THE PRINTER'S LAMENT.

Oh why don't people form their ads.,
And dunish off their dy?
Why do they make such crooked c's
And omit cruit-combed d's?

Why do they form such slocking c's,
And f's with agne-tis?
And such a sqw on bood,
For s. sure a win.

What a human eye is without sight
Is as t whout a dat.
I'd a my such artisan crooked things
We recognize them not.

K ought to stand for knowledness.
But crows is well for luck.
L and w are undecipherable,
While s a just raise Old Nick.

O's are rarely closed at all,
And p are sloggy things,
Q's might as well be spider legs,
And v's opposite wings!

Some people make a passing x
Who never cross a t
Others into the next same strokes
To have a set.

H's get strangely mixed.
A's notha on a apron,
I's is a skeleton on wires—
O-uuds! how he swears at it!

O yet think, what types get
From drovers of the quill—
Be off! they are such a serious set,
And scribble on at will!

Well, they will scribble and we must swear,
And t will ever be so;
Others into the next same strokes
To have a set.
If we get strangely mixed.

—*N. Y. Weekly.*

JOHN'S WIFE.

My bachelor quarters began to look cheerless enough as the holiday season approached, and I was all the more ready to accept the kind invitation of my friend John and his young wife, the mention of whose name always caused him to fly into raptures. "Why, you must positively pass such a paragon before? To believe is to adore, she was lovely, amiable, virtuous beautiful, and everything that your imagination may call to supplement the ideal."

I had only John's story for this—was inclined to believe it only a part of it, indeed, yet, as the time approached for my visit, I found myself waiting the day with impatience, and something like excitement especially as he had informed me that his sister-in-law, Kitty Manners, was to take one of the party. I even permitted her to being more beautiful and charming than John's wife, and indulged in various other bachelor fancies.

I arrived in the city of Boston on the day preceding Christmas, as I had some business to transact prior to my visit to my friend's house. But as I stepped out of the cars, I saw his carriage waiting, and nodding forward to the driver, I entered it myself. I took my place, threw on my gloves, gave an additional twirl to my mustache, and was quickly whirled to the Eden John was anxious to call his home.

A pretty little woman, not certainly the angel my friend had described her to be, but cordially apologized for her husband's absence, informed me that he had suddenly been called away upon business, but would return early in the morning, and pleasantly added that he had consigned me to the care of her sister and herself.

"And this is my sister Kitty, of whom you have without doubt heard," she said by way of introduction.

Miss Kitty, who had been coyly keeping herself in the background, stepped forward, and for a moment her soft hand lay like a rose-leaf in mine. As for me, I felt as if the frill sea-coal and blazing chandelier fell upon her, I involuntarily uttered a whistle, which I luckily turned into only a cough. The fact was, John's wife was but a foil to set off the beauty of her sister. Such gold bronze, rippling hair, above a brow of alabaster whiteness, and such liquid, blue, speaking eyes I had never seen before. And the tall, graceful figure was in perfect keeping with the lovely face —there was nothing to mar the picture.

She received me with a lady's self-possession, such as is only to be acquired by those who mingle in the best of society, and added her welcome to that of her sister and brother-in-law. The dinner, or as one as I had long been a stranger to, as well as the evening, passed away delightfully. John's wife was charmingly social, and discovered eloquently on the subject of her husband. Of course I heard all about him from the moment—said John was a lucky fellow, told how much I envied him his happiness and caused her to blush prettily.

But for all my words, I had no eyes except for Kitty Manners. She was enchanting; a smile, a sigh, a look for each of us had been for me!) and as the scarlet wood twined in and out, and around her soft brown hair like fingers. I thinking to myself that John had married his wife and not her sister.

The evening came to an end long before I had wished it to do so. I had never seen time fly upon such wings, and regretted it extremely when the announcement was announced. I bade my hostess good night, and looked at Kitty with eyes that spoke volumes of unspoken love, caused the rich blood to fly to her cheeks like damask roses. Then after lingering a long and delicious moment, she turned up to my room, and lighting a cigar, sat dreamily smoking for an hour. And my cogitations ended in this, that I loved Dawsun, was at last in love, and that at first sight, and that I would do my best to win the charming Kitty Manners if not already engaged) to be my wife.

