

## ONE OF CUPID'S PRANKS.

The Little God Revenges Himself on Two People Who Defied His Power.

But one of the most absurd tricks Cupid has been known to play recently occurred within the last few months in a prosperous little city upon the Mississippi. Returning from a sleighing party one wintry evening, a giddy youth and maiden fell to discussing the strange fact that, although they had so long known one another by name, they had never before met. "I've heard you're an awful flirt," said he. "Just what I've heard about you," said she. And so the controversy began and continued until this heedless pair decided that there was but one way to settle the question of who was the most desperate flirt.

"We'll have a flirtation for just three weeks," said Blondel (whose name does not begin with B). "I'll be up Friday evening and we'll begin."

He kept his word and they proceeded to make themselves mutually agreeable. Saturday he sent a box of roses; Sunday he joined her at church, and she invited him to dinner; Monday he took her to the theatre, Tuesday to drive, and so on. Jaques perpetually blossomed on her table, and if a day passed that Blondel was not there a messenger boy was. At the end of three weeks Blondel asked if she was tired of it.

"Not at all," she said. "Shall we try it another three weeks?" "With all my heart."

Meanwhile folks had something to talk about and three more weeks sped away. Then he proposed, and she arose in her wrath and told him that a flirtation was a flirtation, but when it came to asking a girl to marry, that was carrying it too far. "But I am in earnest he responded."

And then she did the always-be-assister-to-you act, but he never said a word, only bided a wee and proposed again. This time she wavered, and the nice young man continued the even tenor of his way until one day he declared:

"I am certainly going to marry you, and before the first of the year, so you may as well engage yourself to me now."

And thus it was that the little god revenged himself upon two people who had thoughtlessly defied his power and gave old Hymen a certain knot to tie just before the holidays.

Man seldom finds his mate when and where he expects, and it is generally chance—accident—Kismet—that controls him, in spite of all.—Chicago Tribune.

## GETS THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY.

Benton's Mayor Makes a Short Talk on its Coming Boom.

Much public interest was evinced today when it became known that Jere Sullivan, Mayor of Benton, had arrived in the city. The city fathers were hastily assembled and the freedom of the city was voted to the genial mayor, who replied in appropriate terms, perhaps to the following effect:

"Gentlemen, I thank you for this distinction, but am not surprised at your hospitality for I see around me so many Ben-tonites that I supposed I was home again. I see here Fairfield, Matkin, Nathan, Wetzel, Collins and many others. I can only say return, and all will be forgiven."

"I assure you, gentlemen, confidentially that we are about to have a big boom in Benton, the metropolis, etc. We are soon to have a bridge over the Missouri, a woolen mill, electric lights, street cars, and a railroad track along the levee. (Applause.) We have a great 'desert' around us but we manage to grow some wool and raise some potatoes. (Cheers.) In conclusion I will say that we did our utmost to keep you in Chouteau county; that it afforded us much pleasure to care for you and expend your money on local improvements at the metropolis but as you have now set up on your own account I wish you prosperity." (Applause.)

The mayor was duly initiated at the Park hotel and is now busily engaged examining the falls, the drives, the park and the other attractions of the Cataract city.

## SPRAY OF THE FALLS

You can now buy a watch, clock or anything in the line of jewelry in Great Falls as cheap and as good as can be bought in any country, at Ringwald & Carrier's.

The Billings stage is doing a good business at this end of the line, and our merchants are finding it a decided advantage to be able to send out goods directly and promptly to their customers.

See those new gold and silver watches at Ringwald & Carrier's.

Mr. C. W. Cooper of Chouteau is in the city today making his first visit to the Cataract city. He is here to meet his wife who will arrive tomorrow over the Manitoba from the east. Mr. Cooper regards Great Falls as the natural trading center for the upper Teton and Marias country.

Steve Spitzley informs us that his half-way station on the Montana Central, at Craig, is now ready for business and tomorrow he will begin catering to the wants of the traveling public. This will be the dinner station, and passengers over the line are assured of a first-class meal. This is what Mr. Spitzley always serves to the public.

