A BABY'S LAUGH.

LITTLE MINNIE'S "TWO PAPAS" SHAKE HANDS IN COURT BEFORE JUDGE O'BRIEN.

N. Y. World.

There was a very tiny girl in the court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday morning. As she sat in the great chair where they had placed her, her feet were a long, long distance from the floor, and her baby fingers could hardly reach round the top of the arm as she tried to seat herself more firmly. She had blue eyes, short yellow curls, which stood on end with interest in the proceedings about her, and she was radiant in a clean pinafore and an exceedingly sunny smile.

If you had asked why she was there she would have cheerfully answered you that she had two papas, "a new papa an' an old papa," and that the new papa was going to take her away from the old papa. She was not in the least disturbed by this prospect, for she was having a royal time. She had discovered that she could make her chair "squeak" by turning it, and she acted upon this discovery with an enthusiasm which partly cleared the court room and brought drops of agony to the brow of the judge. When the pursuit lost its charm she discovered a good-natured fat man who smiled at her and played hide-and-seek with her behind his newspapers. At one exciting moment their heads bobbed up together and the little girl laughed—a clear, ringing, childish laugh that penetrated the very corners of the dusty old court room and brought sympathetic smiles to the lips of the few who had not forgotten how to laugh themselves.

A TURNING POINT IN HER LIFE.

If Minnie Costa had been fifteen years old instead of five she would not have laughed yesterday morning. She would have realized that she was in a very serious position for a little girl, and that her presence in court and the presence of the two silent men who sat near her might be a turning point in her life from which all future good or evil might date. But being only five years old, she laughed—and it is probable that to laugh was the best thing she could have done under the circumstances. Her evident happiness and content must have moved the two men with her, for they began to talk, and as they talked it was evident that things were smoothing themselves out. The lawyers of both parties came and joined in the talk. Next a dark-eyed woman had something to say, and the result of it all was that a compromise was effected, and the parties left the court room before the case came up. All was forgiven, hands were grasped and shaken and the "new papa" did not take Minnie from the "old papa" after all.

Minnie Costa's real father is Walter Foster, a young man who is employed as conductor on the Third avenue surface road. Foster married six years ago and Minnie was born just one year later. The next day the young mother died, and the husband gave the baby to his aunt, Mrs. John M. Costa, of No. 255 West Fourth street. The little one was taken to Mrs. Costa's home, and has never since left it even for one night. She has been taught to call Mrs. Costa "mamma" and her husband "papa," and the couple, being childless, love her as their own.

MINNIE FOSTER.

In Foster's petition for the custody of the child he states that for a time he paid $3 a week for Minnie's board, although the Costas declared at the time that they did not want the money and were more than willing to care for her themselves. After some months Foster lost his situation and his payments necessarily ceased. As soon as he found work he again insisted upon paying his child's board, but the Costas family refused to take the money and he admits that none has been paid since that time.

SHE CALLED HIM WALTER.

He says he visited the house frequently, however, and that he was called "Walter" by his little daughter, who had not the slightest suspicion that he was her father. She liked him as a jolly young fellow who would toss her in the air and play with her without wearying, but she always believed herself to be "papa's" (Mr. Costa's) "last little girl."

Several years ago Foster married again, and now lives with his wife and two children at No. 309 East Sixty-sixth street. His marriage and the fact that he made no claim upon Minnie at that time encouraged the Costas to hope that he intended to leave the child in their care indefinitely. They grew more and more attached to her every day, and she became the very life and light of their home. She developed into a charming little girl, with the happiest disposition in the world. No amount of indulgence could spoil her, and no friends or playmates could ever turn her heart from the slender, brown-eyed woman she called mamma. The Costas, while not wealthy, are in very comfortable circumstances, and Minnie had everything to make a small girl's life seem worth living. She had clothes and toys galore, she had picture-books that rivalled the rainbow in hue, and she had a large and interesting family of dolls, which she had brought up in the way they should go. And when it was rumored that "Walter" was going to take her away, her chief care was for the welfare of papa, mamma and the dolls to be left behind her. There was not one thought of herself, or of where she would go or what was to become of her.

THE NEW PAPA APPEARS.

As these charms and graces of Minnie unfolded themselves Walter began to indulge in vain regrets. It seemed cruel to him, and looking at it in his way one can understand why; that this beautiful child of his should regard him as almost a stranger; that she should call him "Walter" and Costa "Papa;" that she should have no memory whatever of the dead mother who lies in Greenwood, and who gave up her life for the little one. It seemed to him that justice to the living and the dead required him to reclaim his own. And he did it.

