

THE SIXTH MRS. WASHANE.

First Woman Able to Conquer and Subdue One of the Crankiest Men in Pottsville.

By BERTHA BARTLETT.

People generally in Pottsville pitted the new Mrs. Washane that was to be...

"YOUR WELL-WISHERS." The Widow Douglas read the letter...

The wedding ceremony was over. Mrs. Washane, sixth, was an accomplished fact...

"And now, John, as soon as we can get our clothes changed I think you had better hang that gate while I am getting supper..."

"Oh, John, I don't want to be a burden on you. I'll do as much for you as I can. I'll do what I can. I'll do what I can..."

"That was the beginning of John Washane's sixth marital venture; when he came into the house he was urged to take off his boots at the threshold and reminded...

"Never did I thus have to address my first husband. Constantly were the statements made: 'What would my dear partner Douglas have thought had I been obliged to ask him to bring up coal?'"

"He referred to his own unworthiness one day to a neighbor lately moved into the town, a man who years before had lived in Green Meadows..."

"As I think of her former partner I wonder what she saw in me that should lead her to renounce the name of George Douglas? It may be that she saw my need, and as it were, was willing to snatch me as a brand from the burning..."



She—If you dare hug me, I'll call my big sister. He—Don't do it. One at a time, you know.

less than is yielded by the English or French potatoes, but in compliance with the General policy of maintaining cheap postage as an aid to popular instruction, a plan which has been found to work well...

"There are nearly 7,500 postoffices in Italy, where the telegraph system is under government control. The gross revenue from Italian postoffices last year was \$5,000,000...

In the extent of postal receipts the United States is ahead of all other countries, and its revenues this year are expected to exceed \$100,000,000, a larger sum than has been collected in the postoffice in any previous year..."

THE BOYS' VIEW OF IT.

Too Much Was Expected For Two Dollars a Week.

A downtown merchant, finding himself in the predicament of a boy in his establishment, relates the Washington Star...

"What can you do?" inquired the manager. "I'm a boy," the youngster explained. "Most anything, I guess, that a boy can do around. I have been working for more than a year now..."

"Where?" "In Mr. Blank's place. You know he's broke up." "Well, we want a boy, but so far we haven't been able to find what we are looking for..."

"What is it you are looking for?" "We want a boy that is honest, industrious and diligent. He must always be in the store. He must not run on time and must not get into the streets, nor play marbles for keeps, nor tell stories, nor smoke cigarettes, nor fight other boys, nor play ball on Sunday, nor use bad language, nor play tricks on the other boys in the store, nor get into any kind of mischief during business hours..."

"Hold on, mister," interrupted the youngster applicant; "you ain't looking for a boy; you're lookin' for a Sunday school song, and I guess I won't suit. So long." And the boy went out whistling "Break the News to Mother."

Pointed Paragraphs.

Chicago News: A ball dress is cut low, but the bill for it comes high. Ungratefulness is one of the meanest traits of humanity...

Probably the easiest way to make trouble is to look for it. Poverty must be a crime—at least it is punishable by hard labor...

In the matrimonial game a base ball player isn't always a good catch. It is much easier to form a new habit than it is to reform an old one...

It is said that every man has his price. Nothing ruins a woman's complexion quicker than marrying a man to reform him. There is nothing in the world more sensational than the plain unvarnished truth...

About the time a man gets ready to lay up something for a rainy day it begins to rain. The optimist derives much pleasure from the thoughts of trouble that do not trouble him...

Neighbors will never become bosom friends as long as they look into each others' back yards. A man naturally likes to stand high in his community, yet he doesn't care to have the assessor over-rate him...

Advance in Wall Paper. Something like a sweeping change in prices was made in the wall paper business when the output of the wall paper mills got into the hands of a trust. It used a trust that one could buy wall paper at such low prices that no one need live in an unpapered room. The trust sent prices bounding up. In some cases the selling figures were doubled. The result was, that instead of a housewife being able to spring for 10 cents a bunch of paper she was obliged to have her bedrooms repapered for \$10 each, she was compelled to pay no less than \$14 to \$16 for the embellishment. The cost of the paper-hangers' labor is counted into that price at the same figure, so that the price of paper being doubled makes the difference. The trust got the price it wanted. The wageworker who hung the paper was not able to get in on the upward tendency of things...

