"A Gelebrated Case Rapidly Nearing a Determination.

UNPRECEDENTED IN CHURCH HISTORY

The Causes Leading Up to the Present Controversy, the Charges Preferred and the Issues Involved - Some Lively Correspondence.

The charges preferred by the priests of the diocese of Lincoln against the Rt. Rev. Thomas Bonacum, bishop of that diocese supplementing a demand for his removal, will come up for hearing, according to present arrangements, on Thursday of this week, before Archbishop Hennessy of Dubuque Whether the hearing is to be an ecclesiastical trial in regular form, or merely an investigation, is undetermined. The complainants insist on a trial and will not be satisfled with less. They also insist that the proceedings be held in Lincoln, instead of Omaha, the former place being more convenient for all concerned.

The twenty-two charges originally filed with Mgr. Satolli, apostolic delegate, against Bishop Bonacum have been reduced to fifteen. Ten priests of the diocese signed the original indictment. Fifteen out of the thirty-two priests ordained for the diocese are active supporters of the revised indictment, and they claim a majority of the remainder passively approve the movement. The fifteen charges against the bishop are: "Maladministration, tyranny, oppression, insubordination, inciting strife, slander and libel, arbitrary exercise and abuse of power, violation of diocesan statutes, misappropriation, falsehood, speculation, undue influence, unjust favoritism, scandal, gambling and incitation to perjury."

These are supplemented with 115 specifications, the whole comprising a document of twenty typewritten pages. Over 100 witnesses, priests, nuns and laymen, will appear in support of the charges if a trial is determined on, and, in that event, the proceedings are likely to occupy several

AN EPOCH IN CHURCH HISTORY. If a regular trial is had under canon law the event will form an epoch in the history of the Roman Catholic church in the United States. The trial of a bishop is extremely rare even in the old world and is unprecedented in the western church. Heretofore bishops accused of grave offenses have been called to Rome and quietly suppressed by removal to some distant diocese or placed on the retired list. The send-ing of a papal delegate to the United States reversed this policy to some extent, by creating a local court for the determination of questions of church management arising in this country. For reasons hereafter explained proceedings in the case of Bonacum will be had before Arch bishop Hennessy instead of the papal dele-gate. The archbishop will preside and proceedings, as near as can be ascertained will be similar to civil trials to court. Appeal from the findings may then be had to

he papal delegate and finally to Rome The progress of the case, the proceedings heretofore had, and the prospect of an early determination, excites keen interest among churchmen. To priests it is espeamong churchmen. To priests it is espe-cially important, not on account of the gravity of the charges preferred against the bishop of Lincoln, but because it in-volves the question whether or not bishops are bound to respect and obey the laws of the church in their relations with sub-

THE GOVERNMENT OF DIOCESES. An explanation of the laws enacted for the government of the church in this country is necessary to a proper understanding of the questions involved. The Catholic church in America, up to a recent period, has been classed as a missionary church. As such it was exempt from the well defined laws which govern the church in older countries. In Europe church in older countries. In Europe canon laws clearly define the powers and duties of the clergy and clergy and for the determination of all questions in volving church government. In the United States the rules of government are those laid down in the Baltimore decrees, but their enforcement depends on the will These rules, or laws, were the out come of the carnest efforts of Pope Leo to bring about a better system of church gov-ernment in this country, and remedy the abuses complained of by priests. In 1883 the archbishops were summoned to Rome for consultation. At that meeting and prior thereto the pope expressed a desire to send a papal delegate to the United States, with a view to ending the missionary system and establishing canon law. His desires in this regard were successfully overcome. It was contended the country was not old enough for a sweeping change, the effect of which would be a curtailment of episcopal powers. As a compromise the third plenary council of Baltimore was held the following year.