When he demanded the child from her foster parents they refused to give her up. Their position can also be understood by one who puts himself in their place. They had raised the child, had cared for her, and learned to love her as their own. They knew that they could do infinitely better by her in a worldly sense than the father, who was already supporting a wife, two children and himself on the salary of a street car conductor. It is said that they offered him $1000 to relinquish all claim to Minnie. Perhaps they did. And that he refused it. Perhaps he did. At all events, Foster applied to Judge O'Brien Tuesday morning in special term of the supreme court and obtained a writ of habeas corpus commanding the Costas to produce Minnie in the court of Oyer and Terminer Wednesday morning. He also engaged George W. Wilson as attorney in the case.

A BOMBSHELL FOR THE COSTA FAMILY.

The effect of all this upon Mr. and Mrs. Costa is easily imagined. There was sadness at No. 255 West Fourth street. The cause of all the trouble was the only unmoved individual there. It did not annoy her in the least that people were at war over her, and she appeared in court Wednesday morning wearing the same smile with which she dazzled the judge yesterday. But nothing was done on Wednesday. The attorney for the Costas got an adjournment until Friday and all parties had time for reflection.

There was a great deal of quiet scheming and planning done in the two days left to each side. The lawyers tried to compromise, but no compromise plan would go with Minnie's "two papa's." It was claimed by an intimate of the Costa family that Foster had not even called to see his little girl for more than a year, and that when he did call on the last occasion he was intoxicated, that he was not a proper custodian for the child, and that he merely demanded her from a desire to make it unpleasant for the foster parents.

Foster's friends, on the other hand, declared that the Costas had not permitted him to see Minnie when he called, that their greatest desire was to bring her up in ignorance of his relation to her, and that their charges against him were made with the sole object of proving that he could not care for the little one.

So everybody was indignant, except Minnie herself. She went on in the even tenor of her way, and when the two papas and the mamma and the aunts and the neighbors came together in court yesterday morning she threw back her curly head and met the whole vexed question with her ringing, childish laugh.

There must have been something in that laugh that worried them all, for when they began to talk the matter over together it was not themselves they thought of, but the little girl. Her welfare was the important thing then, as it should have been all along. So the real father decided to leave her with the Costas upon condition that she might come to his home one week out of every month "to get acquainted."

Then Judge Van Brunt signed the withdrawal of the writ, and all left the court-room together. The lawyers were satisfied, the fathers content, the foster-mother very happy, and the small girl's curls bobbed more than ever as she danced out into the sunlight clinging to the hands of her two "papas."

Wealthy Indians.

When the United States government buys out the lands of an Indian tribe it does not pay over the money directly to them and let them do as they please with the sum. The amount of the purchase money is credited to the tribe, and the United States pays them annually the interest on this sum. Consequently there is always a fund from which to make the payments. If all the millions were paid to them personally in a lump, for about three days there would be a tribe of very drunk Indians. Then some traders and sharpers would go away with immense sums in their pockets, and the red men that survived the royal drunk would be left paupers on the government's hands. For this reason the Indian wards receive annually the interest on payment money of the lands they have sold the United States.

The annual payments of interest range from half a million dollars to less than a hundred thousand for each tribe. The money is allotted to the Chippewas, Coeur d'Alenes and other tribes of wild Indians, while the five civilized tribes of the Indian territory—Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws and Seminoles—receive also their share and are growing rich. The Omahas and Winnebagoes, among the most highly civilized, get no annuity, but take care of themselves.

Richest of all, however, are the lazy and vagabondish Osages. There are now only some 1,500 of them and the number is diminishing, but they get every year $500,000. It is divided equally among them all—men, women and children.

"The trader at the agency gets the greater part of it within an hour after it has been distributed," says a newspaper correspondent. The Osages are of so hopelessly uncivilized a character that the government will not pay them the full amount of even their interest annually, so that this, too, is accumulating to their credit. They are probably the only people on record who are getting richer against their will, for they beg every year for larger sums to be paid them. But Uncle Sam says no. When they adopt the ways of civilization and work for their living they shall have it all, but not till then. This they will not do, however. Meantime their number grows less every decade, and the individual sums reserved are larger. They are simply killing themselves off by laziness, and the time will come in a few decades more when there will be no more Osages.

It was considered of enough importance to be telegraphed over the ocean that during Gladstone's illness many plain common workingmen called to inquire after him and were treated just the same as any other callers. In heaven's name, why should they not be? Is there any particular merit in treating courteously a man who earns his own living honestly?

