Family Miscellany.

Fixing the Day.

Says Patrick O'Brien to Kathleen Mulreddin,
"Now why won't you be fixin' the day of our weddin'?"

Says Kathleen, "Why, Pat, what a hurry you're in,
Can't you wait till the summer comes round to begin?"

"Oh, no, Kathleen," says Pat; "in all sinse and all raison
The winter's the properest marryin' saison;
For to comfort one's self from the frost and the rain
There's nothing like wedding in winter 'tis plain."

KATHLEEN.

"If it's only protection you want from the cowld,
There's a country they call the Equator, I'm tould,
That for single young men is kept hot through the year—
Where's the use of you marryin'? be off wid you there."

PATRICK.

But there's also a spot not so frequently warmed,
Set aside for ould maids, called the Pole, I'm informed;
Where some mornin', if still she can't make up her mind,
A misfortunate colleen, called Kathleen, you'll find.

KATHLEEN.

Is it threat'nin' you are that I'll die an ould maid
Who refused for your sake Mr. Lawrence McQuaide?
Thin I think I'll forgive him—for this I'll be bound,
That he'd wait like a lamb till the summer came round.

PATRICK.

Now, it's thinkin' I am that this same Mr. Larry
Is what makes you so slow in agreeing to marry.

KATHLEEN.

And your wish to be settled wid me in such haste,
Doesn't prove that your jealous of him in the laste.

PATRICK.

Well, we'll not say that Kathleen will die an old maid:

KATHLEEN.

And we'll bother no more about Larry McQuaide.

PATRICK.

But, Kathleen, mavrone, shure then weddin's in spring,
When the Long Fast is out, are as common a thing
As the turfs on a rick, or stones in a wall;
Why, you might just as well not be married at all.
But a weddin', consider, at this side of Lint,
Would be thought such a far more surprisin' evint;
So delightful to all at this dull time of the year—
Now say "yes," for the sake of the neighbors, my dear.

KATHLEEN.

No, Patrick, we'll wed when the woods and the grass
Wave a welcome of purtiest green as we pass
Through the sweet cowslip meadow, and up by the mill,
To the chappel itself on the side of the hill;
Where the thrush that's now sighing a widow's lamint,
In a bridesmaid's costume 'll be smilin' contint;
Whilst the thrush and the blackbird pipe "Haste to the Weddin'"
Of Patrick O'Brien and Kathleen Mulreddin."

PATRICK.

Will you really promise that, Kathleen, you rogue?

KATHLEEN.

Whisper, Patrick, the contract I'll seal with *a pogue*. (*Kisses him.*)

SHIEL DRUV.

WHEN does a cook fire best?—When she has a long range.

WHAT is the difference between stabbing a man and killing a hog? The one is assaulting with intent to kill, and the other killing with intent to salt.

AN American philosopher suggests that "the absolutoid elementimus of Being echoes or re-appears by analogy within the relatoid and concretoid elaborismus." This should be generally known.

ELIZABETH CHURCHILL tells the girls that the best novels ever-written will hurt them if they read nothing else—that they will grow sentimental, morbid, and self-seeking, while common duties will become distasteful and common pleasures insipid. Mrs. C. believes that half the wretched marriages spring from the romantic vapid reading of our girls, and that she who can talk sensibly of the current topics of the day, who can tell whether Sante Domiago is one of the Orkney Islands or not, and whether, on the whole, she wants it annexed; who reads Spencer and Ruskin and Stuart Mill, doesn't throw her life into the care of the first booby or *roue* who asks her to do so, because it is romantic to be engaged.

BE SOCIAL AT HOME.—Let parents talk much and talk well at home. A father who is habitually silent in his own house may be in many respects a wise man; but he is not wise in his silence. We sometimes see parents, who are the life of every company which they enter, dull, silent, uninteresting at home among the children. If they have not mental activity and mental stores sufficient for both, let them first provide for their own household. Ireland exports beef and wheat, and lives on potatoes; and they fare as poorly who reserve their social charms for companions abroad, and keep their dullness for home consumption. It is better to instruct children and make them happy at home, than it is to charm strangers or amuse friends. A silent house is a dull place for young people—a place from which they will escape if they can. They will talk or think of being shut up there; and the youth who does not love home is in danger.

