# A Miserable Wife

"Yes, professor, I am afraid I shall have to rent or sell the farm; my wife is so miserable. I cannot carry it on without hiring, and hiring eats up all the profits."

I looked at the speaker admiringly. He was about fifty years old, and as robust as a man of thirty. His whiskers were neatly trimmed, showing a full, red cheek. He wore a jaunty hat and natty cutaway coat, and below his vest hung a single fob and heavy gold seal. I was proud of him. He was such a perfect rural specimen of a gentleman from the districts that I wanted to imprint his picture on my memory.

"So your wife is miserable?"

"Yes. Kinder drooping, with a dry cough and no ambition. She just kinder drags around the house and looks so peaked and scrawny it gives me the blues. It does, I swan."

"Naturally weakly, wasn't she?"

"She! Oh, no. When I married her, she was the smartest girl on the creek. She used to work for my father, and the way she made the work stand around took my eye. She was a poor girl and her industry got her a rich husband."

Here he took out a gold watch, looked at the time, put it back and adjusted the silk fob on the front of his nicely fitting trousers.

"So she did well, getting married on account of her industry?"

"Why, of course. She was getting only $2.50 a week, and she became mistress of a farm."

"Excuse me, but how much are you worth now—confidentially, you know? I am a scientific man and will never use such facts to your injury with the assessor."

"Well, professor, I could crowd $50,000 pretty hard."

"That is good. How long have you been married?"

"Thirty years next July. We went on a little teeter, and I proposed the match and Jane was willing."

"How much do you suppose you have made in these thirty years?"

"Hum—um—lemme see. I got the Davis farm the first ten years, then I run in debt for the Simmons place, got prices for my cheese and squared up both places. Well, I think I have cleared up $30,000 since we spliced."

"Wery good indeed. And your wife has been a great help all this time?"

"Oh, you bet! She was a rattler! She took care of her baby and the milk from twenty cows. I tell you she made the tinware flop! Why, we have had four children, and she never had a hired girl over six months in that time."

"Splendid, and you have cleared $30,000 in that time?"

"Yes, easy."

"Now, how much has your wife made?"

"She? Why, durn it, profassor, she is my wife."

"I know it. But what has she made? You say she was poor when you married her. Now, what has she made?"

"Why, you beat all. Why, she is my wife, and we own it all together."

"Do you? Then she can draw on your bank account? Then she has a horse and carriage when she wants them? Then she has a servant girl when she wants one? Then she rides out for her health, and has a watch and gold chain as you do? Is that so?"

"Professor, you must be crazy. Nobody's wife is boss in that shape. Who ever heard of such a thing?"

"Now, look here. You say she did well in marrying rich, and I cannot see it. If she was getting $2.50 per week when you married her and had sayed her wages, she would have had now $3,600. If she had invested it, she would have had $5,000. Now you tell me she is broken down, used up and miserable, and looks so badly she makes you sick, and she has no money, no help and will probably get nothing but a Scotch granite tombstone when she dies."

"Professor, if you were a younger man, I would lick you quicker'n a spring lamb can jump a thistle."

"What for? I am stating this case

"Then, my friend I should begin to fairly, am I not? Your wife is no longer young. She is no longer handsome. Her hands are as hard as a local editor's cheek, and she has stooped over a milk can until she has a hump on her back like a peddler."

"Shut up will you?"

"She has raised four children. One of them is at college. One is taking music lessons. The other two are teaching school. She is at home alone, going round in a treadmill life which will end in a rosewood coffin and a first-class country funeral—"

"Stop that, professor, will you?"

"While you are still a handsome man, with just enough gray in your whiskers to make you look interesting. No doubt you have been thinking of some nice young girl of eighteen who would jump at the chance to marry your thirty cows and twenty acres of hops."

"Professor, I won't stay here if you don't let up on that.'

"And your wife does not look well in that new Watertown wagon, so you take your hired man and neighbor's girls to meeting. Your wife never goes anywhere, so you do not get her a watch like your own, nor a new silk dress, nor a pony that she could drive, nor a basket phaeton that she could climb into without a ladder. She never says anything, so you have not got her a set of teeth like your own, gold and rubber, and her nose is pushed up into her forehead and her face wrinkles. She never goes out. She has to work in the kitchen, so she gets no nice shoes like yours."

"Darn my skin, if I don't—"

"No, you won't. You will just let her work right along, and then you will marry some highflier who will pull every hair out of your head and serve you right, too."

"Professor, for mercy's sake, stop!"