There is no doubt that Baron Hirsch and other millionaire Hebrews will found a colony for the oppressed Jews now being driven away from Russia. The colony will either be in Australia or South America. It ought by good rights to be Palestine. Palestine belongs to the Jews, and the Jews belong to Palestine. With the money at their command the sons of this ancient people could make the land fertile and smiling once more, and bring it back to its former glory. The sultan might sell out cheap, and we should once again have a Jewish country.

The Behring Sea Seal Case.

"If the matter can be threshed out in a court of law in the way to which both nations are accustomed, the risk of misconception is reduced to a minimum," remarks the London Spectator of the seal fishery dispute. The Spectator observes also that the English speaking race never fully understand a disputed question till it comes into court. Both sides are therefore to be congratulated that the matter will in the court assume a far clearer shape than it did in the "jungle of diplomatic correspondence between the governments of London and Washington."

In consequence of the illness of Justice Bradley the trial of the Sayward case before the supreme court of the United States has been put off till October. Then it will doubtless be settled. The claim that will be made then on behalf of the United States is that we have a right to patrol and protect the waters of Behring sea for a distance of 100 miles from shore, and that vessels of no other nation have a right to take seals within this 100-mile limit. Mr. Blaine, however, expressly disclaims that we consider Behring sea as a closed sea, mare clausum, on general principles. It is only a closed sea as far as seal fishing goes.

Our claim is based on two propositions: 1. The nature of the seals themselves, that require such protection as we shall exercise over them or they will be exterminated. 2. Russia made such claim as this before us, and handed over to us all her rights along with the transfer of Alaska.

Mr. Choate, however, counsel for the owners of the seized Canadian schooner Sayward, will argue before the supreme court that when we give up the claim that Behring waters are a closed sea we give up the very point that Russia always held fast to, and, giving up this, we surrender all the rest. Further, seals are wild beasts of nature, fere naturæ. They belong in whatever waters they are caught, and when they depart from the 3-mile limit of international law beyond the coast of a given country they become public property. Furthermore, the claim of Russia that Behring was a closed sea was never made in due form till 1821, and Great Britain immediately protested against it, and Russia accordingly receded from it. Such are briefly both sides of the sealing schooner case, which is to be argued before the supreme court.

San Juan, Not Greytown.

The United States wants two naval stations in the West Indies, and one of them should be the Mole St. Nicholas, off the northwest coast of Hayti. The other should be in such a spot that the two together will command the entrance to the Gulf. Besides these we want the Nicaragua canal finished speedily. Then the United States will be master of the situation in the western hemisphere, as nature and the Almighty meant it should. If the Nicaragua canal had been finished and United States war vessels stationed at each end of it then the catching of the rebel Chilian runaway Itata would have been an easy matter.

Meantime the work of the Nicaragua canal has been well begun apparently. The first obstacle was the sandbar at the entrance to the harbor at Greytown, which should not at all be called Greytown, but San Juan de Nicaragua del Norte, as it is when written out—for short, San Juan, pronounced San Hoo-an. The name Greytown is a reminiscence of an incident which it is no particular satisfaction to Americans to remember. Nearly a century ago Lord Nelson bombarded the place, lost an eye there, and planted the British flag over the town. Lord Grey was then governor of the British possessions in that region, hence the place was called by the English Greytown. It means nothing, has never been recognized by the Nicaraguan government, and ought not to be recognized by the United States company who are building the canal.

Whether the new party ever is heard from again or not, there is one thing the members of the old parties will do well to heed. There was at the convention that formed the People's party an earnestness and intensity of feeling that suggested earthquakes and volcanoes. When the vote for the measure was finally adopted the suppressed emotion burst forth. There were cheers and a roar; tears rolled down tawny, weather beaten cheeks, and men threw their arms around one another. The United States flags in the hall were torn from their fastenings and wrapped around some of the speakers. Altogether a more dramatic and striking scene has not been witnessed in this country since war times. The mood of thought that led up to it is one that the old political parties cannot afford to ignore. Enthusiasm is something that cannot be reasoned with. Moreover, it is catching, very.

It has doubtless occurred more than once to persons who see the swarms of Italians in the streets of our large cities to wonder how many are left at home, and whether such a stream of emigration has made any appreciable difference in the population of Italy. We now learn that in the first four months of this year 30,000 Italians passed Gibraltar on their way to this country, and the American consul at Naples reports that in that vicinity whole neighborhoods are almost depopulated of men, only women being left to till the soil. The emigration wave toward the United States has reached a veritable exodus in south Italy.

