

FEUD IS RESULT OF A REFUSAL TO KISS BABY

Whole Section in Trouble Because of Unappreciative Man with Grouch.

COMMUNITY TAKES SIDES

Bill Dunham Open in His Declaration That Ollie Kibler Shall Yet Beg for Privilege He Scornfully Refused—Kibler Had Loved Pretty Little One's Mother, and There Is the Root of the Whole Trouble—Fight So Far Has Been Interesting, with Further Developments Expected.

Cynthiana, O.—Four hundred and sixty-three persons have kissed little Miss Margaret Dunham, aged four months and three days. The tally includes Dave Downing, who travels for McKeehan, Heistand & Company's grocery, and the five candidates for office in Pike county, Ohio, who visited during the recent campaign, which are about all the visitors the little hamlet, set down in the beautiful Brush creek hills, has had recently, or at least as recently as the coming of Miss Dunham into the world that has welcomed her with kisses. But despite the fact that she has been kissed by more persons than any girl in Pike county (and most of them are kissable), the fact that Ollie Kibler has not kissed her has started trouble, divided the town into two factions and almost caused a feud between the Dunhams and the Kiblers family.

Everybody in Cynthiana, over the age of five months excepting Kibler, has kissed Miss Dunham; Kibler alone has refused to fall in love with her. How Kibler can refuse to kiss her no one else in town can understand, for she is the prettiest, plumpiest, sweetest baby ever born. That is what her mother says, and besides that 463 persons, including Dave Downing, who ought to be unprejudiced, being a bachelor, have said the same thing. She is so soft and satiny, and so pink and white, and her blue eyes open with such amazed and delighted stares, and her dimples evolve such unexpected and wonderful smiles, and her soft, little rosy hands flutter so confidently into even the horny hands of the loggers, that any person, it seems, who has any human blood in his veins wants to grab her right into his arms and just squeeze her and kiss her—and then look ashamed and say "I always liked babies," and sneak away and wish he had one just like it.

Where Ollie Kibler Lost Out.

That is the way little Miss Dunham has affected everybody—except Ollie Kibler. He has not kissed her and will not kiss her.

Therefore, there is trouble. It appears, from the facts that are ascertainable, that Miss Margaret Shannon, who was better known as Madge, was the belle of the entire district around Cynthiana by the time she was 18 years old. Not only that, but the young men from Bainbridge drove down to call on her, and once it was rumored that she was engaged to a wealthy young man up at Waverly, the county seat. Everybody knew that Fred Cravens, from Sinking Springs, was wildly in love with her. Almost all the town boys were and especially Ollie Kibler, who owns a big farm over Cameron's mountain, besides his house in Cynthiana.

Then Bill Dunham, big, hearty, good natured, and with a laugh that could be heard over half the town fell a victim to the prettiness of Margaret Shannon—and that settled it. They were married and Ollie Kibler became a sort of woman hater. People with college educations would have called him misanthropic, but Cynthiana simply referred to it as grouch, except Uncle Billy Newell, who said Ollie was peevish.

At any rate, Ollie ceased to be the Beau Brummel of Cynthiana and settled down to business and was as hard as flint, and, as Uncle Billy Newell vowed, "as cross as his paw was, and 14 shoemakers couldn't have got a bristle between his fingers and a dollar."

Story About the Baby.

All those things happened years ago, possibly ten. Bill Dunham got along pretty well in the lumber business, running a sawmill over Newell Mills way, and hauling to Bainbridge, and his wife was just as pretty as when she was a girl, although in a different sort of way. They were happy, but until a few months ago their happiness was incomplete.

Bill Dunham's friends said he hadn't an enemy on earth. He was one of the most popular men in Pike county and a lot of the Republicans up at Cynthiana wanted Bill to run for county supervisor and try to wrest the control of old Pike county from the Democrats, but Bill said he didn't care for politics and refused to run, although he let them make him an alternate to the state convention, which was quite an honor. He took his wife with him to Columbus and they visited the penitentiary and the blind asylum and—but that is another story. This story is about the baby.

When the baby arrived everybody said it would be a pretty baby, for its father was big and handsome and its mother so pretty. Grandma Shannon said it took after the Shannons

and Grandpa Dunham vowed it favored the Dunhams, but almost everybody said it resembled both. Its eyes were blue like its father's and the upper part of its face was his—no one could see that by putting a hand over the mouth. But its nose and mouth were just like its mother's, only prettier, she said, although, of course, Bill denied that.

Anyhow, it was the prettiest baby that ever came to Cynthiana. Everybody conceded that, but no one suspected that it was going to cause so much trouble.

The First Great Event.