DIOCESAN REGULATIONS. The laws enacted by the council direct that each diocese shall have a board of consulters, an episcopal court for the dispos tion of disciplinary and matrimonial cases a certain number of deaneries, to be deter mined by the extent and population of the diocese, and, when possible, in the judgment of the bishop, a certain number of so-called of the bishop, a certain number of so-called irremovable rectors. The bishop is required to consult his consulters in such matters as the division of a parish or the erection of a new one, and in the sale and purchase of diocesan property exceeding in amount \$5,000. One-half of the consulters are elected by the priests and the remainder chosen by the bishop. In case of discord between priests and bishop, it is possible for the latter to defeat the for the latter to defeat the popular choice of the priests, as the election or the priests, as so-called, must so-called, must receive the approva of the bishop. Thus the law intended to give priests representation in the gov-ernment of a diocese may be wholly de-feated if the bishop is so disposed. He is practically a law unto himself. He may follow the advice of consulters or do other-wise. The existence of the board under these conditions is of no practical value. The disciplinary court for the trial of offending priests is organized as occasion calls, and is temporary in character. Each bishop is required to appoint a prosecuting attorney. Irremovable rectors, as the name implies cannot be moved from their parishes without a trial. Movable rectors may be moved at any time at the will of the bishop, but the bishop is cautioned by the council never to move a priest out of his parish against his will except for "grave cause. LAWS IGNORED.

The advice of the council as well as the laws have been ignored in more than one diocese. Repeated rebukes from Rome have had little effect, in some instances, in giving them vitality. A case may be instanced to illustrate the desire of the pope to render the Baltimore laws effective. When a see becomes vacant or a new one is created, the becomes vacant or a new one is created, the laws require that the consulters of the diocese shall submit the names of three candidates for bishop. These names must be forwarded to Rome with the names selected by the bishops of the province. After the death of Bishop O'Connor of Omaha this law was ignored. The archbishop and bishops of the province met in St. Louis and bishops of the province met in St. Louis and forwarded their nominations to headquarters. The consulters of the diocese, at a meeting in Omaha, chose a candidate for the vacancy and sent the nomination to Rome, together with a protest against the action of the bishops in ignoring the consulters. In due time the archbishop of St. Louis was notified to proceed in the Omaha case in accordance with the Baltimore decrees. The consulters were then consulted. No such proceedings were had in the selection of bishop for the diocese of Lincoln, and the complaining priests assert, as a matter of law, that his election is void.

A DIOCESE WITHOUT LAW. Every bishop is required, within six months after his installation, to institute the machinery of government outlined above. The bishop of Lincoln is charged with ignor-ing the law. So far as the complaining priests are aware, consulters have not been appointed, no court organized for the trial of accusations made by the bishop against priests, and removals have been made and punishment inficted on priests without, they

BISHOP BONACUM ON TRIAL claim, reasonable or just cause. Without means of relief through a diocesan court, an appeal to the papal delegate was the only alternative left the priests.
From the filing of the original charges

against the bishop a year ago to the present time the case has developed from a diocesan row to a controversy of international magnitude. Its ramifications extend from Lin-coln to the vationn and involves the ecclesicoin to the vatican and involves the eccleai-astical factions recently arrayed for and against the establishment of a papal delega-tion in this country. Although there is a calm on the surface of this troubled see, a storm rages beneath. Its area is stendily widening and it is not improbable that ere long it will first into its vortex many dig-nitaries outside of the Lincoln diocese. Tre-mendous pressure has been discovered. mendous pressure has been exerted from various quarters to prevent a trial of the charges. Not only have the complaining priests been importuned to cease agitation, but the hearing has been delayed and the attorneys employed by the priests have been harrassed and one withdrawn from the case at the moment of trial.

THE ACCUSED AND ACCUSERS. So far as known, no defense has been atempted by the bishop. His answer to the charges at the time of their receipt from Mgr. Satolli is in the nature of a general denial, coupled with the assertion that the charges "are utterly unknown in this vicinity" (Lincoln). He indicated a willingness to make answer, but the complainants have not received a copy of the answer, if it is in existence. On the other hand, the accusers possess a mass of documentary evidence, affidavits and oral proofs to substantiate the charges. Their production and verification in court will create an ecclesiastical sensation. And from information to the court of the received the r at hand from a reliable source, it is reason-ably certain the proofs will be produced either in an eccleciastical or civil court.