The thought that another might have been before me in the matter never once banished the castles I had been building in Spain. However, I could but try—so to assist in the perfection of my plans I smoked another Cabana and glanced at my watch as a bell in a neighboring steeple was tolling midnight, had it upon—I mean my watch—a valuable and elegant diamond upon the cushion beside it and speedily was in bed. Very soon I began to dream, and in a undefined figure of Kitty with wings like those of an angel was beginning to float through my brain when I was recalled from my wanderings to the stern vanities of life. I was certain that I heard the creaking of a door, and raising myself cautiously upon my elbow, looked around. The room was burning dimly; it was just the "witching hour when church-yards yawn and graves give up their spirits walk. Was the chamber I occupied a haunted one?

Had it been in reality so, I should not have been more astonished than I was to see John's wife stealing like a shadow into the room, clad in her long, snow white night dress. "Great heavens," I murmured, "what can this mean? Is the woman troubled with fits of lunacy? Is it not my duty to summon assistance lest she may injure herself? I certainly would have spoken to her, but surprise chained my tongue, and she carried a small lamp in her hand—paused for an instant close to the threshold, and listened. Then, as if satisfied that I was sleeping, she advanced softly to the table picked up my jewelery, and, without looking again a. the bed, darted swiftly out of the room.

Great drops of perspiration stood u my forehead, and it was fully a minute before my brain again began to act coherently, so spellbound and shocked was I. But as soon as possible I got up, and by the time, hoping it was all a wild dream. No, my eyes had not deceived me. My watch and gun were both gone, and the door ajar. I opened it cautiously and looked out into the hall. There was no one visible—it a sound to be heard. I again closed the door, this time taking good care to lock it, and returned to bed in no enviable state of mind, asking myself over and over again what it could possibly mean, could it be that John's pretty and accomplished wife was a thief?

I shuddered at the thought, and yet what else could I decide upon? I had seen her enter the room at the dead midnight hour, had seen her pause and turn as—had seen her glance anxiously around, as if fearful of detection—and, worse than all, had seen her appropriate and secrete my valuables. I had heard of such things before—of kleptomania in ladies rich and high in station, and at last was forced to the conclusion that my friend's wife was a victim to this unfortunate disease. What should I do?

I lay awake until nearly morning asking myself the perplexing question. Did John know of the fatal habit of his wife? Did he or sister—her sister Kitty? Was

hereditary in the family? The thought is horrible, especially to one who has heart touched by her lovely and amiable self. Was it so? Such was

But what was my duty? Clearly to inform John; and yet, how could I do so? Certainly he would doubt my word—my wife would deny it and he would believe her. Never was a man in a more perplexing situation. I finally decided to say nothing for myself any definite plan, and we awakened at a late hour by a loud rap on my door, and the cheery voice of my friend John.

"Come, old fellow, you've had a hell hail rumpus, I'll be bound," he said —that I notified the servants—for which he wanted to apologize.

"What do you think of my wife?" was his first question. "Isn't she nobly perfection? Beautiful, accomplished—"

"Certainly a wonderful woman," I plied; and then instantly resolved that I never would communicate my unhappy a heart—that he should never know of the questionable proceedings of the previous night, but that I would quietly hide my time for an explanation, even though the loss to me was a great one.

When we entered the breakfast room John's wife came forward and greeted me just as cordially as she had done upon the previous evening. There was not the slightest hesitation, no deepening color, no trembling of lip or voice when she greeted me, in the presence of my friend, as if I had rested well and had sweet dreams. The question sent all the blood to my face, and I answered that I was tired, save the laughing remark from John that he "never thought I was so bashful a man."

Not a hardened nor consummate actor must wife must be, I thought, as I turned my eyes to the blooming Kitty, who came in the same moment, and I was lost in admiring robe of azure silk, that set off her loveliness to night, but I soon quieted