

Prodigal Son—Father, I have returned! Father—Yes, goi dera ye, I thought you'd show up about the time the pretty summer boarders began to arrive at the farm!

An Error. He had dined exceedingly well and was standing in the lobby hotel, hatless, and looking exactly as if he were quite at home there. It was no wonder that the hotel guest walked up to him and inquired imperiously: "Where's the news stand?" "Dunno."

Not His Business. "Powful fertile country daoun theh in Texas," said the colonel. "Yes, seh! Why, seh, I know spots daoun there where the trees grow so close together that you-all couldn't shove your hand between their trunks. And game, seh! Why, seh, I've seen Felginyuh deeah in those same forests with antlehs eight feet spread!"

Eyes Are Relieved By Murine. When irritated by Chalk Dust and Eye Strain, resort to the average School Room. A recent Census of New York City reveals the fact that in that City alone 125,000 Children needed Eye Care.

Cow Never Said a Word. When one of the fenders of the City railway cars picked up a young heifer at the corner of Third and Jersey streets the conductor filled out the required report blank to Superintendent Edward Howell.

Fattest French Soldiers. Occasionally our Paris contemporaries entertain their readers with an account of the tallest and the shortest conscript. Now a journal has gone one better and discovered the fattest recruit in the French army, who has been found at Corbell.

Tactless or Tactful? "Walters who hire out for parties ought to be trained for that," said one who has suffered. "Last night at a little party I was giving a waiter I thought knew his business walked up to a distinguished singer, who was in the midst of a song, and insisted upon her taking a plate of salad and a glass of punch. She had to stop the song to get rid of him."

The Burnt Child. Stern Parent—Bobby, I thought I told you to order that trunk sent around right away, all ready to use. The trunk has come, but there is no straw.

Breaking Up Colds. A cold may be stopped at its start by a couple of Lane's Pleasant Tablets. Ever so easy when a cold has seemed to grip so strong a hold that nothing could break it, these tablets have done it in an hour or two. All druggists and dealers sell them at 25 cents a box. If you cannot get them send to the proprietor, Orator F. Woodward, Le Roy, N. Y. Sample free.

A Natural Conclusion. "Do you think Bangs will succeed in the work he has taken up?" "He hasn't the ghost of a chance." "Why not?" "Because he hasn't the spirit."

Use Allen's Foot-Powder. It is the only relief for Swollen Smarting, Tired, Aching, Hot, Sweating Feet, Corns and Bunions. Ask for Allen's Foot-Powder, a powder to be shaken into the shoes. Cures while you walk. At all Druggists and Shoe Stores, 25c. Don't accept any substitute. Sample sent FREE. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

Some men are content not to do mean actions, I want to become incapable of a mean thought or feeling.

The VANISHING FLEETS

BY ROY NORTHON
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SYNOPSIS.

"Vanishing Fleets," a story of "what might have happened," opens in Washington, United States, at the Japanese war. Guy Hillier, secretary of the British embassy, and Miss Norma Roberts, chief aide of inventor Roberts, are introduced as lovers. Japan declares war and takes the Philippines. Guy Hillier starts for England. Norma Roberts leaves Washington for the Florida coast. Hawaii is captured by the Japs. All ports are closed. Tokyo hears of missing Japanese fleet and whole world becomes convinced that United States has powerful war agency. England decides to send a fleet to American waters as a Canadian protection against what the British suppose is a terrible submarine flotilla. Hillier is sent with a message. Fleet mysteriously disappears. The Kaiser is misinformed. King Edward of England is confronted by Admiral Bevin of the United States. The dreadnaught, biggest of England's warships, is discovered at an impassable point in the Thames. The story now goes back to a time many months before the war breaks out, and inventor Roberts visits the president and cabinet, telling of and exhibiting a metal production. This overcomes friction when electrified and is to be applied to vessels. A city for the manufacture of the mysterious discovery is built. The mystery of true levitation is solved. Roberts evolves a great flying machine. The cabinet plans a radioplane war against Japanese. The start for the scene of conflict with a large fleet of monster airships is made with Norma in command.

