

BICYCLE EXERCISE.

Mr. Spoopendyke Purchases a Machine and Makes a Mile a Minute.

"Now, my dear," said Mr. Spoopendyke, hurrying up to his wife's room, "if you'll come down in the yard I've got a pleasant surprise for you."
 "What is it?" asked Mrs. Spoopendyke, "what have you got, a horse?"
 "Guess again," grinned Mr. Spoopendyke, "it's something like a horse."
 "I know! It's a new parlor carpet. That's what it is!"
 "No, it isn't, either. I said it's something like a horse; that is, it goes when you make it. Guess again."
 "Is it paint for the kitchen walls?" asked Mrs. Spoopendyke, innocently.
 "No it ain't, and it ain't a hoghead of stove blacking, nor it ain't a set of dining-room furniture, nor it ain't seven gross of stationary washtubs. Now guess again."
 "Then it must be some lace curtains for the sitting-room windows. Isn't that just splendid?" and Mrs. Spoopendyke patted her husband on both cheeks and danced up and down with delight.
 "It's a bicycle, that's what it is!" growled Mr. Spoopendyke. "I bought it for exercise and I'm going to ride it. Come down and see me."
 "Well, ain't I glad," ejaculated Mrs. Spoopendyke. "You ought to have more exercise, and if there's exercise in anything it's in a bicycle. Do let's see it!"
 Mr. Spoopendyke conducted his wife to the yard and descended at length on the merits of the machine.
 "In a few weeks I'll be able to make a mile a minute," he said, as he steadied the apparatus against the clothes post and prepared to mount. "Now, you watch me go to the end of this path."
 He got a foot into one treadle and went head first into a flower patch, the machine on top with a prodigious crash.
 "Hain't you better tie it up to the post until you get on?" suggested Mrs. Spoopendyke.
 "Leave me alone, will ye?" demanded Mr. Spoopendyke, struggling to an even keel, "I'm doing most of this myself. Now you hold on and keep your mouth shut. It takes a little practice, that's all."
 Mr. Spoopendyke mounted again and scuttled along four or five feet and flopped over on the grass plat.
 "That's splendid!" commended his wife. "You've got the idea already. Let me hold it for you this time."
 "If you've got any extra-strength you hold your tongue, will ye?" growled Mr. Spoopendyke. "It don't want any holding. It ain't alive. Stand back and give me room, now."
 The third trial Mr. Spoopendyke ambled to the end of the path and went down all in a heap among the flower pots.
 "That's just too lovely for anything!" proclaimed Mrs. Spoopendyke. "You made more'n a mile a minute that time!"
 "Come and take it off!" roared Mr. Spoopendyke. "Help me up! Blast the bicycle!" and the worthy gentleman struggled and plunged around like a whale in shallow water.
 Mrs. Spoopendyke assisted in righting him and brushed him off.
 "I know where you make your mistake," said she. "The little wheel ought to go first like a buggy. Try it that way going back."
 "Maybe you can ride this bicycle better than I can!" howled Mr. Spoopendyke. "You know all about wheels! What you need now is a lantern in your mouth and ten minutes behind time to be the City Hall clock! Don't you see the big wheel has got to go first?"
 "Yes, dear," murmured Mrs. Spoopendyke "but I thought if you practiced with the little wheel at first you wouldn't have so far to fall."
 "Who fell?" demanded Mr. Spoopendyke, "Didn't you see me step off? I tripped; that's all. Now you just watch me go back."
 Once more Mr. Spoopendyke started in, but the big wheel turned around and looked him in the face, and then began to stagger.
 "Look out!" squealed Mrs. Spoopendyke.
 Mr. Spoopendyke wrenched away and kicked and struggled, but it was of no avail. Down he came, and the bicycle was a hopeless wreck.
 "What'd ye want to yell for?" he shrieked.
 "Couldn't ye keep your mouth shut? What'd ye think ye keep your mouth shut? Doul gasst the measly bicycle!" and Mr. Spoopendyke hit it a kick that folded him up like a bolt of muslin.
 "Never mind, my dear," counselled Mrs. Spoopendyke. "I'm afraid the exercise was too violent, anyhow, and I'm rather glad you broke it."
 "I's pose so," snorted Mr. Spoopendyke. "There's \$60 gone."
 "Don't worry, love. I'll go without the carpet and curtains, and the paint will do well enough in the kitchen. Let me rub you with ammonia."
 But Mr. Spoopendyke was too deeply grieved by his wife's conduct to accept any office at her hands, preferring to punish her by letting his wounds smart rather than to get well, and thereby relieve her of any anxiety she brought on herself by acting so outrageously under the circumstances.

Great Britain has taken steps which must tend to depress the brigand market. She has made a formal announcement that she will advance no more money to ransom British travellers who may be captured by robbers. The news will, of course, be heard with alarm and disgust by professional brigands throughout the world; for the opposite British practice, of course, made the kidnapping business thrive. Exactly what effect, however, the new decision will have on the trade cannot yet be predicted. The private Briton of moderate means will, perhaps, be astounded and made anxious by this published intention of his Government to abandon him to his captors when he goes travelling in Sicily and Turkey. On the other hand, the official Briton, who is excepted from the rule, is perhaps not much to be congratulated, since the brigands may turn all their unwelcome attentions to him, instead of distributing them impartially as heretofore. Whether John Bull's pressure on the brigand market will permanently succeed remains to be seen.

