

And when we came at last to meet,
I spoke a simple word to her,
"Where are you going, Marie?"
She answered and she did not smile,
But oh, her voice—her voice so sweet,
"Down to Saint Irene,"
And so passed on to walk her mile
And left the lonely road to me.

And as the night came on apace
With stars above the darkened hills,
I heard perpetually,
Chiming along the falling hours,
On the deep dusk that mellow phrase,
"Down to Saint Irene;"
It seemed as if the stars and flowers
Should all go there with me.

A Dog's Decision.

A slight variation of the story about the dog which is claimed by two persons, and which is allowed to decide between them, and goes straight to his rightful master, putting the thief to shame, has been recorded by the newspapers of the town of Projestienten, in Hungary. It appears that a hard-working knife-grinder came to the police authorities of the town, and reported that a rag-picker had stolen his dog, and still had him.

The matter was looked into, and it was found that the rag-picker had in his possession a splendid dog of the variety known as the Great Dane, of which he could give no satisfactory account.

The case was brought into court, and the judge decided that the dog himself should settle the matter.

The two claimants were placed at each end of a long table. The dog was led in by a bailiff, and held by a string at a point between the judge and the table, and exactly half way between the two claimants.

The judge then clapped his hands three times, and the two men began to whistle vigorously to the dog. At the same instant the bailiff loosed the animal.

The Great Dane looked at the rag-picker, then at the knife-grinder; then at one bound he cleared the table, rushed down an aisle of the court-room, and disappeared through the door, to the astonishment of the court and the spectators.

The fact was that the dog belonged to neither of the contestants, but to a gentleman to whose house he went straight from the court-room. He had been stolen successively by both the knife-grinder and the rag-picker.

Novel Riding.

"There is no motion so delightful as riding on horseback," writes the author of "The Naturalist in La

age, and learned to look at... as a parasitical creature, fitted to occupy the back of a horse.

The pleasures of riding flow from the agreeable sensations attendant on flight-like motion, and from the knowledge that something with life and thought sustains us and carries us over the ground with speed and safety, and that, too, without any material or physical exertion on our part.

The author mentions one species of pleasure in riding that few English-speaking riders have ever heard of.

When riding by night on the pampas, he used to enjoy lying back on his horse till his head and shoulders rested on the animal's back. His feet were raised till they pressed against the horse's neck, and in this position, made by practice safe and comfortable, he gazed at the starry sky, seeing nothing of earth, but letting his mind absorb the impression created by the vast circle of the heavens glittering with innumerable stars.

To enjoy this method of riding thoroughly the rider must have perfect confidence in the sure-footedness of his horse, and the horse must have a similar confidence in his rider. The animal must go over level, grassy ground, and at a swift, harmonious pace.

Then the illusion is that of soaring through space—an enchantment heightened by the muffled sound of the hoofs on the soft sward, which suggests the rushing of wings.

An Interesting Little Comet.

Winnecke's comet, which is now paying another visit to the neighborhood of the sun, the period of its revolution being about two months short of six years, is especially interesting because its motions have given evidence of disturbance similar to what has been observed in the case of Encke's comet.

It was at one time quite generally supposed by astronomers that these variations were due to a resisting medium filling space, through which the comets were compelled to pass, but much doubt has been cast upon that conclusion.

The variations unquestionably exist, however, especially in the case of Encke's comet, and an explanation is required. Instead of the theory of a resisting medium, it has been suggested that comets which exhibit indications of being retarded in their motion may pass at every revolution through some cloud of meteoric matter which is also circling around the sun in an orbit intersecting that of the comets.

The observations which are now being made on Winnecke's comet may help to settle the question whether it actually is retarded in its motion around the sun. Unfortunately this interesting comet cannot be seen without the aid of a telescope. It is true of comets as of people that the most conspicuous are not always the most important.

"Sit" and "Set."

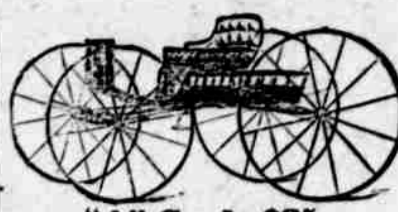
Some one who believes in teaching by example has concocted a lesson in the use of two little words which have been a source of mortification and trouble to many well meaning persons.

A man, or woman either, can set a hen, although they cannot sit her; neither can they set on her, although the hen might on them by the hour if they would allow it.

A man cannot set on the wash-bench but he can set the basin on it, and neither the basin nor the grammarians would object.

He could sit on the dog's tail if the dog were willing, or he might set his foot on it. But if he should set on the aforesaid tail, or sit his foot there, the grammarians as well as the dog would howl, metaphorically at least.

And yet the man might set the tail aside and then sit down, and be as-



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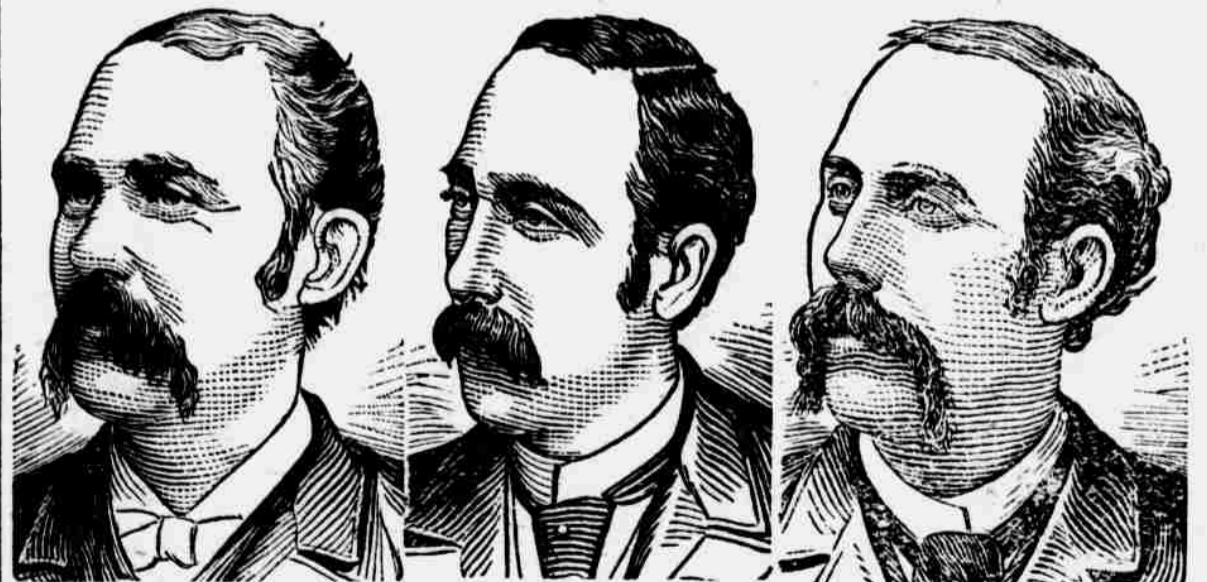
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