"When you know, and I know, that if your wife had a chance to rest and had nice clothes like other women she would be one of the best looking women of her age in the town."

"I swan I believe it."

"And, old as she is, if you were to bet out of the carriage next Sunday and drive around with the colts and tell her you wanted her to go to meeting with you, she would actually blush with pleasure."

"Darned if I don't do it."

"Then, Monday, if you were to tell her you were going to hire a girl, and that she must sit in the sitting-room by the new nickel plated coal stove and work on that new silk dress you are going to buy her—"

"Professor, that's me.'

"And then hand her a nice wallet with steel clasps and with five nice new $20 notes in it, and tell her to do her own trading after this, because you have got tired looking after so much money."

"I will, as sure as you live."

"And then, when the tear starts in her eye, and the same old blush comes out that you thought was so nice when you went on that teeter, if you would kiss her—"

"It's all right, professor.' think she had been made something by marrying a rich man."

"You're right, old man."

"Then I think you wouldn't have a miserable wife any longer. Then you would no longer want to sell or rent the farm, but would be showing the mother of your children how much you respected her for her life of devotion. Then she would know she was a partner in that $30,000. Then, if you made your will all right, and she had a good rest, I think she would some time be an eligible widow."

"Think so, professor?"

"I know it. Women is a plant that wants sunshine. You have been leaving your wife in the shade too much. She has lost her color. You have made her think she is an old woman. She has given up all hope of admiration and love, and is only waiting to die and get out of the way. Suppose you were treated so?"

"What, me? I am all right."

"Yes, I know. Women pity you because you are tied to such a sorry looking wife. Foolish old maids and silly girls whisper behind your back what a nice looking man you are, and what a stick of a wife you have, and you are just soft enough to wear tight boots and oil what little hair you have left on the top of your head and go around figuring up how long before your wife will die."

"Say now, see here, professor, there is a limit to endurance. I am going."

"I am coming down to see you next week. Will it be all right?"

"Yes, if you drop this kind of talk and won't tell of my complaints about my wife. I'll try your medicine. Would you stick for that prescription about the pocketbook and $20 notes?"

"How much did you say you have made together?"

"I cave. The dress will be allright, and the pony and phaeton will be handy for the gals. Come down and see us, old man, but not a word about this talk. If you wasn't an old man, I'd—"

Tipping his derby back on his head and shaking the wrinkles out of his tight trousers, he put his hand into his pockets and sauntered away.

"There," said I, "is one man who has taken the only legal and God given way of getting rid of a miserable wife."

## 4,000 DUELS A YEAR IN GERMANY.

**1,000 a Year in France and 2,759 Duels in the Last Ten Years in Italy.**

More duels are fought in Germany than in any other country. Most of them, however, are student duels, ous than slashed cheeks and torn sca ous than slashed cheeks or torn scalps. Of all German university towns little Jena and Goettingen are most devoted to the code. In Goettingen the number of duels average one a day, year in and year out. On one day several years ago, twelve duels were fought in Goettingen in twenty-four hours. In Jena the record for one day in recent times is twenty-one. Fully 4,000 student duels are fought every year in the German empire. In addition to these there are the more serious duels between officers and civilians. Among Germans of mature years the annual number of duels is about one hundred.

Next to Germany, France is most given to the duelling habit. She has every year uncounted meetings "merely to satisfy honor;" that is, merely to give two men the opportunity to wipe out insults by crossing swords or firing pistols in such a way as to preclude the slightest chance of injury. In the duel statistics these meetings are not reckoned, as they are far less perilous than even the German student duels. Of the serious duels, France can boast fully 1,000 from New Year's to New Year's. The majority of these are among army officers. More than half of these result in wounds; nearly 20 per cent. in serious wounds.

Italy has had 2,759 duels in the last ten years, and has lost fifty citizens by death on the field of honor. Some 2,400 of these meetings were consummated with sabres, 179 with pistols, 90 with rapiers, and one with revolvers. In 974 cases the insult was given in newspaper articles or in public letters regarding literary Quarrels. More than 700 principals were insulted by word of mouth. Political discussions led to 559; religious discussions to 29. Women were the cause of 189. Quarrels at the gambling table were responsible for 189.

A summary shows that, as regards numbers, the sequence of duelling countries is: Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Russia. As regards deadliners of duels, Italy comes first. Then come Germany, France, Russia, and Austria in the order named. For the most serious duels the pistol is the favorite weapon in all five countries.

### AN OFFICIAL ALIBI.

Kind Lady—Poor fellow! I presume that there is not a solitary consolation in your affliction.