CHAPTER XVIII.—Continued.

"Number One will engage the cruiser on the extreme right. Two will attack the battle ship on the port bow of the flagship. Three will take the battleship on the extreme left," and so on, ending with the declaration that the Norma would open the engagement by striking the Ito at the head of the triangle.

Fighting Bevins turned away from his signal box when the last confirmation of his instructions had been received and looked at the girl in the hood. At that high altitude the early rays of the sun were shivering the gloom of the interior through the glass ports in the dome. As if in a glory of silver she stood before him, outwardly calm and emotionless; but in the splendid poise of her body, the expectant waiting of her hands, and the steady scrutiny of the dials before her, she was the embodiment of efficiency. Feeling his look and waiting for his command, she moved her head till her face was turned full upon him, and in her eyes shone the fire which through all the ages has led valiant warriors to fields of victory. The glory of youth, the inspiration of patriotism, and the determination of fearlessness were blended in their light and exultantly waiting the battle call.

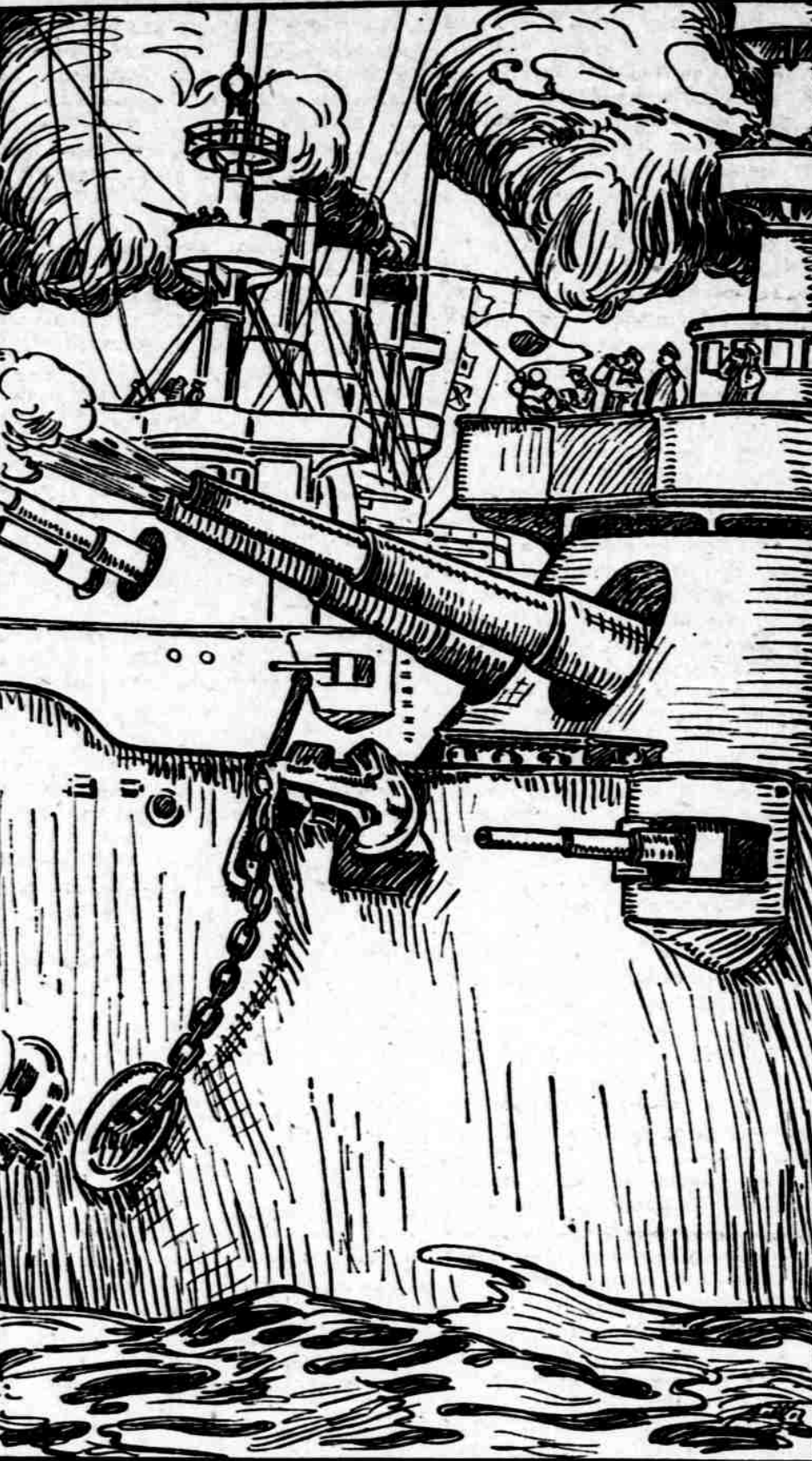
Accustomed as he was to the terrible intoxication of fierce conflict, the gray old admiral felt himself enthused by this slip of a girl. He was a man making the last fight of his life with the incarnation of the Goddess of War at his elbow and mutely cheering him on to the charge. Every nerve within him strung itself in tensile, the muscles of his body seemed to contract until his head fairly shrank between his massive shoulders, his resolute jaw set with a snap, and his short hair seemed to bristle as he leaped toward her, gave way to his excitement and fairly shouted: "Now! Go to them! Quick, hard and fast! At them!"

