hief of Tinkletown

TINKLETOWN was such a pleasant town that few of the inhabitants ever cared to leave it even for a short time. Consequently when a citizen did make a journey occasionally to a neighboring city the rest of Tinkletown looked on him as a great and adventurous traveler, and the population would gather at the town pump on his return to hear his tales.

One of the wisest of the citizens once made a trip to sell hay and grain, and he did not return to Tinkletown again for three weeks. This was the very longest journey that any of the town's folk had ever made, and you may be sure that all Tinkletown was wildly excited when he arrived there again.

That evening at the town pump he said:

"Dear fellow citizens, I am glad to be at home again. Although I have, as you may say, seen a great deal of the world, let me assure you that there is no place on this wide earth that is so good as Tinkletown. I speak from experience, for I have seen seven cities, and I have traveled nearly 100 miles."

"Goodness!" said all the Tinkletowners. "What risks you must have taken!"

"Yes, yes," said the returned adventurer, coughing modestly. "But that is neither here nor there. The point is that, although none of the places I have seen have such beautiful streets or such excellent houses or such a good town pump or such fine citizens and cows, there is one thing in which Tinkletown is really behind the age, and it made me very much ashamed."

"Goodness!" said all the Tinkletowners. "What can it be?"

"It is a town jail," said the traveled citizen. "Even the smallest towns in the outside world have jails, and we should certainly see to it that we have one."

"But we never needed one," said a fat citizen, who was not considered so wise as the rest, although he would have been considered marvelously wise anywhere else.

"What difference does that make," replied the burgomaster, "when it is a question of a public improvement? A town jail we must have."

All the Tinkletowners immediately went home to ask their wives what kind of a town jail they would like. When they met again each man had a different plan, so the burgomaster had the happy idea of taking a bit of each man's plan and making a new one that combined them all.

"But," said the citizens to the one who had traveled, "what do you do with a jail after you have it?"

"Lock people up in it," said the traveler promptly.

"How travel broadens a man," said all the Tinkletowners admiringly. "He knows everything."

"I think we should send a committee to examine the other jails and tell us their faults so we can avoid them in ours," said the burgomaster. Everybody agreed to this, and the five wise men were selected to do it.

When they returned they said to the other citizens:

"Dear friends, we have examined the matter carefully, and we have found that the greatest complaint that is made by the people of the different towns is that their jails are overcrowded. They think that this is because they are built too small in the first place, but we have thought it over, and we have found the true reason. It is too easy in those towns for people to get into jail—that is why they are crowded."

The Tinkletowners were so wise that they did not need further reports. They set to work to build their jail at once, and to make sure that it would not be too easy to get into it they built it without any doors at all. They made the walls quite solid, and the light and air came in from little holes near the very top and through a big chimney.

"Now," said they when it was finished, "we imagine that this jail will not be overcrowded."

Soon the fame of Tinkletown's great jail spread throughout the land, and before long the thieves and other knaves of the grand duchy of Bratwurst began to journey toward Tinkletown because they thought that the town would be easy prey.

But they were finely fooled.

When the jail was finished the burgomaster said, "Now, in order to be up to date we must put a thief into it at once."

"But there are no thieves in Tinkletown," said the citizen who was not so wise as the rest.

The burgomaster scratched his head. Then he cried:

"I have it. We will post a guard at the city gate and catch the first thief who arrives!"

"Goodness!" said all the Tinkletowners. "How simple! Why could we not think of that at once?"

The guard was posted at the gate, and when the first thief arrived they took off their hats, bowed and said:

"Welcome, good sir! Are you a thief?"

Of course the thief said "No."

"Then we are very sorry, good sir," said the guard, "but we cannot let you in. We are looking for a thief." So they turned him away.

Thief after thief was thus kept out until the master thief arrived. He had met the other thieves and heard their experience. So when he arrived at the city gate Tinkletown and the guard asked him, "Are you a thief?" he answered, "Yes, indeed."

"Hurrah!" cried the guard, and escorted him immediately to the town square, where the burgomaster welcomed him in a fine speech and begged him to go ahead and steal all he chose.

The master thief did not wait to be asked twice, but immediately entered the houses and gathered treasures. When he had filled a great bag with gold and gems he calmly walked to the gate to leave the city; but, to his indignation, the guard seized him, with loud cries of "A thief! A thief!" and dragged him before the burgomaster and the city council at the town pump.

"How is this," cried the master thief angrily, "did you not tell me to go ahead and steal?"

"Surely," said the burgomaster kindly.

"Then why do your men arrest me?" asked the thief.

"Why, my dear sir," replied the burgomaster in surprise, "did you not know that we have a new town jail? We told you to steal because we needed a thief in it, and, of course, we couldn't be sure you were a thief till you stole something, could we?"

They led the angry thief to the jail, and there the burgomaster sentenced him to be imprisoned for three days.

Since there was no door to the jail, they got a ladder and took him to the roof and lowered him through the chimney. They lowered some bread and water after him and went away.