Blind Man—Only one, generous lady.

Kind Lady—And pray, what may that one be?

Blind Man—Dat I can't be accused by any of de talent of lookin' fer work, lady.

# SPEEDIER TELEGRAPHING.

## AN INVENTION THAT INCREASES A WIRE'S CAPACITY.

**Walter P. Phillips and R. H. Weiny Exhibit What They Say Is an Improvement on the Wheatstone System—The Messages to Be Read by Sound Instead of Sight.**

There was an interesting exhibition in New York the other day, of a recently invented system of rapid telegraphy. The system is the invention of R. H. Weiny and Walter P. Phillips, and it is intended to be applied directly to the ordinary telegraph lines and to be operated by the currents now in use. What the Weiny-Phillips system will do is to double or treble the number of words that can be sent over a single wire, and this without requiring that the operators learn anything beyond that which the present Morse operators know now. This result is accomplished by the addition to each office of a set of very simple instruments. When there is no need of hurrying matter forward over the wires the rapid system can be cut out of use by changing a plug, and the wires can be used in the ordinary way, sending messages directly by the key. The system is one which is of value principally to the telegraph companies themselves and to the users of leased wires, but the public would often find a direct benefit from its adoption through getting messages promptly which are now often delayed when there is trouble with the wires and their capacity is reduced below the normal.

### THE WEINY-PHILLIPS SYSTEM

is a direct competitor with the Wheatstone automatic system, which is used extensively in Great Britain and Europe and between large cities in this country. Like the Wheatstone system, it requires the preparation of the message on a strip of paper before it can be put through the rapid automatic sender, but the inventors claim for it several distinct advantages over the Wheatstone, both in general speed and in accuracy. In the Wheatstone system the characters which represent the telegraphic alphabet are punched in a strip of paper on a machine something like a typewriter. This strip is then run rapidly through a machine which transmits the dots and dashes to an automatic recorder at the other end of the wire, where the dots and dashes are reproduced on another strip. The latter is then turned over to operators, who read the messages and write them out either by hand or with a typewriter.

In the new system the messages are recorded in raised telegraphic characters on a strip of paper, and this strip being run through a proper machine, the characters are repeated by sound at the other end of the wire, and the operator, reading them by ear, takes them upon a typewriter or by hand. The transcribing operator can vary the speed of the tape as it goes through the machine to suit himself, can stop it at any point, and can pull it back if he wants it repeated. It is asserted that the greater number of mistakes that occur in the Wheatstone system are in the reading and transcribing, and that these are done away with in the new system because the ear is more accurate than the eye and also faster. These claims seemed all to be proved by the tests made. An article was chosen for the test. This was handed to a Morse operator, and while he sent it the operator who was afterward to transcribe it left the room. The sending operator worked at the ordinary key, just as he would in sending a message over the wire in the present Morse system. The message, however, instead of going over the main wire, was sent only over a local office wire. It was received in a machine which was to all intents and purposes like the registering machine which every operator used forty years ago before men had learned to read by sound.

### THE DOTS AND DASHES

were reproduced in a strip of paper, each being raised above the paper by a point which pressed that part of the paper into a groove in a wheel which the paper passed over. Instead of producing a single line of these impressions, there were three points which worked side by side and left three sets of duplicate impressions. The duplication is merely to insure accuracy. The message was telegraphed in this part of the process at the ordinary rate of speed.

Now came the second process—the transmission over the main wire. The transmitting instrument and the recording instrument at opposite ends of the wire were set going at a speed three times as great as that of the hand operator. The strip of paper with the message imprinted on it was started through the transmitter, and the recorder went rattling away at a rate which the man could read, but every impression was afterward found to be an exact duplicate of those in the strip going through the transmitter. When this process was complete the paper from the recorder was brought over to the transmitter and the latter machine was slowed down again to a speed equal to that of ordinary telegraphing. The transmitter was now assumed to be only an office machine run upon an office circuit and entirely separate from the line wire, as would be the message from the transmitted copy and turning it into ordinary writing. A typewriter who read telegraphy by sounds sat in front of his machine, and as soon as the strip was started through the transmitter he began to print out the message. When he had finished the typewritten copy was compared with the original article and found to be exactly correct.

In practice the manner in which the system would be used is this: Since the transmitter is able to sen dthree times as many messages in a given time as a single operator can send or receive, there would be three operators in each office to each wire. In the sending office to each wire. In the sending office the operators would be kept busy making the tape copies of the messages by ticking them off on office recorders. As fast as their messages were ready they would be run through the transmitter, which would reproduce them at the triple speed at the other end of the wire. There the three other operators would each take a part of the messages and transcribe them.