He jumped back to his point of observation, and even as he did so the great radioplane shivered with a surcharge of energy, reeled drunkenly through every fiber for the fraction of a second, gathered itself, and in one terrific plunge shot downward at such an awful rate of speed that the engineers by the dynamo instinctively threw themselves to the floor, the man on the lookout seized the bars before him, gasping for breath, and the admiral, startled, whirled toward the figure in the hood, fearing that some fatal accident had occurred. There, erect, triumphant, and fierce, stood the woman glorified by her striking the first blow for her country's honor and her father's exaltation. She was fairly hurling the machine through space, her hands grasping the levers of descent and her eyes on the periscope which portrayed the position of their helpless victims.

Bevins, in a fury of excitement, shouted his approval with storms of oaths, completely swept out of himself by the fierceness of the assault. "Good, good!" he shouted. "That's right! Open her up wide. They're ours! They're ours!"

Outside the hissing air was torn by a whirlwind of small shells fired in a panic-stricken attempt to fend off this adversary which was driving downward upon the Ito. It was their last hope at defense. They had tested their guns repeatedly at long range, and proved them ineffectual against an enemy that could travel with a speed beside which that of the swiftest bird of prey was insignificant. They had watched those strange uncanny things flit themselves to a prodigious altitude with incomparable ease, carry away and return a wounded companion which had been struck by the merest chance, turn toward each other as if in communication, whirl out in long lines betokening the perfection of control, had waited for the downpour of missiles; and then, when amazement at this marvelous demonstration had reached its climax, they had witnessed the sudden swoop in their direction. Now in hopeless impotence the men on the deck of the doomed Ito lost their heads and ran frantically to and fro. Up to the very last, one or two of the gun crews elevated and fired—elevated and fired—with methodical precision like men in a trance and actuated by habit only.

The panic-stricken swallow vainly winging his way through the air in wild endeavor to escape the talons of



Scream of Shot and Shell Broke into a Pandemonium.

the darting hawk would have had more chance than they before this onslaught. This gigantic embodiment of doom was leaping down upon them with such terrific velocity and at such an angle of flight as to preclude all possibility of defense. Irresistible, implacable, and noiseless, it was plunging for the final thrust. Its very method of attack was so surprising and so unexpected that they were awed with fear, helpless, benumbed, despairing and conquered. They were men done to death and suffering the agonies of wounds before the blow had fallen. It was all accomplished with such rapidity that not even the most terrified had time to rush to the rails and throw himself into the sea. When the instant of death seemed imminent, they were paralyzed into inaction and cowered together, waiting for the shock of annihilation.

