



about with him and this foolishness resulted in his going to the altar with the wrong one.

"How so?" I asked him. His answer as recorded in my notes is "They became confused, too."

The ordeals of youth, though much joked about, are often no joking matter. Gremlins, if there are such beings, can intensify them. Once in church Bardell had sat on a spot, the only one, where a hot summer sun had shone on a patch of newly varnished seat. To his horror he found that he could not stand with the rest of the congregation when enjoined by the rubric to do so. The verger, at first irate, but afterwards co-operative, had released him after service, but his inexplicably irreverent conduct did him much harm in the hamlet where he then lived.

On another occasion he had joined in a water picnic, and undertaken in a light pleasure boat the transport of two women, both of them buxom. The tide was going out and the reach of the river they were in abounded in shallows which were to be the cause of his miseries. He followed the guiding boat but did not allow for the fact that, owing to his passengers, he was three inches deeper down at the stern than anyone else. The result was ignominious—a sticking fast on a mudbank, under a battery of titters. "Why," asked Bardell from the

couch, "should both of those eleven-stoners have got into my boat?"

AS a man married to an identical twin, Bardell has had the upsets that might be expected. Identical twins are two souls with but a single thought if ever such there were and between the two Bardell is hopelessly outmanoeuvred. "Middle-aged and a plain beast of burden" (Doctor Hadfield), he has made all the great surrenders, but clings to minor comforts. His gremlin has therefore fallen back upon petty irritations as:

*Item:* The shower over the bath has started to leak at the rate of one colossal drop per minute and Bardell always gets this drop smack in the middle of the back when taking a hot bath.

*Item:* His spectacle cases are planted on him (he has three) and often he has to go to work with his glasses in an envelope. Once, becoming vindictive, he spent half a day looking for a case and at last found one "peeping slyly out" (his own distraught words) from the underside of a clump of Sweet William.

*Item:* He hurled a rock at a trespassing cat. He had hurled hundreds before and always missed. This one hit and now he is haunted by an advertisement for a pure bred Manx, £3 reward for anyone, etc., etc. He buried the cat and the neighbour's dog dug it up till he put it down three feet with a worn out galvanised tub over it. Now his wife wants the tub for ferns and is making peevish inquiries.

*Item:* . . . But at this point there came a firm knock on the door. When it was opened, as it had to be, Mrs. B. said, "Now, just what are you two up to?"

It would have been useless to evoke the gremlin. Such excuses strike the unimaginative as childish. So I said, "We were discussing the percentages of income usually granted as alimony." Then I left for home; it was quite time. But if I were Bardell I would move heaven and earth to placate the gremlin.

## Object Lesson

*A HILL you may say is a hill; take a hill,*

*Or a group of them forming an island,  
Range, or peninsula. Here's the benign  
Slope, thrust of deceptive hand  
Green-gloved over the strong racked bones  
Of earth assailing sky. Follow the up,  
The flow, the final burst in the sun;  
Measure the cone; a hill, you perceive, is a hill.  
A man you may say is a man; but when  
He's extended himself to the hill, included  
The spur and the curve in the light of his  
Knowing how this was formed; pondered if  
Time, place, thought and strewn heaven  
Matter a tinker's curse; noticed the blue  
Haze hills absorb from the sea, clouds  
Cumbering the island; known the slight  
Fear of far hills, and the sweet solace  
Of these, being home; then we consider again  
Well, what is a hill? Is it a hill,  
Or a hill through the eyes of one human?*

—Ruth France

**ORDER  
BY  
MAIL!**



TO WEAR WITH A COAT OR WITHOUT—

## MITCHBILT SHIRTS in "FEATHERGAB" by "COHAMA"

Featherweight Gabardine that is light in weight, cool and comfortable, in Mitchbilt's consistently high standard of quality and workmanship. Colours: Light Fawn, Brown, Blue-Grey, Gabardine Grey, Gabardine Dark Fawn. Sizes: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

**33/11**

Plus 8d Postage

## MITCHBILT SHIRTS in Pure Fuji Silk

Long lasting boiling Fuji Silk, so easy to keep sparkling fresh. Sizes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. In natural silk shade.

**34/10**

Plus 8d Postage



**MITCHBILT SPORTS CAPS,**  
suitable for Tennis, Cricket,  
Bowls, Yachting, Hiking,  
Skiing, Golf. Sizes: 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  
6 $\frac{7}{8}$ , 7, 7 $\frac{1}{8}$ , 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ .

(a) WOOL NAVY GABARDINE.  
Most suited for skiing.  
**20/6**



(b) AMERITEX MATERIAL.  
Waterproof. Flaps let down.  
Blue, Green, Fawn, Grey,  
Gold.  
**25/6**



(c) BEDFORD CORD SPORTS  
CAP. Fawn, Grey, Brown. All  
sizes.  
**9/6**



(d) TWILL SPORTS CAP. Light  
and cool. In Grey, Blue,  
Fawn, Cream, White.  
**11/3**

Please Add 4d for Postage.

**J. C. MITCHELL LTD., 45 Customs St., Auckland, P.O. Box 197.**

Please send me the following MITCHBILT American styled clothes for which I enclose.....

Description.....

Size..... Colour.....

Neck Measurement..... Second Colour Choice.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS..... N.Z. Listener