An effort was made to end the discord last June, Mgr. Satolli visited Omaha in response to the demands of the complainants. A hearing was had for three days at the residence of Bishop Scannell. The gravity of the charges against the bishop and the proofs submitted caused the delegate to proeed cautiously. While anxious for a settle nent of the case, and expressing sympathy for the priests, he thought the case should take the usual course through the archbishot of the province. The priests urged a trial by the delegate, because the other course meant great delay, owing to the enfectied condition of Archbishop Kenrick. This fear condition of Archbishop Kenrick. This fear was allayed by assurances that the province would be divided and a new archbishop appointed, who would promptly try the case. Pending further proceedings, and at the request of the complaining priests, the delegate bound the bishop in writing to keep the peace. In this truce the bishop promised he would "forget and condone." or forget and forgive, and that he would do nothing against the complainants. The treatment of the priests on plainants. The treatment of the priests on this occasion was very kind and sympathetic The delegate assured them that he believed "the only solution of the Lincoln case and trouble would be the immediate removal of the bishop," and that he did not want to take the responsibility of the removal, although he had the power to do so.

THE VIOLATED TRUCE. The truce signed by Bishop Bonacum and low in the possession of Mgr. Satolli, is one of the documents relied upon to prove the charge of untruthfulness. In a letter pub-lished in the "Amerika" of St. Louis, Bishop Bonacum denied having signed the truce and repudiated it. The repudiation was fol-lowed by the dismissal of Father Loughran from the pro-cathedral at Lincoln, the dis alssal of Father Quinn and the various scandalous proceedings against Father Cor bett of Palmyra. These various acts wer a violation of the truce. In every instance where the priests declined to obey the orders of dismissal, they were sustained by Mgr. Satolli, which in effect removed them from the jurisdiction of the bishop. This is why Father Corbett resists the orders of dismissal. He has, it is claimed, been dis nissed three or four times, yet he holds the fort in accordance with orders from higher THE FIGHTING CORBETT.

Father Corbett has been singled out by the rather correct has been singled out by the bishop as the body and soul of the "in-surgent" movement. Many suppose he is responsible for the trouble, and are not spar-ing in condemning his conduct. He is but one of the fifteen complaining priests, the leader by selection, not from choice, and one, it will be found when the trial is had, who has been more "sinned against than sinning." He has been obliged to bear the brunt of the contest. The thunders of epis-copal wrath have been hurled at him continuously, and the civil courts have been in voked to accomplish his removal. An infunction was issued by the district court of Otoe county at the instance of the bishop, re straining a bank from paying church funds deposited in the name of Father Corbett. This action of the bishop was followed by an order dismissing Father Cornett from the Palmyra mission—not in the form required by church law, but by printed circulars dis tributed among members of the congregation. Father Corbett was not officially notified and was unaware of the bishop's action until shown the circular. The arrest of the bishop on the charge of criminal libel and the subsequent trial, though seemingly the subsequent trial, though seemingly harsh and uncalled for, had the effect desired. It served to focus attention on the discords in the Lincoln diocese, the conflicts of authority and the scandals arising there from. Affairs were thus brought to crisis Either the church authorities must take action for the relief of the priests or relief would be sought in the civil courts.

FUEL FOR THE FLAMES. Rev. D. S. Phelan of St. Louis, counse complainants, incurred a share of episcopal hostility. Proceedings against were instituted by the bishop of Lincoln a view to his suspension the priesthood on the charge of uttering disrespectful language during the Lincoln trial. The replies of Rev. Phelan through the Western Watchman gave offens to the coadjutor archbishop of St. Louis an public condemnation of the newspaper fol All these acts growing out of th Lincoln emeute stirred the smoldering fire. into a lively conflagration. Those in author ity realized that further delay of decisive ac tion would provoke greater scandal. The injunction suit still pending in Nebraska City served as a wedge to force the higher powers. The priests informed the papal delegate that unless the authorities gave then the hearing promised in accordance with law, they would undertake to establish the truth of their charges at the hearing of the injunction suit in the civil court. This, it is said, brought positive orders to Arch bishop Hennessy, both from the papal delegate and from the propaganda, to proceed at once with the hearing and determination of the charges. The civil case is_set for hearing on the 16th inst. The ecclesiastical hearing is set for the 12th inst.

A SPIRITED PROTEST.