The thrifty conduct of the wall paper trust had the effect of causing many folk to resort to foreign paint on the walls of their rooms and resort to paint and kalsomine. This expedient as a mural decoration has therefore become popular, and housewives are apparently contented with the result. The banana trust is a New Orleans concern. It has control of the importation of bananas. It has raised the price of them all the way from 25 cents to 75 cents a bunch. The dealer who was able to buy a bunch of bananas for 10 cents is now obliged to pay \$1.75 a bunch. He is forced to raise the price to 10 cents, and sometimes to 15 cents a dozen. Many of the small dealers in fruit have quit handling bananas. When the price was as low as 5 cents a dozen many poor people were able to supply their tables with bananas, which formed not only a sort of luxury, but a substantial and cheap addition to their meals. The street vender who had the habit of walking up late sleepers in an endeavor to dispose of his cartload of bananas, has been forced out of business. He cannot sell cheap enough to find customers. It is only when the market is glutted that he finds an opportunity to get back into business, but then it is only for a few days. In the drug business the trusts have not made much headway. The only articles that have been advanced in price, according to the admission of the retail druggists, are the plasters of various kinds. The factories that furnish aching humanity with plasters...

RAPID BOOSTING OF PRICES

Critical Examination of the Benevolent Pretenses of Trusts.

WHOLESALE SQUEEZING OF CONSUMERS

A Score of Common Necessaries of Life Materially Advanced in Price by the Effective Method of Combination.

Promoters of trusts invariably claim at the outset that the purpose of combination is the reduction of the cost of production. This is accomplished by economies possible in the management of the plant, and consumers are glad to benefit. The extent to which consumers are benefited is shown in the facts following, compiled by the Chicago Tribune:

Trusts have multiplied so fast that nearly all of the great commodities of life are now controlled by these giant industrial organizations. Sugar, petroleum products and iron and steel manufactures are not by any means the only things in the hands of trusts. It is a cause for surprise when one finds some article of popular use on sale that is not from the hands of a trust. People generally discover that a thing has come to be possessed by a trust by reason of the advance of the price of the article. For instance, the price of brooms, oatmeal, vinegar, flour, coffee, tin cans, raisins, butterine, kidney and liver plasters, crackers, bread, glassware, and ice cream are some of the things people generally find to be advanced in price because of trusts which have been advanced recently...

Herewith is submitted a list of some of the articles recently seized by trusts, the prices of which have advanced, and the increase in price, as shown by the quotations for a year ago:

Table with 2 columns: Article Name and Price Increase. Includes Butterine, Brooms, Flour, Raisins, etc.

Soap Takes a Jump.

On some of these articles the prices have been advanced in anticipation of a trust being formed to control them. This is true in the case of soap. The soap factories are not yet in a trust and price of soap has gone up. One grocer yesterday offered to buy some soap of a brand he had been buying for years and he offered a price in advance of any he had ever paid for soap of that brand. The reason that the factory making the soap did not wish to be compelled to fill any order at the price after the trust had got control and was able to do what it would with quotations...

It is estimated by grocers that the ordinary bar of soap that has been sold for domestic use at four cents will be advanced in price to seven cents.

Vinegar is another article of common demand that has been advanced in price, though the trust that is to control the vinegar plants has not been completed.

It is usual that when a trust begins business it reduces prices. This is the case with bread. At the present time the trust that makes loaves has cut prices to such a figure that the independent bakers are fearful they will be driven out of business.

"When the bread trust has cleaned up its opponents," said a restaurant keeper, "I expect to see the price of bread go up."

Vinegar and soap, however, have been exceptions to the rule.

A trust in process of formation and it uses the argument of the ice trust—that it will save a great deal in operation of the business, and, therefore, do laundry work at less prices. In the prospectus of the trust it shows the lowering of prices by 100 per cent. It is to be hoped that the trust gets hold of the plants. It also promises to reduce prices 20 per cent to customers. One laundryman said his firm had been offered more than three times what the plant was worth, but that the trust was necessary in order to control the success of the proposed trust.

That trusts have not been overlooking any opportunities one would probably conclude on learning that chewing gum is now controlled by one of these organizations. One may now find the stock of the chewing gum trust listed among the "new industrial," and speculate or invest in it as a "good thing," just as he would in federal steel or American tinplate stocks.