## PASSENGER WHEELBARROWS.

**They Carry Six Persons and are Extensively Used in China.**

The wheelbarrow affords one of the chief means of travel and transport in China, especially in the northern part of the empire and throughout the Great Plain. The Chinese form is a decided improvement on the types used in western countries, for it is so constructed that the load, which sometimes is very great in bulk and weight, is carried over the wheel, and not between it and the man who propels it. The high cost of timber and the bad roads throughout the country necessitate the wheelbarrows being both rude and strong, with axles and wheels able to bear the strains which they experience. The wheelbarrow is generally constructed of oak, at a cost of about 16 shillings. Its weight is 120 pounds; extreme length, 6 feet 6 inches, including shafts; extreme breadth, 3 feet 2 inches, and height, 3 feet 6 inches. The wheel is 3 feet in diameter, and has an iron tire 1 1-4 inches wide, by 1-4 inch thick. To aid in steadying and propelling the vehicle the wheelbarrow man wears a strap across his shoulders which is attached to the shafts on each side. Boxes, bales of goods, or whatever the loads may consist of, are secured to the wheelbarrow by ropes.

### THE CHARGE

for carrying an average load is about 1 shilling and 5 pence per mile, but varies according to the load and the state of the road to be travelled over. The wheelbarrow has seating accommodation for four people, two on each side, and the fare for four people is 2 1-4 pence per mile. Passenger fares are lower than those for merchandise, on account of the avoidance of labor in loading and unloading. A cushioned seat is provided for the passenger, who generally sits with one leg resting on the front of the barrow and the other hanging over the side in a rope loop, which serves as a foot rest. Thus a native is wheeled for miles over the rough roads of the country, with severe jolting, accompanied by a peculiar squeak of the axle in the case of most barrows. Immediately behind the wheelbarrow, between the shafts, there is a long, oblong-shaped basket, in which the wheelbarrow man keeps his few belongings. On the Great Plain wheelbarrows are occasionally seen with a sail set, when a fair wind proves a great help to the trundling of the barrow over a level way.

Since the institution of cotton mills at Shanghai, foreign settlements, the wheelbarrow has been extensively used as a passenger vehicle, especially for carrying workwomen to and from the mills. One man can wheel six women for a distance of about three miles, morning and evening, the charge being 1 shilling and 5 pence per month. The average earnings of a wheelbarrow man are about 8 1-2 pence per day. About 4,000 licenses are issued monthly to the same number of wheelbarrows plying for hire in the streets of the foreign settlements at Shanghai, where, being under the municipal regulations, they are, perhaps, the best in China.

### THE FEE FOR A LICENSE

is 11 1-2 pence a month, and no wheelbarrow is allowed, according to the regulations, to carry more than 6 1-2 chests of tea, or 8 1-2 boxes of kerosene oil, or 20 1-2 boxes of soap, thirty pounds each; or ten boxes of soap, fifty-two pounds each, or two bales of piece goods. The width of the packages must not exceed four feet—that is, two feet on each side of the barrow—and no wheelbarrow is allowed under any circumstances to carry more than 600 pounds of dead weight. These regulations are, however, not strictly adhered to. Sometimes in the streets of the foreign settlements at Shanghai about fifty wheelbarrows may be seen travelling one behind the other, each carrying two barrels of English Portland cement and pushed by one man. Very frequently, however, a load is carried on one side of the barrow only, so that the edge of the 1 1-4 inch tire cuts into the macadam roadway like a knife. The bales sometimes project three feet on each side, the man pushing the barrow being almost invisible from the front. The municipal roads are chiefly of macadam, and the damage they sustain from this traffic is very great. It has been found, after repeated experiments, that granite broken to pass through a 3-4 inch ring and rolled in the usual manner is the only kind of macadam roadway that will stand this traffic. It is extraordinary to see a Chinaman skilfully balancing and propelling a heavy load on one side of a barrow, and, considering that there are about 4,000 of these vehicles traveling through the streets of the settlements, in addition to a large traffic of other kinds, the upsets and accidents are remarkably few.

## A WONDERFUL TREE.

The most wonderful tree that grows is found in the Pacific Islands. From this tree the natives procure towels, cloth, tinder and bread. It is about as tall as a three-story house, and the branches which come out straight from the tree like so many arms, are covered with leaves and fruit not unlike apples in appearance, and it is in season during eight months of the year, the natives finding a good living in it. As for glue, it oozes from the trunk of the tree, and is found useful for many purposes; the leaves make excellent towels for the natives who care to use them, and from the inner bark of the tree a kind of coarse cloth can be made. Besides this its dried blossoms are used for tinder in lighting fires, and the wood is in great demand for building purposes.