On receipt of the notification of the hear ing from Archbishop Hennessy, the com-plainants arranged to meet in Lincoln las-Sunday. A protest was drafted against the hearing being held in Omaha, and against an "investigation," for reasons explained in a letter to the archbishop, of which the fol owing is a copy:

an "investigation," for reasons explained in a letter to the archbishop, of which the following is a copy:

LINCOLN, Neb., March 30, 1894.—To Your Grace, John Hennessy, D.D., Archbishop of Dubuque: Most Rev. and Dear Sir—Your letters of the 26th to some of the priests of this diocese, acquainting them that your grace would investigate our ecclesiastical grievances, have been duly received, and we in assembly respond as follows: Charges against our bishop. Thomas Bonacum, asking for his removal from this diocese were lodged and entertained by the apostolic delegate a year ago. A copy of the same was served on Right Rev. Thomas Bonacum, accompanied with a request from the papal court to file an answer to the same. Then after the bishop had cited priests to appear before the commission of investigation of this diocese for the purpose of proving the charges made against himself, and having traveled through the states of Nebraska and Missouri to secure affluavits to refute the charges and condemn the priests who preferred them, the apostolic court came to Omaha and held a session, due to the fact that Bishop Scannell, who was delegated by the papal court to investigate the said charges preferred and entertained by the papal court, having attempted to investigate our charges, and perceiving that they were most intricate and complex, did arquaint Mgr. Satolii that it was impossible for him to investigate and entertained by the papal court, having attempted to investigate our charges, and perceiving that they were most intricate and complex, did arquaint Mgr. Satolii that it was impossible for him to investigate or handle the case. Mgr. Satolii, with the papal court, notified us to be present before their tribunal sitting at Omaha on June 5, 1893, for the purpose of proving the charges preferred against our ordinary, who was commanded to appear before the same—court as defendant in the case. We waited three days for his appearance, but waited in vain. The apostolic court asked the first of the charges preferred. We

selected a formal or summary trial, but Bishop Bonacum refusing to put in his appearance caused the papal court to dismiss the case for that time, assuring us that after a contract had been signed between Bishop Bonacum and the complaining priests, your grace would hold such trial as soon as possible. We have waited patiently and long for this promised trial; we have been informed that not only the apostolic delegate, but the Congregation of the Propoganda, has ordered you to hold said trial immediately. This information gave us hope that at last justice would be soon vindicated, but now you serve notice on us that you will "investigate our alleged grievances" in Omaha. Why not a trial? And why should you investigate our grievances in Omaha? We have had two such investigations in Omaha at a great expense to no purpose. Many of our witnesses, who number about 100, including priests, nuns and laity, will find it, as you well know, practically impossible to go so far as Omaha. If you think that another simple and partial investigation will satisfy justice you have doubtless been deceived as to the pulse and feelings of the priests and people of the Lincoin diocese. In the name of all sincerity and justice, in obedience to the dictates of our conscience, for the sake of extending equal rights to all and special privileges to none, we ask your grace to grant and to hold in the city of Lincoin a canonical trial. We, the complaining priests, with all reverence and respect, absolutely and firmly refuse to be parties to another star-chamber investigation in Omaha, or any place else, Our charges and specifications demand a formal or summary trial, which we trust will be held in Lincoin on April 12th next. Awaiting a favorable reply, we remain yours respectfully in Christ,

PRIESTS OF LINCOLN DIOCESE, per D. Flizgerald, Secretary.

per D. Fitzgerald, Secretary WHAT THE PRIESTS DEMAND. Following it a copy of a letter of similar ener forwarded to Mgr. Satolli, papal dele-

gate: LINCOLN, Neb., March 31, 1894.—To Hi

tenor forwarded to Mgr. Satolli, papal delegate:

LINCOLN, Neb., March 31, 1894.—To His Grace, Francis Satolli, Delegate Apostolic: Your Excellency—Enclosed herein please find copy of a letter we, the complaining priests of the Lincoln diocese, have sent to his grace, John Hennessy, archbishop of Dubuque, to whom you referred for trial the charges against our ordinary. Bishop Bonacum, protesting against an "investigation" of our grievances at Omaha. You have read the charges and specifications and know full well that in order that justice may be extended to our ordinary. Thomas Bonacum, and to us, the complaining priests, they call for either a formal or a summary trigl.

Omaha is situated about seventy-five miles from Lincoln; Lincoln is the railway center of the state and is easily accessible from all parts, while Omaha is situated upon the extreme boundary thereof. Lincoln is the residence of the bishop, and many, nay, most of the wintersale to be called on the trial reside in or near that city. It will be an almost intolerable expense, and such an expense as to prevent that full and fair trial that justice and the the imperative interests of the church in this state demand, to held said trial at Omaha. It will amount to a denial of justice, and degrade the procedure into the veriest farce. If it is the opinion of his grace that to hold the "investigation" in Omaha will tend to limit the extent of the "scandal," he is mistaken, for such a course will but serve to convince the laity and elergy, and the people of the state, Catholic and Protestant alike, that there is a determined effort to suppress the facts, to stiffe investigation, and to "whitewash" the bishop, which result would be a calamity to religion and a disgrace to the fair name of our church, and work our cause irreparable injury.