The price of raisins has been advanced by the trusts in trade in the abolition of the middleman. This is in keeping with the argument that the trust operates to save waste and unnecessary expense, and therefore not only will raise wages of its employees, but will make the selling price of its products to the consumer. The lowering of prices by trusts is an argument that is always supported by pointing to what the Standard Oil company has done in that direction. A correspondent of the Tribune, writing on this particular point, says it is not because of the benevolence of this trust, but because of other things that prices of kerosene have been reduced. He says: "The by-products of petroleum now are...

all turned to use and benzine and gasoline made from petroleum, that were once waste, are now sold for more than kerosene, which formerly was the only product of petroleum. There are at least thirty other by-products of petroleum that turn profits to the Standard Oil company. There are oilcandles, candles and other articles made of stuff that was once thrown away at the refineries. There are other oil companies in existence and they flourish in spite of the enormous advantage enjoyed by their competitor, the Standard, in the way of transportation rebates. Certain railroads have feared the rise of the Standard, and the Standard forced the railroads to give it rebates from these figures."

Another reason for raising the prices was that broom corn, from which they are made, was advanced in price. The advanced cost of raw material is argued in the case of many products which are controlled by trusts and the selling price advanced accordingly. Fresh meat has advanced 2 cents a pound, but the butchers say the advance is due to the increased price of live cattle. This argument is used also in the case of rubber goods. The price of the raw rubber has advanced almost 100 per cent in the last two years, say the dealers in rubber goods. Rubber coats which are not made by a trust have advanced in price from 15 to 20 per cent. For many seasons the rubber shoe manufacturers have been in a trust and prices have been advanced, but the consumer has not felt this advance to any great extent. It is explained that the retail dealers lately have sold rubber boots and shoes at prices that gave them no profit, and, while the trusts have made money, the dealers who handle their products have none.

The most important item in the way of rubber goods to poor people is that of rubber boots, which laborers who work in ditches and tunnels are compelled to have. The poor people may get along without rubber overcoats, but when their work demands it they must have the impervious boots. The price of these remains at the usual figure of \$5.50, but the retailer pays nearly that much for the trust for them. In glassware the advance in prices has been made in the case of window glass, which is advanced 100 per cent in price. This includes window glass and all sorts of articles made of glass for domestic use. Restaurant keepers complain that they are compelled to pay just twice as much for glass articles for their tables as they did before the trust got to doing all the manufacturing of glass things. The butnerie factories are now in a trust also, or at least the greater number of them. The Butnerie trust has advanced the price of this table delicacy until it has reached a figure that threatens to put it out of the reach of the poor altogetther. It has been advanced in price with such a steady and regular movement that before long none but the rich will be able to keep it on their tables. The poor will have to go back to butter, but not eat dry bread if the price goes much higher.

Other Articles Boosted. People who sustain life by eating in restaurants may be interested to know that the proposed Pie trust never was formed. All the pies in the restaurants, whether made by factories, or foundries or by hand, are not made by a trust. The prices of these commodities, therefore, have not been changed recently.

All sorts of canned goods have advanced in price, but the reason for it is said to be the increased price of the cans. Thus the great American Tinplate trust, with its capital of \$50,000,000, is making itself felt in the homes of those who eat canned tomatoes and other modest food articles that are sold in cans.

The recently formed Leather trust, which controls the product of soft leather—the sort used in making the upper of shoes—has shown up the selling price of its commodities also. The advance has been of such considerable proportions that the makers of shoes are calculating that they will have to raise the price of shoes. Another trust has been formed to control the tanneries, where sole leather is made, and that, too, has added a few points to its selling prices, thus furnishing another argument to the shoe dealer to induce him to raise the price of footwear.

The combination that controls the price of flour is an old one, but it makes itself apparent now and then by stiffening prices. The Cracker trust, which deals with the Flour trust, has raised the price of its manufactured product. The price of crackers recently has advanced from 15 to 20 per cent. Crackers that sold for 6 1/2 cents a pound now cost from 7 to 9 cents a pound.

It was only last week that the Furniture trust raised prices and the Wagon trust did the same. These are the most notable trusts that have added to their respective revenues for the current year the Standard Oil company has done in that direction. A correspondent of the Tribune, writing on this particular point, says it is not because of the benevolence of this trust, but because of other things that prices of kerosene have been reduced. He says: "The by-products of petroleum now are...

