





CHRISTMAS AT THE BALLINGERS.

BY HARRIET PRESCOTT SPOFFORD.

From the New York Independent. (Continued.)

"Marian Lane asked me to-day again about our stepmother," said Fanny, coming in where Cousin Margery was sewing the ruffles into the necks of their best dresses for her little tea party on Christmas eve. "I told her it was a wicked story. We weren't going to have any stepmother, and we wouldn't stay in the house with one, say of us?"

"You couldn't you?" said Cousin Margery. "Why, that would be a pity. Where would you go?" "We would go to the parsonage," said Em, decidedly, quite oblivious of the fact of their present dependence. "And you may tell Papa so, if he says anything about it, Cousin Margery," said the little girl, looking up at her.

"I don't believe you are to be taken care of," said Cousin Margery, smilingly. "The way we shall be taken care of is by the parsonage, I'd rather die!" cried Em. "So'd I," whimpered Fanny. "I'd rather have her die!" said Johnny. "I'll make it hot for her, any way, I guess she'll be sorry she ever came where she was!"

"I don't," said Cousin Margery, "and I don't believe you are to be taken care of really if you loved her!" "I loved a stepmother?" was the indignant reply. "And Em had from the room, to be certain, nothing over the top of the trunk by Em, who hung her arms around her, exclaiming, 'Oh, Em, I too have lost a mother!'"

"It was not a cheerful week that followed. Mr. Ballinger had no children climbing over him, as of old, in his evenings; and Cousin Margery had no peace for the questions and conjectures concerning the dreaded personage. 'Oh, I'm it too bad!' cried Fanny, one day, bursting into the general agitation. 'She'll be wearing our mother's clothes, and everything!'"

"My wicked mother slow me, my father long die," said Johnny. "I'll make it hot for her, any way, I guess she'll be sorry she ever came where she was!" "I don't believe you are to be taken care of really if you loved her!"

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been photographed. During one of his solitary walks in the Bavarian Alps he encountered an unassuming old man, which he was very pleased to see. He was dressed in a simple, but not unbecoming, manner. For a better subject to make himself so unobtrusively conspicuous was not to be desired, wherever the king would pluck which happened to be at hand, and, placing himself in a position to be seen, he prepared to pass. The king, of course, the early or shrewd off and allowed the king to pass, and he was so pleased with his own exploit that he had himself photographed in the attitude of ephemeris.

Well, Hester! —Mr. J. H. Jackson, the well-known hat dresser says: "Hallam's Expectant is undoubtedly the best cough mixture in the market. I have used it for years with the most prompt and beneficial results, and always keep some by me in case of sudden colds."

Severe colds are easily cured by the use of Biokle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, a medicine of extraordinary penetrating and healing properties. It is acknowledged by those who have used it as being the best medicine sold for coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs, and all affections of the throat and chest. Its agreeable taste and pleasant odor make it a favorite with ladies and children.

Princess Esterhazy Turns Up. —From a Vienna Letter. Prince Paul Esterhazy, who was carried off into the forest by his runaway horse, while engaged in a fox-hunt, has turned up again, after his friends had given him up for lost. He was thrown from his saddle and severely wounded, and wandered for some days through the forest in a vain endeavor to find his way out. He at length succeeded in reaching a little village on the edge of the wood, starved, bruised and with scarce a shred of clothing. Prince Esterhazy, as is well known, is married to the Princess of Croi. This family holds the highest rank at the court of Vienna, and, in order of precedence, immediately after the princes of the blood. A European journal, recently estimating his wealth, concludes that, with his boundless estates, Transylvanian forests and other sources of wealth, he would probably go beyond the late Mr. Vanderbilt by a million or two of thirty million dollars or so!

So rapidly does lung irritation spread and deepen that often in a few weeks a simple cough culminates in tubercular consumption. Give heed to a cough, there is always danger in delay, get a bottle of Biokle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup and cure yourself. It is a medicine unsurpassed for all throat and lung troubles. It is compounded from several herbs, each one of which stands at the head of the list as curing a wonderful infirmity in curing consumption and all lung diseases.

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Call it and examine my stock of Quadruple Pickles, consisting of Cakes, Biscuits, Pickles, Cold Cuts, Butter, Cookies, etc. Also a large stock of Sleighs, Cutters, Sleds, Rocking Horses, all prices, Acme City Cakes at 10¢ and up. Joseph Rogers & Sons, Cutlery.

I am closing out my lines of Self-Feeders, with and without covers, at cost, and now is your time to secure bargains at the New Hardware and House Furnishing Depot.

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