Neptune — Well, to tell the truth, Mr. Boston, although I should like very much to see the new pictures, and although I take great interest in Harvard, I have come to see you this morning on business of quite a different nature. Since my temples were destroyed, I have earned an honest livelihood by posing as a central figure in those groups with which all important fountains are decorated. I saw your advertisement in the paper this morning, and being just now in need of a good situation, I have come to apply for a place in your fountain. I have been in the habit of taking out contracts to supply four dolphins to squirt water from their open mouths, two Tritons blowing shell horns, and three nymphs with inverted pitchers who will stand gracefully gazing into a central basis, for $75 dollars a month.

Typical Bostonian (delighted) — "Your offer, sir, does you great credit, but this is so sudden, I really must have a few days to think it over before I can decide such an important matter."

Enter Pallas Athena, dressed in a flowing garment of white, with a golden helmet upon her head. Behind her come the Three Graces, the first bearing Athena’s spear, the second her shield, in which is set the Gorgon’s head, and the third carrying a book, a golf stick and a large pair of eyeglasses, as the modern attributes of Athena.

Typical Bostonian (bowing low) — "Good afternoon, madam. Have I indeed the honor of beholding the azure-eyed goddess Athena?"

Athena (smiling) — "I am spending the summer in Boston. In fact, I am doing research work here for my thesis. You see, I really think it is time I got my Ph.D." (Suddenly perceiving Neptune, who has stood back since Athena entered) "Oh, my good uncle! How are your waves to-day?"

Neptune — "(S)well, (s)well, thank you, niece. My brother Jove is so as to be about, I hope?"

Athena — "About as jovial as ever, I thank you."

Neptune — "I am glad to hear it. But, my dear Athena, what have you done with your owl? I hope you have left it in a safe place?"

Athena — "In the safest place I know of, uncle. I left it with papa; and Homer says he has both ambrosial locks and thunderbolts."

(Neptune almost faints.)

Typical Bostonian (anxiously) — "My dear madam!"

Athena — "Mr. Boston, while my uncle is recovering I would like to talk with you on a little matter of business. I have come to apply for the situation as occupant of your library fountain. Indeed, I will make your fountain the most beautiful in the world, and a real fountain of wisdom, by posing in its center myself as the guardian and patroness of this fair city of Boston."

Typical Bostonian — "Well, you see, Miss, as I was just saying to Mr. Neptune, here, I must have a few days to consider your proposal. However, I will send you word as soon as I come to any decision on the matter. Your address?"

Athena — "Beacon Street, 'The Olympia,' suite 16."

Typical Bostonian — "And your price for occupying the fountain? Of course I should want three maidens to hold inverted helmets from which the water might spout in three streams and fall around you; and an owl on your shoulder would also add to the effectiveness of the grouping."

Athena — "I should be happy to supply all these things, and throw in a carved Gorgon’s head or two by way of ornamentation, for $100 a month."

Typical Bostonian — "$100! Why, Mr. Neptune offers his services, with four dolphins, two Tritons and three nymphs for $75 a month."

Athena — "My uncle! I hope he is not so presumptuous as to aspire to occupy this center of Boston, I may say this holy of holies, the fountain of the Public Library!"

Neptune — "And why should I not aspire to this situation, niece? Am I not the earth-shaking Poseidon? And, by the Styx! I need this situation more than you. You can teach school and win scholarships; but I have a hard time to earn an honest living, what with Neread trade unions demanding higher wages every year, and my Tritons petitioning Diana for eight-hour tides, I shall be ruined if I do not get a good situation soon."

Athena — "Well, go content yourself with garden fountains; they have not yet all gone out of fashion, and leave such a prominent position as this to your betters."

Neptune — "That is the way with the women now-a-days, they push the men out of all the most lucrative professions. I suppose you would like to have me go home and clean house in Olympia?"