Review of Their Share in the Public Life of the World. "Irishmen are on their trial." This is a phrase which has been constantly on the lips of the English people of late, says the Dublin Irish Independent. The origin has been called forth by the inauguration of local government in Ireland, and the new system has been described as "an experiment," "a leap in the dark," of which none can forecast the consequences.

Let us take a few typical examples of the governing Irishmen. Let us glance at the careers of some patriots who in modern times have proved the continuity of the national character. The character first exemplified in the words of Gratian, "public prosperity so crowded on the heel of the statute that the powers of nature seemed to stand at the right hand of Parliament."

France and Austria are the three countries in which Irishmen have chiefly attained renown, both as soldiers and statesmen, but their footprints may also be traced in the camps and senates of Russia and Holland, Bavaria, Portugal and Poland. From fight of the Irish laws to the present day the names of Irishmen have been entwined with the fortunes of Spain, O'Donel, dictator at Madrid; O'Reilly, ambassador from Spain to the court of Louis XIV; Patrick Lawless, ambassador from Portugal to the same court; D'Sullivan, grandee of Spain; O'Reilly, Kavanagh and Nugent, Austrian marshals; Lacy and Browne, Russian marshals, and these are a few of the names which spring to one's mind.

The O'Donells of Spain, the Taafes of Austria and the MacMahons of France are perhaps the foremost. O'Donel, duke of Tetuan, is one of the most influential grandees of Spain, a position which he and his ancestors have gained in recognition of valuable services rendered to the state. The career of the Irish-Austrian Taafes is no less illustrious. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries their names have been blazoned on the roll of imperial Austria. Nicholas Taaffe, marshal who in 1748 won the famous victory of Belgrade over the Turks, and whose son succeeded him in turn to the post of chamberlain to the emperor, is a picturesque figure, but as an example of administrative genius the late prime minister Count Francis Taaffe is the most notable. He is recognized as one of the ablest of Austria's statesmen and it is a significant fact that his policy has always trended in the direction of extending powers of self government to the various nationalities composing the empire. He is a federalist. In 1879, the year in which Isaac Butt started his home rule movement, Count Taaffe recommended the Austrian emperor, as a member of his ministry, to grant autonomy to Bohemia. The natural ability of Irishmen for ruling was strikingly recognized at the time of the American war of independence, when the French acted as allies of the new republic. The officers of the Irish brigade under Lafayette, whose regiments engaged in the campaign, were appointed governors of the West Indian islands, which they had previously conquered. O'Donnell became governor of Granada, Dillon of St. Christopher and Pitaumaire of St. Eustache. The administration of these governors was equally praised by the English, French and American governments.

Of all countries the United States is that in which the Irish element is the most prominent in public life. For the purpose of our argument it, perhaps, affords a better illustration than do the countries above referred to. For on the continent of Europe the Irishmen who have distinguished themselves belong, for the most part, to the aristocracy, but in the republic of the west it is the masses, not the classes, who administer public affairs, and the rank and file have acquitted themselves of the responsibility as creditably as have the nobility of their country elsewhere.

From the time when Dillon of the Irish brigade eagerly demanded leave of Louis XVI to embark his regiment to join the American forces to the present day, when President McKinley, the grandnephew of the Ulster '98 man, sits in the White House, Irishmen have been foremost in the civil and military affairs of the great republic.

The proportion of Irishmen occupying the post of governor of British colonies and dependencies or engaged in other administrative and legislative work throughout the empire is greatly in excess of their numbers and influence as citizens of the same empire. By sheer force of merit and talent they have forced their way to the front. The figures of the colonial governors and premiers are perhaps more prosaic than those of the continental statesmen. Carving out the careers of new countries in the backwoods of Canada or the bush of Australia may not be so dazzling work as presiding over the destinies of the old world powers, but the task may prove a more solid and enduring one when the history of the future comes to be written.

The governing Irishman is as active in Australia at present as in the early days of the colony. Byles, O'Laughlin and O'Shaughnessy being some of the leading names. This glance at the careers of a few governing Irishmen may serve to remind some onlookers of the high traditions of the race. The Irishman will set up to their traditions in future there is no reason to doubt.

The Fox and the Crow.

Detroit Journal: Once upon a time a Fox observed a Crow sitting upon the branch of a tree and holding a piece of cheese in his beak. "Beautiful bird!" exclaimed the Fox. "What a lovely voice you must have!" "Go on, you are trying to get my mind off the money question," protested the Crow, dropping the cheese, with which the Fox at once made off.

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