Gladiolus bulbs may be planted from now on until July.

A company has been formed to test growing Niagara grapes in Florida.

Large shipments of oranges have been made from California to Boston this year.

It is claimed that with proper cultivation and an equal acreage Texas would exceed California in the production of superior fruits.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

NOTES ON THE CULTURE OF FLOWERS, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Our Native Fruits—The Improvements and Developments Made by Pomologists in Hardy Varieties—Raspberries, Strawberries, Gooseberries and Dewberries.

One of the most encouraging phases of pomology in this country at the present time, says Professor Goff in Garden and Forest, is the progress we are making in improving our native fruits. Within the past half century many valuable varieties of the native grape have been developed, and as the result our markets are now abundantly supplied with this

BARTEL'S DEWBERRY.

delicious fruit. The tender foreign raspberry has been supplanted by hardy native varieties, and the same may be said of the gooseberry. In the northwestern states improved varieties of the native plum are gradually coming to the front, and give promise that plums of good quality may soon be grown in our coldest states. The Crandall currant seems to be a step forward in the development of a new species that may yet prove valuable, and the dwarf juneberry and buffaloberry are beginning to receive attention. The garden blackberry, now a valuable market fruit, appears to have been entirely developed in this country, and of more recent introduction to culture is the dewberry, which, if we may judge from its best showings, gives promise of developing into one of our most delicious and productive small fruits.

Within the past few years the Lucretia and Bartel's dewberries have been rather extensively advertised in nurserymen's catalogues. But not all of the testimony from those who have tried them has been favorable, though occasional reports have been very flattering. Professor Goff considers Bartel's dewberry worthy of trial by all who are interested in testing new fruits. Mr. H. C. Adams, of Wisconsin, who is an extensive grower of blackberries, has found this variety more profitable as a market fruit than any blackberries he has grown. The accompanying illustration is made from a specimen taken after the height of the fruiting season had passed. It would not have been difficult to have found larger fruits and much larger clusters at an earlier date.

The fact that the dewberry is prostrate in its habit of growth is a decided objection to it in climates where winter protection is unnecessary. But in regions of severe winters the ease with which the plants may be covered is a partial recompense for this fault. It is said that a plantation once started is eradicated from the soil with considerable difficulty, which, if true, is an additional objection to the plant in cultivation.

The Camellia.

In its natural state the wild camellia has single red blossoms, and that description of the plant is much used by gardeners as stock on which to graft the many fine varieties produced by florists in Europe and America through hybridizing. The single sorts are produced by seed; the plant is also propagated by cuttings and layers. The best known and most general favorite is the Camellia Japonica. The most hardy and one of the most beautiful camellias is the Reticulata, from which many others in cultivation are partly derived.

The plant does not need heat, thriving best in a temperature a little above freezing point, but it cannot bear frost. Free access of air is of great importance, and a liberal supply of water, but not so much as to keep the soil soaked after the needs of the plant are supplied. They are grown best in well drained borders, under glass. An attempt to cultivate camellias as window plants in pots generally results in disappointment, the roots not liking such close confinement, and there is apt to be too much heat or an excess of water, causing the buds to fall before opening. The best soil for camellias is a loose moist compost of brick loam, peat and sand.—California Fruit Grower.

Management of Hedges.

Hedges if properly managed are an ornament to any garden or lawn. To form a thick and substantial hedge, according to Popular Gardening, a beginning to train must be made from the first year it is planted. Keep the bottom well supplied with growth. Do not, on any account, let it run up to any height until this is done. Then the plants will thicken, and may be allowed to increase in height gradually. Thorn hedges should be clipped carefully about the present time. Another important point is to keep the stems free from weeds. This particularly applies to thorn hedges.

Horticultural Hints.

Pot plants watered with a mixture consisting of ammonia, one teaspoonful to two quarts of water, will gain thrift and luxuriance.

The Bordeaux mixture offers to be a trustworthy remedy for the fungous diseases of the grape.

Too much manure on blackberries will induce too much wood.

There is now a purple leaved variety of the common catalpa.

A little lime water occasionally will kill the angle worms in the soil of potted plants.

Discordant and harsh noises should not be heard in the nursery, and who can measure the influence of harmony and of melody on the virgin sensibilities? Though baby knows nothing of words, he understands tones perfectly, and every one he hears leaves its trace upon him. He knows when he is chidden and when praised, interpreting all language by its sound.

"Haymow Seamen" is what the Nebraska State Journal calls the new third party people.

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