And their suspense, although of a different nature, was scarcely more keen and heartbreaking than that of those in the radioplane which was hurtling at them. The admiral was still crouching like a man prepared for a blow, when Norma with quick energy tilted over another lever and checked the descent. Those within the shell felt their hearts come back to the normal and were once more able to breathe freely. It was like the application of a powerful brake to a falling elevator, save that there was no abrupt jar, no discordant sound of steel on steel, and no shock of friction.

"Look out! Look out!" they heard her call. "Hold fast! We're going to strike!"

And then, even as they sought positions of security, the great radioplane felt a sudden, sharp concussion of impact as the top of the fighting mast struck its bottom plate, crumpled like a match, and went crashing downward, a debris of twisted, useless steel. Even within the chamber there penetrated to them the terrified shrieks and despairing cries of the men of Japan.

Another quick smashing blow almost threw those at the dynamo from their feet, more cries were heard without, and then, for the small part of a second there was silence and immobility. Even the storm of fire from the other ships had ceased.

Norma alone seemed endowed with power of movement, and sprang quickly from lever to lever and switch to switch, issuing her battle cry. "The dynamo! The dynamo!" she called. Full speed, and stand clear for fear of accident! I've thrown the magnet currents! Quick! all your power before others can train a gun on us! Her voice was sharp and decisive, and her words snapped like lashes, driving point to action. "Steady, steady!"

ILLUSTRATED BY A. WEIL

gunnery, when the Katori was threatened; but it was futile, and, reading their doom, they waited their turn. It was not long in coming; for now by twos and threes they were torn from the ocean and lifted aloft. The colliers were the last to succumb, and their crews, realizing that the hulls alone would come in contact with the implacable demons above, ran screaming below decks to continue their supplications to the deaf gods who had deserted them.

From the thick glass of his port the admiral looked down upon his conquered foemen and watched the precision with which his orders were being obeyed. Each time a victim was seized he shouted: "Three's done her work!" or "Good boy, Seven! You've got him!" and so on enumerating each success.

Some movement on the deck of the Ito close at hand arrested his attention. His brows came together again in a fierce scowl. "Stand by the magnet levers, Miss Norma," he commanded, "because these fellows below mean to show the least resistance whatever, we'll drop 'em!"

She had been standing serenely in her hood, her head thrown back, reveling in the glories of triumph. When the fate of the battle had hung upon her performance, and when her own life was threatened, she had thrown herself body and soul into the fray, wide eyed, unresistant, and without a tremor; but now, at the thought of being the executioner of perhaps a thousand men, her face blanched, her limbs trembled, and her hands forgot their task and clasped together in imploration. She was the woman again, ready to plead for the lives of those she had conquered.

"My God! You wouldn't do that, would you?" she said.

The old gladiator of the sea turned upon her fiercely. "Do it! Do it! I'd drop them to hell as quick as I would to the bottom of the Pacific if they show fight!" he responded. "We're out here to teach a lesson, and they deserve all that's coming to 'em! War is no child's game," he concluded grimly, "and the first ship that wants trouble goes down like a thunder-bolt."

As if to emphasize his remark, he sprang to the signal box and issued this sanguinary order to every radioplane in the fleet, while Norma, faint and sick at heart, shut her teeth and with a look of inexpressible pain turned back to her levers. But she was spared this dreadful work. The Japanese officers and men had learned the absolute futility of resistance, and doubted the efficacy of appeal! Their one hope for life now rested in the humanity and leniency of those who held them in thrall. It took no long chain of reasoning to conclude that an enemy who could pluck them from the seas and without visible effort lift them more than a mile high could as readily release his hold and send them to destruction with meteoric speed. Even were it possible to destroy those monsters which clutched them, to do so would be self-annihilation. They were ignored, cut off from those above, and divorced from the waters beneath as if they were creatures of no importance, to be treated like mere troublesome insects, exterminated or spared as their captor's whim might dictate. The glory of an easy conquest in the Philippines, the boasts which had followed the subjugation of Hawaii, the pomp and circumstance of previous conquests—all were obliterated, all erased from the scroll of valorous deeds by an action which had lasted less than an hour. And now, like beaten legionaries chained to the victor's car, they were being carried away toward the rising sun and an unknown fate. (TO BE CONTINUED.)