We were led to believe, at Omaha, that your excellency had ordered his grace. Archbishop Hennessy, to fully, fairly and impartially try the bishop upon the charges preferred against him by his priests, and we are of the

miscarriage of justice. Witnesses cannot attend, and there cannot be such a trial as we believe your excellency designed to order. If, however, it is your order that the investigation proceed along the lines indicated by his grace, we will appear and make the best presentation of our case possible under such adverse circumstances, but we have faint hope that the truth will be brought out, or that a just judgment will be pronounced in the case. This is said without impugning either the fairness or the purity of the motives of his grace, but only because such a "trial" will be one-sided and partial.

We, therefore, pray your excellency, if any misunderstanding now exists, to make your instructions to his grace so clear and definite that no possible mistake may be made; that you will order the charges and specifications fully tried; that such trial may be had at Lincoln. And we pray your excellency to believe that these requests are made, not for vexation or delay, nor in a spirit of persecution of our ordinary, but that substantial justice may be done; that the truth may prevail and be vindicated. All this ad majoram dei gloriam.

Awaiting an early and a favorable

Awaiting an early and a favorable answer, we remain, your excellency, your obedient servants in Christ,

THE COMPLAINING PRIESTS of the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Rev. Dennis Fitzgerald. Secretary,

Auburn, Neb.

ORGANIZED FOR ACTION. The complaining priests and others have organized the St. Bernard's union. present it is confined to the diocese Lincoln, but its promoters hope it will take root in every diocese. For the present, however, the union will look after the inerests of priests who may become innocent victims of episcopal wrath. cution of the charges against Bishop Bonacum the necessary means for the employ ment of lawyers and defraying other ex penses, have been collected by the union.
Dr. Phelan of St. Louis will conduct the case for the priests. Dr. Smith, a New Jersey canonist, had been retained and helped to prepare the papers, but he withdrew from the case a few weeks ago. Smith is a priest in the diocese of Bishop Wigger, and this fact is given as sufficient explanation for his withdrawal. His place explanation for his withdrawal. His place will be taken by Dr. Burtsell of Rondout, N. Y., the noted defender of Dr. McGlynn, should be return from Rome in time

BIOGRAPHY OF THE BISHOP. Rt. Rev. Thomas Bonacum, D.D., is an Irishman of German extraction, born January 29, 1847, near Thurles, county Tipperary, Ireland. He was scarcely a year old when the family emigrated to America and settled in St. Louis. His training for the priesthood began by studying the classics at the Salesiam, near Milwaukee, followed by a theological course at the diocesan seminary, Cape Girardeau, Mo. He was ordained in St. Louis, June 18, 1870. ubsequently he went abroad and attended course of lectures at the University of Wursburg. In 1881 he assumed charge of the Church of the Holy Name, St. Louis. Upon the division of the diocese of Ne-braska in 1886, and the erection of the diocese of Lincoln, comprising all of Ne-braska south of the Platte river, Father Bonacum was chosen higher Bonacum was chosen bishop and was consecrated in St. Louis, November 30, 1887.

PLUMB FULL OF PIE.

Southerner's Graphic Description of the Roys in Blue at Appomattox. The southern idea of pie is extremely crude when applied to that succulent north-ern dish, and subtly defined when directed to the political variety, says the Washington Post. The farthest development in the pic line that the native southerner has at ned to is a manufacture of sweet potato, which is a state's prison counterfeit forgery of the New England pumpkin pic and even that base imitation has obtained foothold no farther south than South Caro-lina. Congressman Crain of Texas says the people of Texas regard the pie family as Caesar regarded Gaul—divided into three kinds, "the kivered, the unkivered and the

cross-barred.' "I overheard," said he, "some years ago a great debate between a northern printer and a southern compositor on the subject of the late war. The southerner was hot, impetuous and sentimental."
""Why, didn't we lick you out of your boots at Manassa?" said the northern type-'Granted.'

sticker. " 'Didn't we smash you at Cold Harbor and wipe the ground up with you in the Wilderness?"
"'Granted,' said the other.