# CURIOUS ELECTRIC CURES.

## IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN MADE.

**Gout and Obesity Yield to the Treatment—Muscular Energy Is Renewed—A Paper Canoe.**

A wonderful advance has been made in the new science of electro-therapy. Electricity has been used for many purposes by physicians for the last few years, and with signal success, and the discovery which has now been made will certainly tend to bring it more into favor than ever as a curative agent.

M. d'Arsonval, a distinguished member of the French Institute, has for some years been making experiments with electricity, his object being to find out to what extent it could be used successfully in cases of diabetes, gout, rheumatism, obesity, and similar ailments, and now at last he has communicated to the French Academy of Sciences the result of his investigations. According to Professor Boucherd, these ailments are due to a general weakening of the organs of nutrition, and it follows that the way to eradicate them is to properly strengthen these organs. Now, we are told that if a patient is placed in the interior or within the influence of a high current his nutritive organs will gradually become stronger and more active and his health will in all respects be improved.

### HOW IT IS DONE.

The application of the remedy is very simple. One of the electric poles is in communication with the water in a small bath, into which the patient's feet are plunged, while the other pole is connected with his hands by conductors, which are furnished with metallic handles. It will be seen that the current passes through the entire body, from the feet to the hands.

Those who have tried this method of treatment describe it as excellent. After a short time the weakened organism recovers its former stength, the muscular energy seems as though born again, the poisonous elements lose much of their force in the case of diabetic patients, sleep comes back, and all pains in the limbs disappear. These are some of the benefits which can be gained by means of this electrical treatment, which is known as the method of auto-induction, or "electrisation a haute frequence." One merit it certainly has—that of simplicity.

### A USEFUL PAPER BOAT.

A new use has been found for paper. A short time ago we heard that wearing apparel, bed clothes, and even umbrellas, which were rendered rain proof by means of bichromate of potash, were being made of paper, and now we learn that boats are being made of the same material.

This will not surprise those who know the strength and durability of paper when properly treated. Papier mache, which is composed of several sheets of paper pressed together, is amazingly strong and durable. Its power of resistance, too, is very great. Waggon wheels, chimneys, doors, even whole houses have been made of it; nay, a daring architect once set about constructing a cathedral of papier mache, this being the only material to be used in the entire building, from the foundation to the bell tower. As an instrument of warfare, paper has also come into use. A German engineer recently constructed a light paper cannon for infantry, and this cannon was even charged with paper powder, which has been so much in vogue.

### HAS STOOD THE TESTS.

The canoe which is attracting attention is the work of Jonarsel Gentrae, a graduate of the Central School in Paris. He has tried it several times along the Atlantic coast, and is wholly satisfied with it.

The framework of this novel little vessel is of wood, over which are spread several layers of Japan paper, cemented together by a special varnish. A lead keel furnishes the required stability. There are five compartments in the boat, of which the last two are filled with cork, the object being to render it impossible for the vessel to sink.

In a boat similar to the one M. Tanneguy de Wogan, a Frenchman, recently made several long trips. It is said that the mast and sail of his boat were also made of paper. A philosopher has come to a rather interesting conclusion in regard to these paper boats. "They are," he says, "the elder brothers and sisters of the toy papers in which we found so much delight in our childhood and in which our children now find pleasure. They only prove to us that every age has its pleasures and that the pleasures of one age differ very little from the pleasures of another."

### HORSES' KEEN INSTINCT.

The horse has a strong sense of smell. He will leave musty hay untouched in his bin, no matter however hungry; neither will he drink objectionable water, however thirsty. His intelligent nostril will widen, quiver and query over the daintiest bits offered by the fairest hands. Blind horses, Tit-Bits says, will gallop wildly about a pasture without striking the surrounding fence. The sense of smell informs them of its proximity. Others will, when loosened from the stable go to the gate or bars opening to their accustomed feeding-grounds. The horse, in browsing, is guided in its choice by proper food entirely by its nostrils. Blind horses do not make mistakes in their diet. In the temple of Olympus a bronze horse was exhibited, at the sight of which real horses experienced the most violent emotions. It is said that in casting the statue a magician had thrown hippomanes upon it, which by the odor of the plant, deceived the horses, and therein is the secret of the mfracle.