When it—or she rather (her mother gets mad when anybody calls her "it")—was just one month old they took her to the Campbellite church and christened her Margaret, after her mother and her mother's Aunt Mag, who sent the little turquoise ring and the knit jacket for the baby.

By that time almost everybody in town had kissed Margaret (her mother won't let her be called Mag or Madge), and on the day of the christening almost everybody else kissed her.

They don't have these new fangled ideas about it being unhealthy to kiss babies down in Cynthiana, and when Dave Downing kissed Margaret and said he was going to stay single and marry her when she grew up Mrs. Dunham was just as proud as any one could be.

The real trouble didn't start until Margaret was over two months old. Her mamma had her out riding in her

mad as Bill was and swore he wouldn't kiss anybody's squawking, colicky brat. The idea of saying that when Margaret never had colic but once and that was when Lizzie Muntz gave her a lump of sugar.

Bill and Ollie came near fighting and would have fought if Mr. Wickersham hadn't told them to dry up or else go out in the street and fight it out.

The trouble grew serious at once. Half the people in town declared that Ollie ought to be tarred and feathered. A few said that the Dunhams oughtn't to be so touchy. The rest just kept quiet.

A few days later Bill came out as a candidate for township trustee on the Republican ticket, just to beat Ollie, who was a Democrat. He only had three weeks to campaign in, but he swept the township and it went Republican for the first time in years.

Made Ollie Spend Money.

Bill didn't boast much. He simply repeated his assertion that Ollie would beg to kiss the baby before he got through with him. Then he went up to Bainbridge on business and caught the train for Waverly, and what did he do but buy a tax claim on a piece of land that belonged to Kibler. Ollie had neglected to pay the taxes and it was advertised among the delinquents, so Bill bought it, just to spite Ollie and make him spend money. People began to say that Bill Dunham could be just as bad an enemy as he was a good friend, but they didn't know him until he had two of Ollie's



new go-cart (the one with the front that lets down, and the blue silk parasol, with a robe to match, all covered with blue ribbon) when, right in front of Wickersham's store, they met Ollie Kibler. He was standing there talking to Nate Giddings, from over at Paint.

Kibler Refused Precious Boon.

Nate never had seen the baby, so, of course, he spoke to it, and began playing with it, and when it cooed and laughed and wrinkled up its dimpled little face he didn't do a thing but stoop down and kiss her. Nate is a family man himself and has three or four kids at home and likes them. But Ollie never moved. He just stood there and looked disgusted and Nate and Mrs. Dunham talked baby and she asked how Mrs. Giddings was. Then Nate, not meaning to make any trouble, laughed and said, "Ollie, come and kiss the baby. Ye ain't afraid, are ye?" Ollie said something about not making a fool of himself over any slobbery brat and walked away.

Nate said afterwards he was so mad he could have kicked Ollie, and Mrs. Dunham was so hurt she almost cried. She went straight home and at supper she told her husband and Bill was hot under the collar. Of course, he didn't care whether Ollie Kibler ever kissed his baby or not. In fact, he'd rather he wouldn't, but that didn't make it any better.

Swore Kibler Should Be Sorry.

And then there Bill swore that Ollie would kiss the baby or be sorry for it. He went right up to the store and told Ollie what he thought of him before all the men and repeated his vow that Ollie would be begging for a chance to kiss the baby before he got through with him. Ollie was just as

stray cows that were feeding along the roadside taken to the pound. When Ollie had to pay one dollar each fine he was so mad he threatened to lick Bill.

That's the way the feud stands now. Bill still vows that Ollie must kiss his baby and ask his wife's permission to do it. But Ollie swears he'll lay Bill out of Pike county before he'll do it.

As for little Miss Dunham, she is growing prettier each day and from present signs about the time she gets to be 17 Ollie or any other human being will beg for the chance.

Cheer Up!

Here is some good advice from the Ottawa News: "Cheer up! 'What right have you to carry a funeral in your face? The world has troubles of its own. 'Cheer up and change your point of view. Your ills are mostly imaginary. Why, man alive! in five minutes' walk you can find scores of people worse off than you. And here you are going through the world feeling sorry for yourself—the meanest sort of pity in the world. You are nursing an ingrown illusion. Rid yourself of the bogie man and—'Cheer up!'—Los Angeles Times.

Long and Short of It.

Junior Partner—Did you see that short man who was inquiring for you? Senior Partner—No. What kind of a looking chap was he? Junior Partner—Oh, he was rather tall, and— Senior Partner—But you just said he was short. Junior Partner—Well, I guess he was. At least, he wanted me to stake him to a dollar until he could see you. —Chicago Daily News.