' 'Didn't we tie you all up in knots and make rags of you all through the Peninsular campaign? " 'Granted,' said the northerner, 'but how

was it at Appomattox? 'Yes, how was it at Appomattox?' shouted the southerner, growing sentimental as the mingled beers and whiskies they were consuming rose to his head. We had 13,000 poor, ragged, footsore, tired, starved veterans, without a single round of ammunition while you had 300,000 fat, sassy soldiers provided with every luxury, and every m-m-mother's son of 'em, he sobbed, 'plumb

Chicago Printing House Assigns. CHICAGO, April 7.—The Empire Show Printing company, one of the best known establishments in Chicago, has assigned.

JAMES JIM, THE BALD HEAD

His Unconscious Debut as a Mute Comedian in Gotham.

A FUNNY SHOW, NO GUN IN SIGHT

Painted Grimace on a Bald Pate and Its Startling Effect on the Crowd-A Warning to the Hair-

A lightning sketch artist furnished unexpected amusement for the audience which gathered at the American theater in New York on Monday night. The artist did not appear on the stage, says the artistic narrator of the Sun, but he sat in the audience, and his basis of operations was the very bald head of a very fat man, whose name was At least that is what his friends called him.

The baldness of Jim is remarkable, no for its quantity, for he has a straggling fringe of discouraged hair all about his head, but for its quality. A man may be mildly, dully, inconspicuously hairless, or he may shine, cranially considered, and Jim possessed of a luminous intensity of ralient baldness that is comparable only to he headlight of a locomotive. This circle of dazzling aridity is just where it will do
the most good, directly at the crown of the
head. Like most fat men, Jim is good
natured, and when his friends guy him as
to his capillary shortcomings he merely laughs and philosophically observes that it is better to be baid on the outside of one's head than on the inside. Now Jim, being fond of the theater, got two of his friends and went to see "A Woman of No Importance". ance" on Monday night. They had good seats in the middle of the house, and get-ting there rather early they settled back to wait. Presently Jim grew weary and advanced a proposition, invariably couched by him in a time-honored formula and just as invariably responded to by his friends.
"There's nothing going on," said Jim.

"Lessavadrink."
Out filed the trio. Before their return two men who are friends of Jim and his friends, came in and occupied seats directly behind those the three had just left. One of these two is an artist by nature, though not by profession, and his strong point is cari-caturing. When the trio returned, fortified by various drinks, the curtain had al-ready risen, and in their haste to get in they failed to notice the two men just be-hind them. The first act passed without disturbance, and at the conclusion Jim turned to his friends and said; "Lots of time between the acts. Lessavadrink.

As they were about to act on the invita-ion a voice behind them said meditatively: "Well, there are bald men and bald men, but I'm a green-eyed crawfish if I ever saw a bald man so infernally bald as that duffer just in front of us."
"That's right," responded a second voice

'I've seen many a billiard ball that was the seven Sutherland sisters combined along-side of the top of that head." "Some men are born bald," proceeded the first speaker, "some achieve baldness, and some have the hair thrust off them. Now, I should suppose that that chap had

all three—"
"Look here," interrupted Jim, unable to endure this style of thing from strangers.
"I don't know who you are, but unless you're looking for trouble—Huh! Oh, it's you fellows, is it? Well, I thought the voices were kind o' familiar. We're just going out. Join us? Lessavadrink."

This invitation was Jim's undoing. It was readily accepted and the trie followed by

readily accepted, and the trio, followed by the pair, walked out. How the artist contrived to accomplish his nefarious task without the knowledge of his victim is a mystery. Perhaps he did it under the guise of phrenology, or possibly he hypnotized his victim. At any rate when Jim left the saloon after consuming his share of the drinks he carried quite unwittingly on his head a charcoal pertrait of a man's face.