Mrs. C. W. Cooper and child returned today from the east, and in company with her husband left today for their home at Chouteau.

Mr. Berman, the Manitoba bridge engineer, arrived in the city today and will have charge of the construction of the railroad bridge at this point. Mr. Berman has built many bridges for the Manitoba, including the longest and highest on the road, the one at Gassman coulee, about four miles west of Minot. He has already commenced making his surveys and plans, so that in a few days the bridge will be under full headway.

John R. Payne, president of the Bank of Great Falls, has returned from his Dakota farm and will reside here most of the winter.

## Telegraph Rates.

The Western Union, which has now an office for commercial business at the railroad yard, and will soon have one in town, has simplified its rates as follows:

Rate to California, \$1.  
Rate to New York, Boston, Philadelphia and all eastern points, or any eastern point in the United States reached by the

company's lines, 75 cents for 10 words and five cents for each additional word.

To Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and all points in Minnesota; also to Chicago, Peoria, Saint Louis, Kansas City, and all points in Illinois and Missouri, 60 cents, and four cents for each additional word.

Any point in Dakota or Idaho, 50 and three cents.

Any point in British Columbia, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, Washington or Wyoming, 60 and four cents.

To Helena, 40 and three cents.

To Benton, 25 and two cents.

## A STORY OF INDIAN LIFE.

How Dr. Martin Baffled the Medicine Man and Astonished the Natives.

PIEGAN AGENCY, November 20.—[Special correspondence of the Tribune.]—The belief in a medicine man is universal among the Indians. They hold that he possesses supernatural powers and like the faith cure followers, can heal by simply placing his hands on the afflicted part. Some time ago Dr. Martin of the Piegan agency was called to attend the bedside of a young squaw who was suffering from hemorrhage of the lungs. Upon arriving at the teepee he found the medicine man sneering blood on the squaw's face. Seeing this Dr. Martin stepped forward to administer relief, when the Indian stopped him and said, "If my medicine cannot cure how can yours? See, I can take a pistol, point it at my breast, fire it, and yet not harm myself. Show me some sign of your power before I believe."

The teepee at the time was full of bucks who began making hostile demonstrations toward the doctor. Suddenly a bright idea shot through the doctor's mind. Placing his thumb and forefinger in his mouth he drew out his upper teeth which were artificial, and said: "Can you do that?" The effect was astonishing. The teepee was suddenly emptied of its occupants, who fled in terror from the man who could take out his teeth. The doctor administered the proper medicines and cured the young damsel. For some time afterward it was a common occurrence for an Indian to stop the doctor and by signs give him to understand that he wanted to see him take out his teeth. The doctor was never molested after that. S. N.

## STEADY PROGRESS.

Letter of an Old-Timer who has a Young Heart.

A Sun River letter signed Robert Bonner, printed in the Rocky Mountain House-handman says:

Not since you have become a husbandman have I given you any items from this section, although many important events have taken place. The new county of Cascade has been created, and in a few days will be in force, with all its qualified officers at their respective posts discharging their duties, and we anticipate that our new county shall be managed judiciously and economically to the satisfaction of all; and why not, for we have good, complicated, level-herded men to manage our county affairs.

Another great event is the Manitoba and Montana Central railroads running through the heart of the settlements, between the Rocky on the north and the Belt range and Judith basin on the south. This road is of great importance to Montana and to us, especially in its northern parts. Just think of it, 17 years ago I was chasing a herd of buffalo where now is Great Falls, a town of from 1,200 to 1,500 inhabitants; and, on the very spot where we slayed a monster buffalo bull, the Manitoba is building a round-house for their "bulljines." It is hard to tell when we old timers will get through rejoicing over these great highways that have come to take us out of the wilderness on palace cars. When we heard of the Northern Pacific obstructing their way on approaching Helena the other day, we felt like calling on X. Beidler to go and mark 3-7-77 on that construction train, but for all that, before many months Hill will be watering his cow-catcher in the Pacific ocean all the same.

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