GREAT SOLAR SPOT FOUND.

Prof. Brashear Announces Discovery Which Portends Storms.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Professor John A. Brashear of the Allegheny observatory has announced a discovery of one of the greatest sun spots ever called to the attention of astronomers. He says electrical disturbances will be experienced throughout the country soon. These disturbances, he further declares, may take the form of a display of the aurora borealis or telegraph and telephone communication may be seriously affected.

The present spot is so large that it can be seen through smoked glass and the scientist says it is one of the most active of solar spots. In his statement of the discovery Professor Brashear says:

"A very large and beautiful sun spot or solar disturbance is now crossing the face of the sun and is approaching the central meridian. This is the largest spot that has been seen for several years. Its approximate length is 118,000 miles and it is 30,000 miles wide, covering an area of about 3,500,000 square miles. There is considerable activity in the spot and there may be some electrical disturbances on the earth soon, but this is rather difficult to predict on account of the position of the disturbance in relation to the earth.

"Besides this great group of spots, there are three other groups to the west of it, and a fourth is just leaving the sun on the eastern side. This great spot can be readily seen by the naked eye with a piece of smoked glass. Indeed, my attention was called to it by a gentleman who saw it through the morning fog. We have been observing the spot with great interest, measuring it and estimating its size. It is a great spot, stretching an eighth of the way across the sun. It comes at a time when it is not usual to expect sun spots and is of greater interest for that reason. Why it now appears is not explained."

FARM LABORERS IN DEMAND.

Plan Adopted by Empire State to Supply Needed Help.

New York.—The bureau of information and statistics of the New York state department of agriculture estimates that fully 50,000 laborers will be required on the farms of the state this spring, and through its office in this city is putting into execution a novel plan, which, in a small way, proved highly successful in supplying the demand last year.

The department has advertised extensively both in New York and in Europe for agricultural laborers, and as a consequence is in daily receipt of many applications from men, both single and married, who are anxious to work on the farms of the state. Many applications have been received from Holland and other European countries, where whole families are willing to emigrate if assured of farm employment here.

Many immigrants reaching New York are at once engaged by the bureau of farm employment. Last year the bureau placed 4,171 farm laborers, and hopes this year to increase the number to the 50,000 which will give the farmers of the state a chance to sleep nights. But an investigator who a day or two listened to 28 appeals for assistance in two hours spent on two blocks on Fourteenth street, all of them from men "out of work," and then recalled the many appeals of philanthropic and charitable organizations for funds with which to assist New York's army of unemployed, wonders why it should be necessary to advertise in Europe for laborers to relieve a situation within ten miles of Broadway which is little better than that of Kansas at the time of the wheat harvest.

HUNTERS KILL LARGE LYNX.

Animal with Tassels on Its Ears Makes Attack on Men.

Memphis, Tenn.—An animal weighing 60 pounds, with tassels on its ears, yellowish striped fur and a stubby tail, was shot the other day near Port Jarvis, Sullivan county. The old inhabitants say that the beast is a lynx, and the oldest of them swears that he has not seen a lynx in this section since he was a boy, 78 years ago. Since then, he says, with a chuckle, they have been "missing lynx."

James Cooley and Andrew Van Dyke were hunting for foxes which they supposed had robbed their henneries. They came across queer tracks on the snow, then the lynx came across them.

The beast jumped from a tall stump and landed on Van Dyke's back. It ripped the heavy clothing from his back and lacerated his flesh. Afraid of shooting his comrade, Cooley kicked the lynx in the head with his heavy boots. The beast turned on Cooley, fastening its teeth and claws in his thigh. Van Dyke jumped up and, placing the muzzle of his gun to its head, blew its brains out.

Reflection from Ore Deposits.

German observers recorded as long ago as 1747 that a luminous emanation of variable shape will appear in the dark at points on the surface of the earth below which there are extensive ore deposits. Immediately before or during a thunderstorm these phenomena are said to be especially striking. Similar observations have more recently been made in North America in the neighborhood of ore deposits. The electric emanation given off from the surface of the earth has been repeatedly ascertained photographically.

In the Land of Famine.



As a result of the great famine and plague now ravaging China, it is said that over 1,000,000 natives have already perished. The accompanying photograph shows how some of the bodies of the victims are disposed of.

IDIOTS ARE SAVANTS.

MENTAL FEATS PERFORMED BY INMATES OF IOWA ASYLUM.

One Feeble-Minded Boy is Walking Dictionary, Another a Marvellous Speller and a Third Has a Freakish Memory.