The curtain was just rising on the second act when Jim, having resumed his seat, took off his hat in dissful ignorance of the fact that he was being libellously held up to public derision by the back of his own head. What those behind him saw was a hideous, sarcastic, contemptuous face grinning at them from out of a straggling fringe of hair. The light, reflected from its shining surface, gave it a devilish ap-pearance of beaming satisfaction that was so contagious that those who saw it burst into roars of laughter. Jim's friends were convulsed and grew purple in the face.
"Well, I don't see anything so devilish
funny about this play," said Jim to himself,

but I suppose I didn't catch the joke." Accordingly, not to be left out in the cold, e threw back his head and laughed with the rest of them. It was the worst thing he could have done. His fat neck, pushed up by his collar, moved his scalp and ripples of uncanny merriment went shimmering over the countenance of his hinder self. The howl that followed this exhibition drew the attention of the whole house to the unfortunate Jim. A man back of him begar choking, and a girl near by became hysteri The ushers were leaning against the walls, weak and shaken by their paroxysms of laughter. Jim didn't see the point, but as everything seemed to be going swimmingly on the stage he laughed with the others. In time the merriment wore itself out and at the conclusion of the ac-Jim turned to the artist and said: "Guess I must be thick-headed tonight

I think I need a little bracin' up. Less-So much bracing up was necessary that party missed the next act entire and got in just as the curtain was rising on the fourth act. Now, this act is not humorous. In fact it is quite the reverse. As Jim sat down the expression of his face forward was sad and subdued, but the expression of his face aft was reeking with fiendish merri-ment. Jim heard a few convulsive giggles back of him, then a ripple of laughter that grew and grew. The grotesque grin of Jim's rear view had taken a fresh hold on the spectators. But the unfortunate two-faced man couldn't see the point at all. More-over he didn't like to see the pathos of the play spoiled by the untoward merriment and he was puzzled and rather unhappy and he was puzzled and rather unhappy.

Like many other men Jim assists mental processes by scratching his head. He tried it then, with startling results.

His fingers so adjusted themselves as to alter slightly the charcoal marks on his head. The two corners of the mouth of the countenance were dragged down and one eye was turned upward and outward. When he took his hand down the audience beheld glooming out from his crantum a cross eyed demon, wearing an expression of meditative melancholy. The bowls of laughter that greeted this new manifestation almost brought the play to an end, and they made

Jim very tired.
"Sh-h-h-h-h" he hissed indignantly at those behind him. Then he turned to his companions who were holding their sides and "It may be all right, but I can't see any

thing so d-n humarous in a lady trying to keep her only son from leaving her. It don't seem to hit me on the funny side. somehow. It's only one part of the audience that's laughing any way. The people in front of us ain't so tickled to death. Strikes me as mighty queer."

Just then a boyish voice from behind

Why don't you turn that picture toward the wall? Everybody in front of the voice turned around, Jim included. That presented his charcoal countenance to the view of those in the front of the house and set them off. For a space of time the actors might have been in Hoboken and no one would have known the difference. The house racked and throbbed with merriment. High above the laughter could be heard the voice of Jim, who had suddenly arrived at the con-clusion that in the midst of a crowd of lunatics one should not needlessly show of difference from the others. Therefore h

And as Jim laughed and twisted his head about, the face or the baid spot became convulsed with anguish by the movements of the scalp. It was a long time before the bouse quieted down, and until the drop curtain fell a snicker here and there would tea-tify to some new grimace on the part of Jim's demon. As Jim'put on his hat to go out the artist turned to him and said: Well, Jim, what did you think of it?"

"Oh, it's good," said Jim, "very funny.

Say, I had to laugh there in the last act.
But—er—say, of course it was out of sight—but, you know, some way I couldn't quite catch on—er—there at the end where the lady is crying and—er—it seems almost kinder pathetic, you know, and—er—I wish one of you fellows would tell me what there was so d—n funny about that anyway. I couldn't see it."

An Excellent Medicine, Our druggists sell a preparation for rheu-matism that has performed some remark-able cures. Frank Shepardson, an engineer on the Southern Pacific railway who resides on the Southern Pacific railway who resides at Los Angeles, Cal., was troubled with rheumatism for a long time. He was treated by several physicians, also visited the Hot Springs, but received no permanent relief until he used Chamberlain's Pain Balm, which is the medicine referred to above. He says it is the best medicine in the world for rheumatism.

PARTED BY A TRICK.

Reunion After Fourteen Years of a Couple Separated by Forgery.