ILLUSTRATED BY A. WEIL

fleet witnessed the beginnings of catastrophe. They had seen this incredibly monstrous thing drop from ether upon their flagship, crumple its upper works like paper, attach itself to the turrets, and then with phenomenal power actually lift from the ocean 20,000 tons of steel—a floating fortress believed but an hour ago to be invincible—and bear it away. Even as they watched they saw this strange god which had grasped the pride of Japan in its clutch deliberately shaping its flight higher and higher into the great void of the heavens and passing out of their world. Of what use were guns against these strange visitants, whose only human mark was the flag of the despised enemy? In hopeless screams of terror their sirens awoke the echoes with weird, despairing wails, and their engines under full speed sent the screws lashing through the water in a last desperate effort to escape by flight. And while their prows tore the waves the superstitious sailors took their disaster as an omen of heavenly wrath, reverted to the religion of their ancestors, and prostrated themselves in an agony of prayer; but every chance was denied them, and even their trust in speed to evade seizure was ineffectual. Even as the Ito, held fast by the Norma, was becoming a speck against the disk of the morning sky, another of those strange creatures made a scarcely less abrupt descent upon the Kashima. Stacks and masts went down with a crash as had those others. The great wingless terror picked her up into the air before her engines could be stopped, and with her screw beating the atmosphere like the fluttering fins of a fish captured by a marauding eagle, sailed off with her into the blue above. Once more they tried the effect of

might have puzzled Solomon. Decision Over Which Country Squire is Still Deliberating. "That is a complicated question," said a statesman of a certain practical proposal. "It reminds me of a question that was once put to old Squire Briggs. 'The squire was noted for his long, Solomon-like head, and he was frequently asked to settle disputes. 'Squire,' said a farmer to him one day at the tavern, 'there's a difficult point I want you to settle, and whatever you say I'll abide by.' 'Well, fire away,' said the squire, good humoredly, and 'I'll see what I can do for you.' 'It's like this,' said the man. 'Blankson wants to trade farms with me, but we can't agree on terms. His land is better than mine, but I've got twice as many cranberry vines; his corn is all stacked and mine ain't, but I've got screens to four windows and two doors to the shack. There's less stones in his meadow land than there is in mine, but there's more bog.' 'The man paused and took breath. Then he went on: 'Now, I won't tell you which is which, but one of us thinks Blankson's pointer dog ought to be thrown in, and the other one thinks that my heifer

would just about even things up. Now what do you say is fair?' 'At last accounts the squire was still deliberating. 'So this is a first-class hotel!' drawled Uncle Hiram Hardapple as he carefully flung his weather-stained hat on the corner of a radiator. 'Yes, sir,' replied the polite waiter with a low bow. 'Got any cut-loaf sugar?' 'There is a bowl full at your elbow, sir.' 'Got a lead pencil?' 'Here is one, sir. Do you wish to mark off on the menu cards?' 'Oh, no, sonny. I just want to mark points on these blocks of sugar, so we can have a sociable game of dominos when Mandy comes in. I calculate it will be some time before dinner is served.'

Ceylonese Land Leeches. Land leeches are plentiful in Ceylon. These bloodsuckers hang on bushes and trees and lurk in the grass. The only way to get them off one's body is to squeeze a few drops of lemon on them. Then they fall to the ground.

900 DROPS. ALCOHOL-3 PER CENT. Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomach and Bowels of INFANTS, CHILDREN, & INVALIDS. Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC. Fac-Simile Signature of Dr. J. C. FLETCHER. THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK. 35 Doses - 35 CENTS. Guaranteed under the Food and Drug Act.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of Dr. J. C. Fletcher. In Use For Over Thirty Years. CASTORIA. It is here—Disaster among the horses may be near also—mares are foaling—Distemper may take some of them—corn planting may be late if your horses have not been vaccinated. SPOHN'S DISTEMPER CURE is your true safeguard—a cure as well as preventive—50c and \$1.00 bottles—\$3.00 and \$10.00 dozen, delivered. Large lots more than twice the smaller size. Don't put off. Get it. Druggists—or send to manufacturers. Spohn Medical Co., Chemists and Bacteriologists, Goebels, Ind., U.S.A. W. N. U. OMAHA, NO. 20-1909.