Omaha, Neb.—The Iowa state institution for the feeble-minded children, located at Glenwood, has several "idiot savants," who are regarded as remarkable. One inmate is used as a calendar and date record, another is utilized as a dictionary, another is employed as a ready rapid calculator and others show the marvelous but unexplainable traits of the "learned idiots."

Dr. A. R. Schier, assistant superintendent of the institution, has just made his report, as required by the Iowa law. The most astonishing case he reports is that of John S., taken into the institution when he was 12 years of age, and who has been there 23 years. He is the mental bookkeeper of the home.

When the date of any occurrence about the institution is desired as information John S. gives it. He recalls without error the date of the employment of any new hand or the entrance or discharge of any inmate.

If he has seen a visitor at the home he can recall the exact date of the visit, the condition of the weather at that time and some of the incidents connected therewith, even though it occurred years before any question is asked him concerning it. If given the day of the month, the month and years of any occurrence as far back as 35 years John S. will, without hesitation, tell upon what day of the week the date fell. Asked how he does it he replies that he does not know.

Marvelous ability is shown by a boy inmate about 16 years of age. He can neither read nor write, yet he can readily spell any word given him, and as Dr. Schier says: "He has been tried with uncommon words time and time again and never fails to spell them correctly. He is constantly

called upon to settle spelling disputes, and is as reliable as a dictionary." Both his parents were insane.

G. F. H., aged 18 years, of Danish descent, can multiply three figures by three figures as rapidly as they can be written down. He never fails in his multiplication feats, but his addition, subtraction and division are not correct.

A 17-year-old boy, R. G. L., without education, is able to mold the forms of animals with almost miraculous perfection. Other figures he cannot make. He was found one day mixing saliva with dust and molding the figures of animals, which from his first attempt were perfect in almost every detail.

ROCKEFELLER GIVES; OIL IS UP.

New Profits of \$40,000,000 May Offset \$32,000,000 Benefaction.

Philadelphia.—With the announcement of the proposed gift by John D. Rockefeller of \$32,000,000 to the General Education Board comes notice to the oil dealers and consumers all over the country of an advance in the price of oil which will net the Standard Oil company about \$40,000,000 additional in a single year.

It is estimated from the figures at hand that fully \$12,400,000 of the additional annual tax must come from the homes of the working class where oil is used for light and fuel.

Notice of the advance in the price of Standard Oil products was received by dealers Thursday, the same day the announcement of the great gift was made. Although the advance quoted to wholesalers is one-half cent a gallon on oil for domestic use, the public will pay one cent additional, as the retail dealers have raised the price to consumers from 10 to 11 cents per gallon.

The yearly consumption of oil for domestic purposes in Philadelphia is about 15,500,000 gallons. So this city alone will pay an additional sum of \$155,000 annually for the cheap grade of oil used for light and heat.

The Rebuilding of San Francisco.

Structures Costing Over \$40,000,000 Erected Since Earthquake.

San Francisco, Cal.—The sum of \$40,128,753 represents the aggregate of building in San Francisco for which permits have been applied since the middle of last May, when the building inspection bureau resumed its operations.

Of this 21 new office and other buildings represent \$3,050,000; reinforced concrete and other class B construction contribute \$2,194,100; brick buildings in general contribute \$14,198,549; frame structures, \$16,387,902, and the alterations of buildings gutted by fire add \$4,298,202.

The report showing the above totals has been presented to the board of public works by Building Inspector Horgan. The number of buildings taken up each month and their cost is segregated, and the rapid rebound in building operations is shown by the monthly totals.

For May permits were issued for all classes of buildings to the amount of \$795,619. June showed a great gain, \$1,689,288. The subsequent increases by months were as follows: July, \$2,389,501; August, \$4,548,551; September, \$6,309,913. October showed a slight decrease over the previous month, \$6,046,369. November made a

decided gain, \$7,233,765. The rains of the past two months show in the final totals, for December, \$5,915,290, and January, \$5,201,357.

LONDON NOW LIKES AUTOBUS.

Popularity of Vehicle Shown by Falling Off in "Tube" Passengers.

London.—After all the abuse that was heaped on the noisy, evil smelling and nerve destroying autobus a few months ago, it is now interesting to note the effect the autobus has had on the underground railways and what it means to London.

The "two penny tube" which, only the other day, was regarded as almost the last word of locomotion, has lost 1,000,000 passengers during the year and the responsibility is laid on the autobus.

This is not an isolated instance, for the same story has been told at almost every railway meeting here during the last few weeks. It is wonderfully eloquent of the hold which the huge and unwieldy but fast moving vehicle has gained here, and the agitation which only a few months ago, was raised against the motor seems ludicrous in the face of such a figure as that mentioned at the meeting of the "tube" company the other day.