A remarkable story, full of romance and pathos, is revealed by the reunion of two old sweethearts in New York. This couple were estranged fourteen years ago by means of forged letters written by a rival suitor for the woman's hand. The death of a wife and a husband brought the two lovers together again. About seven years ago Law yer Phillips was engaged in recovering com-missions for several Americans who arranged the sale to English capitalists of a number of large breweries in Chicago. While engaged on this case Mr. Phillips met an gaged on this case Mr. Phillips met an Englishman named James W. Marshall in the offices of his London solicitors. Mar-shall secured Mr. Phillips' services to look after certain property interests he possessed in this country. In the course of their business correspondence Mr. Marshall re-quested his lawyer to endeavor to ascertain the whereabouts and condition of John S Giebert and wife, who left Manchester, Eng. in 1880, a few weeks after they were married in that city. Mr. Marshall furnished enough data to enable Lawyer Phillips to ascertain that the Gieberts came to New York city to live, but went west about four years ago He finally succeeded in locating Mrs. Gieber Her husband was dead and she was having no easy task of it in support-ing herself and a young daughter. An agent of Mr. Marshall came to this

country after his lawyer told him of the discovery. He went to Chicago and learned from Mrs. Giebert, who, it appears, had once been engaged to marry Mr. Marshall, that her husband, Giebert, had confessed on his deathbed that he had wronged her when he married her. He said he wrote the letter breaking off her engagement, which she believed came from Marshall, as well as a letter he sent to Marshall fore ing his sweetheart's handwriting and tell ing him she could never marry him. Mrs. Glebert was at that time a Miss Mary Nelson, a relative of the famous Admiral Nelson. Glebert was an expert pen-man, and so cleverly imitated the hand-writing of Marshall and Miss Nelson that they had no doubt as to the authenticity of the letters each received. By this ruse Giebert, who had been a friend of Mar-shall's, was enabled to wed Miss Nelson

Marshall went to Australia. He is now very wealthy, and is engaged in business as a promoter. His wife died five years ago, and he, too, has a young daughter. His agent brought Mrs. Giebert to New at Lawyer Phillips' office. Mr. Marshal had intended to leave her all his American property interests, but will now marry her instead as a result of their meeting.

SHE GOT THERE.

Womanly Anxiety to See the President's Wife at Close Quarters.

Women adopt all sorts of devices for get-ting a good look at Mrs. Cleveland, says a Washington correspondent of the New York Sun. On fine days the mistress of the white house generally takes a ride in the family phaeton, accompanied by her babies and the nurses. In the afternoon, between 3 and 4 o'clock, if the sun is shining, she goes out in the victoria, accompanied by either her husband or a friend. Women, young and old, have discovered this habit of Mrs. Cleve-land, and are beginning to lie in wait for her to catch her as she comes front portico to carriage. There is no privacy inmates of the white house, and when Mrs. Cleveland goes riding she obliged to walk through the public vestibuland across the public portico. A day or two ago a bevy of school girls joined the waiting group on the portico, and when Mrs. Cleve land came out she was obliged to run the gauntlet. When she returned, an hour o two later, a funny thing happened. A well dressed, good-looking, middle-aged woman evidently a stranger in the city, was passing the street gate when a carriage turned int the circular drive of the white house grounds The quickwitted sightseer instantly surmised that the occupants were Mrs. Cleveland and her babies. She saw a chance to accomplish her long-felt desire of getting a goo look at the president's wife, and she did no miss it. The race was a long one and she knew she could not win it unless something happened to detain Mrs. Cleveland after she arrived under the portecochere. Lifting her clothes in both hands she started up the circular pathway along the drive at a breakneck speed. The pass-ers-by and the spectators at the door ap-plauded, and, perspiring and panting, she reached the steps just in time, for Mrs. Cleveland had stopped to give an order to the coachman, and the energetic lady was enabled to plant herself where she could stare the president's wife in the face for at least ten seconds, and could also see the bables as they were lifted from the carriage by the nurses and carried into the house.

As Mrs. Cleveland disappeared in the vestibule a gentleman standing by said, ad-miringly, to the female sprinter, "Well, you "Yes," she said, mopping her face, "folk from my part of the country generally do."

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about that, anyway. I couldn't see it." No, and what's more, you never will see it." responded the artist. "You ain't built that way. In the language of your leisure moments, lessavadrink." And Jim never will see it, for in the course of that drink the artist wiped it off.

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letin of manufactures to prove these things by. The expenses of living in the City of Portland are smaller than any city on the continent.

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