SPOHN'S DISTEMPER CURE. A Joke's Life. "What becomes of a joke when it gets too old for the newspapers?" "It goes on the stage." "And after that?" "To the theatrical program." "Where it ends its existence, I s'pose?" "Oh, no; it lives honorably for many years in congressional cloakrooms." With a smooth iron and Defiance Starch, you can launder your shirt-waist just as well at home as the steam laundry can; it will have the proper stiffness and finish, there will be less wear and tear of the goods, and it will be a positive pleasure to use a Starch that does not stick to the iron. A Mutual Convenience. "Sir, I want your daughter's hand." "All right, my boy. That takes her off mine." Send postcard request to-day for sample package of Garfield Tea. Nature's herb remedy for constipation, liver and kidney diseases. Garfield Tea Co., Brooklyn, N. Y. German Proverb. Though you drive Nature out with a pitchfork, she always comes back. SORE EYES, weak, inflamed, red, watery and swollen eyes, use PETTIT'S EYE SALVE, 25c. All druggists or Howard Bros., Buffalo, N. Y. That it is necessary for a man to drink liquor is a theory that will not hold water. You always get full value in Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c cigar. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill. To make the most of the figure 6 turn it bottom upward. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, cures whooping cough, croup, and all other ailments of infants. The harder it rains the more soot water we get.

The Surest Preventative. The quickest acting and most reliable remedy for all disorders of the Stomach and Bowels, Bladder and Kidney troubles, Gout, Jaundice, Headache, Biliousness is DR. D. JAYNE'S SANATIVE PILLS. They are the highest standard of excellence for all these ailments. Used as a laxative, purgative or cathartic they are most soothing and effective. Sold by all druggists in two size boxes, 25c and 10c. Western Canada the Pennant Winner "The Last Best West". The government of Canada now gives to every actual settler 160 acres of who-who-who land free and additional 160 acres at \$3.00 an acre. The 300,000 contented American settlers making their homes in Western Canada is the best evidence of the superiority of that country. They are becoming rich, growing from 25 to 50 bushels wheat to the acre; 60 to 110 bushels oats and 45 to 60 bushels barley, besides having splendid herds of cattle raised on the prairie grass. Dairying is an important industry. The crop of 1908 still keeps Western Canada in the lead. The world will soon look to it as its food-producer. "The thing which most impressed me was the magnitude of the country that is available for agricultural purposes."—National Agricultural Correspondent, Mo. Low railway rates, good schools and churches, markets convenient, prices the highest, climate perfect. Lands are for sale by Railway and Land Companies. Inclusive pamphlets and maps sent free. For railway rates and maps send to Superintendent of Immigration, Ottawa, Canada, or the authorized Canadian Government Agent. W. V. BENNETT, Omaha, Nebraska. 601 New York Life Building.

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SICK HEADACHE. CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. Positively cured by these Little Pills. They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perfect remedy for Biliary Disorders, such as Biliousness, Nauzea, Drowsiness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable. SMALL PILL. SMALL DOSE. SMALL PRICE. Genuine Must Bear Fac-Simile Signature. Refuse Substitutes.

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PICKER & BEARDSLEY Commission Company. ST. LOUIS, MO. Largest receivers of consigned Wool west of the Mississippi River. Order Wool bags and ship us your Wool. Write for Prices. Established 1858.

Shave in 5 Minutes. NO STROPPING. NO HONING. O-Zette. KNOWN THE WORLD OVER. EARN \$10-50 advertising post cards with one hundred packages. Sample free. Agents wanted. Geo. W. Arnold, Hatfield, Pa.

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