On the fourth day the people of Tinkletown gathered to liberate the thief, but they found that while it was easy enough to let him down into the chimney it was impossible to pull him up.

So the good Tinkletowners set to work with crowbars and pickaxes to break a hole in the wall. They had built the jail so honestly that it took seven days to make the opening. When the thief came out he was only skin and bones. He fled from Tinkletown as fast as his legs could carry him, and thereafter no thief ever dared to enter the city of the wise people.

"THEN WHY DO YOU ARREST ME?"

A Rose Colored Lake.

In central Asia, near the Caspian sea, is a lake of beautiful rose color, while the banks are covered with salt crystals as white as snow. From the waters of this lake there arises a flower-like odor. The color and the odor are supposed to be caused by vegetable matter in the depths.

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I've wondered why the spectacles that
help grandpa to read
Should make things, when I put them on,
look very queer indeed.
Good reason why his spectacles for me
will never do,
For, don't you see, my eyes are brown
while grandpapa's are blue!

—St. Nicholas.

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There is no remedy quite as good as Beecham's Pills, not only to loosen the bowels but in the after effects. There is no binding up afterwards, as these Pills aid Nature in a natural way. Persons chronically constipated can become regular and be rid of the consequent discomforts formerly theirs by use of BEECHAM'S PILLS.

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Anyone Desiring a Situation can Insert an Advertisement in this Column of Three Lines Two Times Free of Charge.

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TO SCALP A WHITE MAN. used to be the Indian's joyful occupation. Do you feel some times as if you wished you were scalped? Do you scratch till you are nearly mad? Our new Electric Vibrator will relieve the trouble. A treatment, 25 cents. A shave and face massage with electric vibrator, 50 cents. It's good for eruptions. Porcelain baths. All at the OCCIDENT BARBER SHOP, Occident Hotel Building, A. E. Peterson, Prop.

HELP WANTED.

NEAT WOMAN TO TAKE WASHing of small family home; must be reasonable and good ironer, on baby's clothes. Steady work by the month. Address R. U. W., Astorian office.

WANTED—MEN TO LEARN BARber trade; 8 weeks completes; positions guaranteed; tuition earned while learning. Write for terms. Moler's Barber College, 644 Clay St., San Francisco.

WANTED—MANAGER FOR OUR Astoria office; good references and small investment required; $125 monthly and commission. Box 2125, San Francisco.

WANTED—COOK AND HELPER—man and woman preferred, to cook in logging camp. Apply at Astorian office.

WANTED—A GIRL FOR GENERAL housework. Inquire at Astorian office.

WANTED—LADY OR GENTLEMAN over 18 years of age to do some home work and collecting. References required; salary $15 per week and increased after two weeks. Address, with stamp, American Home Supply Co., 385 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.

WANTED—GIRL TO DO GENERAL housework. Corner 3d and Front Sts.

HOUSES WANTED.

WANTED TO RENT—FURNISHED house for the summer, by one who will take good care of the property. Address manager Warren Packing Co., City.

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WANTED—2 OR 3 FURNISHED rooms for housekeeping in good neighborhood. Address, Astorian office.

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COTTAGE—CORNER LOT; FINE view. See J. E. Ferguson, Page Building, Astoria.

CALL FOR BIDS.

BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED AND opened on Wednesday, May 3, 1905, at 10 a. m. by the Columbia River Packers' Association at their office in this city for the erection of an addition to the Elmore cannery. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.
COLUMBIA RIVER PACKERS' ASSOCIATION.

BIDS FOR SIX DWELLINGS FOR A. Gilbert, Astoria, will be opened May 3, 1905. Plans and specifications at Architect J. Wicks' office, Star Theater Building. The owners have the right to reject any or all bids.

BIDS FOR A RESIDENCE FOR E. A. Fisher, to be erected on Franklin avenue, will be opened May 5; plans and specifications at Architect J. Wicks' office, Star Theater building. The owners have the right to reject any or all bids.

OFFICE CONSTRUCTING QUARTERMASTER, Astoria, Ore., May 3, 1905—Sealed proposals, in triplicate will be received at this office until 10 o'clock a. m., May 18, 1905, for replanking approach to wharf at Fort Columbia, Wash. United States reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Plans can be seen and specifications obtained at this office. Information furnished on application. Envelopes should be marked "Proposals for Repairs" and addressed Captain Goodale, Quartermaster, Astoria, Ore.

FOR SALE—REAL ESTATE.

160 ACRES OF FIRST CLASS TIMber land for sale, in Pacific county near Columbia river. Address Box 690 Astoria, Ore.

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CALL FOR WARRANTS—NOTICE IS hereby given to all parties holding Nehalem Road No. 77 warrants, to present the same to the county treasurer at his office, 590-592 Commercial Street, for payment. Interest ceases after this date.
CHAS. A. HEILBORN,
County Treasurer.
Dated Astoria, Oregon, this 17th day of April, 1905.

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