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Near Bridge.

BY GEORGE ADE. MODERN FABLES,

Once there was a Steady who overplayed [who drank. He said that Wisenstein was his Standing and came within an Ace of losing Nice Fellow, But----. Then for about thirty

his home. It happened thuswise. He was a Day light his. Performer and loved to parade his Attrac. I About the time that the Princess began to tions. If he had a Duchess on his Staff he would lead her along the main travelled Streets and show her off. But he held her by the Arm just the same, for fear that some one would run out of an Alley and grab her. When he had a Beaut wearing his Photo in

her Watch he wanted all the World to know about it.

Furthermore, he was the kind that would take a Friend with him when he went calling on No. 1. He wanted the Friend to see for himself that the Girl thought the World of Papa. It was Fine Business for the Friend to sit over on the Far Side of the Room and watch them hold Hands, now and then stealing a little Old Hug. The Friend must have enjoyed every Minute of it.

Once in a while the busy Lover would look over at Friend and tip him the Wink, as if to

say, "Oh, I suppose this little Party fairly hates me."

But on one Evening when he went out Hand Holding and carried his own Gallery with him he ran into Bunches of Trouble. The Friend belonged to the Buttinsky Family and refused to stay on the Far Side of the Room. He was a clever two handed Boy, and had practiced a few Holds of his Own. He pulled his chair over and made it a Tiresome. In about eight Minutes he had the Regular Fellow stymied and Hazel was leaning against him so as to make his Conversation a Short Carry.

Before he left that Evening he had himself all dated up for a Return Engagement. It looked as though the other Young Gentleman had the Casters under him.

From that time on it was Nip and Tuck. They took all of her Open Time in one Chunk

and divided it up between them. Sometimes they got on the Reservation together and the only one who had a Good

Time was the Girl. The Original Gentlem Wiseustein. As soon as he saw himself losing out he began to lay deep and shifty Plans to head off the new Entry. A two by-four chinless Intellect would have tried to put the Rival into the Nine Hole by opening up on him and telling where he spent some of his Evenings, but Wisentein had read on a sign somewhere that every Knock is a Boost. He knew that no Fellow ever landed a real Princess by talking Scandal about the other Candidates. According he played a deep System. He became Press Agent for his Friend. He touted Mr. Buttinsky as the real Essence of Allygazam. He painted him in four bright Colors and put his Picture in every Window. When he got the Girl aside he would tell her that dear old Buttinsky was one of the most charming Chaps in the World and claimed to have a lot of Women spreading their Nets for him. He said that Buttinsky was a great Singer, having been known up in the Country where he came from as the Village Thrush. He advised her to have Buttinsky tell a number of his Stories, because as an After Dinner Wit he had Chauncey M. Depew churned to a Froth and was commonly known as the Life of the Party. Then he asked her if she had seen Buttinsky cut loose in a Ball Room. He said that all the Girls who saw Buttinsky move across the gleaming Floor in the Two Step began to look Glassy out of the Eyes and sank back in a Swoon. If she ever found time she ought to talk Books with Buttinsky because he knew them from A to Izzard and could get rid of Literary Talk in a Style calculated to charm a Bird out of a Tree. And as for dear old Art, he was supposed to be the Man who wrote it. Buttinsky did not know that he was being Lithographed as a Phenom. When the Princess urged him to trot out his Accomplishments he thought she was so Sticky on him that everything he did looked good to her. So he squared up to the Piano and sang "Because" in a Tenor that came from right between his Eyes. He chucked in a few Minors. They were these naughty Witch Hazel Fellows, and after he had turned a few of them loose in the Parlor he had the Princess straightened out as stiff as a Board and biting at the Doilies. When she led him around to the Subject of the late Novels he got all balled up, for he thought Gertrude Atherton wrote "Mary MacLane." And one Night when she teased him out on the Dancing Floor and he missed Step and tried to walk up one side of her she began to have a dim and twinkling Suspicion that this Boy Wonder was a Shine. He certainly did not look to be such a Much at any Game. She was horribly disappointed. Buttinsky helped Matters a lot by trying to undermine Mr. Wisensteein, who had been

Minutes the absent Wisenstein would get

class Buttinsky as a False Alarm, so far as Accomplishments were concerned, she started in to be Indignant because he roasted one who always spoke so Lovely of him.