It is estimated that the amount insured against fire with leading offices in England forming what is known as the Tariff Association, exceeds \$10,000,000,000, and there is an outcry against their profits.

CELEBRATED PEOPLE.

The Crown Prince and Princess received Dr. Schliemann with cordiality at Potsdam, when he carried his Trojan gifts to Berlin for the Gewerbe Museum.

The Chief of the Mackenzie clan, whose mother was the Helen of Sir Walter Scott's "Lady of the Lake," Mr. Keith William Stewart Mackenzie, died lately.

The Princess Bismarck, who has horses and carriages enough for a regiment, took a fancy to drive in the streets of Berlin in a growler the other day, and left her diamond brooch in it.

PRINCE BISMARCK has written a letter to an Italian statesman expressing his happiness that Germany and Italy are to-day allies as they were during the campaign of Sadowa and Custozza.

THE Duke of Sutherland is thought to appear more like a business man than a nobleman; he has regular features, blue eyes, bright complexion, short gray hair, tawny beard and moustache.

BISMARCK made hay while the sun shone when invalided in a country house in Denmark; he learned Danish without a grammar or master, with only the aid of a dictionary and some books in the language.

EVERYTHING at the Beaconsfield sale sold well, even down to the "pillow cases marked with the late Earl's coronet and cipher," and the "doyleys" and "tea cloths," which were eagerly bid for. According to the auctioneers, the lots fetched 100 per cent. more than they were intrinsically worth.

ADMIRAL BUTSKOFF, who holds a high official position in the Russian Ministry of Marine, has refused to sign a contract made with a well-known ship-building firm on the Neva for a new armor-clad frigate, because he deems the price excessive by 1,300,000 roubles. This refusal has created much comment at St. Petersburg.

ARCHDEACON LEAR, canon in residence at the cathedral at Salisbury, England, was lately the subject of a hoax borrowed from Theodore Hook, thirty people having been invited to lunch with him, and all sorts of goods ordered to be sent to his prebendal house, including three tons of coal, while two large schools were asked to present themselves at the same hour.

HALL'S VEGETABLE SICILIAN HAIR-RENEWER is a scientific combination of some of the most powerful restorative agents in the vegetable kingdom. It restores gray hair to its original colour. It makes the scalp white and clean. It cures dandruff and humors, and falling out of hair. It furnishes the nutritive principle by which the hair is nourished and supported. It makes the hair moist, soft and glossy, and is unsurpassed as a hair dressing. It is the most economical preparation ever offered to the public, as its effects remain a long time, making only an occasional application necessary. It is recommended and used by eminent medical men, and officially endorsed by the State Assayer of Massachusetts. The popularity of Hall's Hair Renewer has increased with the test of many years both in this country and in the foreign lands, and it is now known and used in all the civilized countries of the world. For sale by all dealers.

An Astonishing Fact.

A large proportion of the American people are to-day dying from the effects of Dyspepsia or disordered liver. The result of these diseases upon the masses of intelligent and valuable people is most alarming making life actually a burden instead of a pleasant existence of enjoyment and usefulness as it ought to be. There is no good reason for this, if you will only throw aside prejudice and skepticism, take the advice of Druggists and your friends, and try one bottle of Green's August Flower. Your speedy relief is certain. Millions of bottles of this medicine have been given away to try its virtues, with satisfactory results in every case. You can buy a sample bottle for 10 cents to try. Three doses will relieve the worst case. Positively sold by all Druggists on the Western continent.

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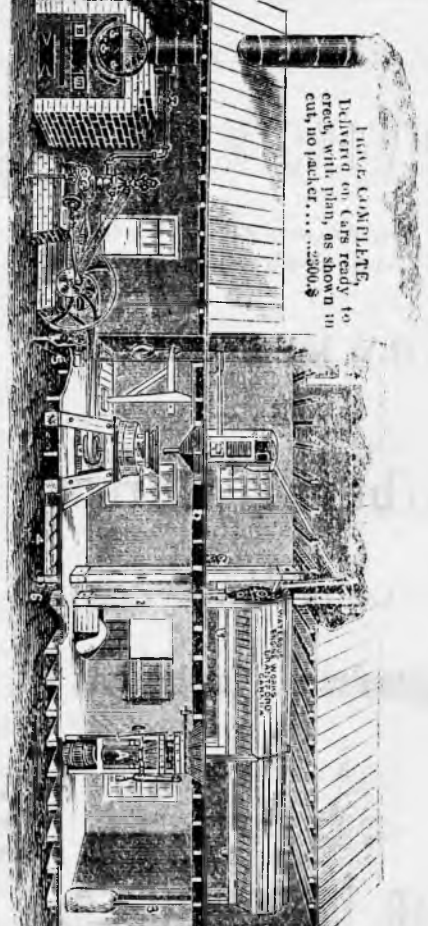
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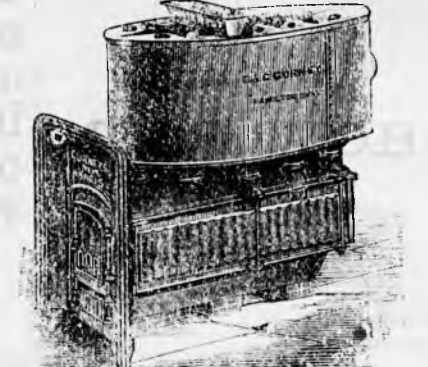
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