As for Wisenstein, when she came right out and asked him about his Habits, he owned right up and leaned on her Shoulder and said his only Hope was to get a Goed Woman to Reform him. Which, probably, was a very foolish Move.

Then when she remembered how Magnanimous he had been, always speaking well of a Certain Person who had tried to sew Buttons on him, she perceived that Wisenstein was one of Nature's Noblemen. He contradicted her at first, but finally let her have her own Way. And Mr. Buttinsky did not seem to be One-Two-Seventeen. Moral-Beware of the Friend who tells

how Good you are.

Paine's Celery Compound CURES RHEUMATISM.

The Only Medicine That Prevents a Return of the Terrible Disease.

Rheumatism, which does its terrible work in the muscles, joints and tissues, is caused by uric acid which gathers in the blood. To get rid of this poisonous acid which produces the irritations, pains, agonies, inflammations and swellings peculiar to rheumatism, Paine's Celery Compound should be used without delay. No other medicine gives such prompt, cheering and happy results. It is the only medicine that prevents a return of the dreaded disease. Paine's Celery Compound braces the nerves, the blood is cleared of all irritating poisons, tissue and muscle are built up and the digestive organs perfectly toned. Do not treat with indifference the slightest sym-



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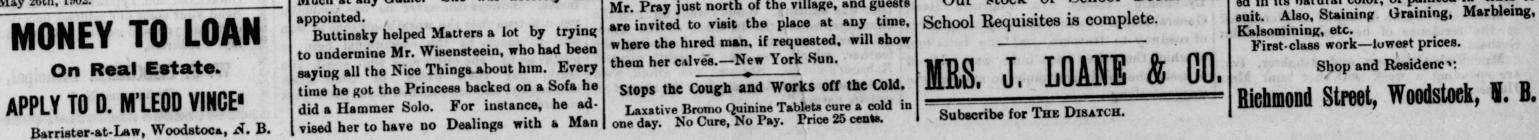
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ptoms; early use of Paine's Celery Compound will prevent weeks and months of suffering. Mr. G. J. McDonald, Cornwall, Ont., writes as follows:

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It all depends, weather you make or lose or weather you are a big scandal or a little one, how the world looks on your morality. If you make a fortune by the use of the stock market, you are a lucky speculator; if you lose on the slump you are an unfortunate stock gambler. If you are a bucket shop operator, you are a subject for editorials or sermons; if you manage to corner the wheat market and make a million, you are a Napoleon, and the papers will want your photograph, and will devote three columns to a historical sketch. If you run 3 pool room, you are put the category with saloonkeepers, prize fighters and bunco-steerers; if you run a stock broking business, you are eligible for descon or Sunday school superintendent. It makes all the difference in the world whether the rake off comes to you over a green-baize table or a polished mahogany counter. It takes a genius at hair-spitting to draw the distinction between draw-poker and stock gambling, but their is a great gulf fixed by the world between the two. Truth knows no such distinction.

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Such maladies as Nausea, Sick Stomach, Cramps and Colic, yield instantly to Polson's Nerviline, and if you suffer periodically from any of these complaints just keep Nerviline handy and take a few drops in water for quick relief. A large 25c. bottle of Nerviline is a comfort and safeguard in any household, and will save great suffering and big doctors' bills every year. Do you use Nerviline? Try

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Anna Held's Farm.

Miss Anna Held this spring bought a farm Scribblers, on the outskirts of the small town of Belgrade Lakes, Me., and the writer, while Slates, there some weeks ago, was rather amused at the wording of a notice which was placed up Lead Pencils, at the Central House in that place. It read Slate Pencils. thus :

NOTICE.

Miss Anna Held has purchased the farm of Mr. Pray just north of the village, and guests are invited to visit the place at any time,

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