Behind Time.

A railroad train was rushing along at almost lightening speed. A curve was just ahead, and the train was late, very late, still, the conductor hoped to pass the curve safely. Suddenly a locomotive dashed into sight. In an instant there was a collision. A shriek, a shock, and fifty souls were in eternity; and all because an engineer had been *behind time*.

The battle of Waterloo was being fought. Column after columnn had been precipitated upon the enemy. The sun was sinking in the west; reinforcements for the defenders were already in sight; it was necessary to carry the position with one final charge. A powerful corps had been summoned from across the country. The great conqueror, confident of its arrival, formed his reserve into an attacking column, and led them down the hill. The whole world knows the result. Napoleon died a prisoner at St Helena, because one of his marshals was *behind time*.

A condemned man was being led out for execution. He had taken human life, but under circumstances of the greatest provocation. Thousands had signed petitions for a reprieve: still none had arrived. The last moment was up. The prisoner took his place on the drop—a lifeless body swung in the wind. Just at this moment a horseman came into sight his steed covered with foam. He was the person with the reprieve. But he had come too late. A comparatively innocent man had died an ignominious death, because a watch had been five minutes too slow, making its bearer arrive *behind time*.

It is continually so in life. The best-laid plans are daily sacrificed because some-body is "behind time." There are men who always fail in what they undertake, simply because they are "behind time." There are others who put off reformation year by year, till death seizes them, and they perish unrepentant, because for ever "behind time."

Reader, ask yourself seriously the question, whether there is not some danger of your being among this class? There are thousands of souls in the place of woe who are there because they put off the thought of eternity till it was too late. Oh, it is sad to think that there are some there for this who were once living amongst us, and that more will be! God grant, friend, that it may not be so with you!

The Poor Customer.

"How much butter?"—"One half pound, if you please."

"And sugar?"—Half a pound, sir."

"And those oranges?"—Half a dozzen sir."

"You go by haves, to-day. Well, what else? Be speedy, ma'm, you are keeping better customers waiting."—Half a peck of Indian meal, and one French roll," said the woman; but her lips quivered, and she turned to wipe away a trickeling tear.

I looked at her straw bonnet, all broken—at her faded shawl, her thin, stoop form, her coarse garments; and I read "poverty" on all—extreme poverty. And the palid, pinching features—the mournful but once beautiful face—told me that the luxuries were not for her.

An invalid looked out from his narrow window whose pale face longed for the fresh oranges; for whose comfort the tea and the butter and the fine French roll were bought with much sacrifice. And I saw him sip the tea, and taste the dainty bread, and praise the flavor of the sweet butter, and turn with brightening eyes to the golden fruit. And I heard him ask her, kneeling at the smooking hearth, to taste them with him. And as she set her broken pan on the edge to bake her course loaf, I heard her say, "By and bye, when I am hungry."

And "by and bye," when the eyes of the sufferer are closed in sleep, I saw her bend over him, with a blessing in her heart. And she laid the remnent of the feast carefully by, and ate her bread unmoistened.

I started for my reverie. The grocer's hard eye was upon me. "You are keeping better customers waiting."

Oh, how I longed to tell him how poverty and persecution, contempt and scorn, could not dim the heart's fine gold purified by many a trial: and that woman, with her little wants and holy sacrifice, was better in the sight of God than many a trumpet-tongued Dives, who gave that he might be known to men.

ONE of the most remarkable effects of the length and unbroken character of the winter has been the springing up of a trade between the opposite shores of Lake Erie by loaded sleighs, which, we are informed, is without precedent in the memory of even the "oldest inhabitant." We do not anticipate anything but a nine days wonder from this new line of traffic; but doubtless those who participate in its advantages find in it more than the grace of novelty.

SHALL WE REMAIN BEHIND?—Says the Port Hope *Times*, until to a comparatively recent date, the agricultural interest has been considered the essential one to foster in the Dominion, and notably in Ontario; it is only in the last years that the most important towns have began to feel, not alone that further progress is almost impossible, if we place our dependence alone on Agriculture, but that Agriculture also cannot be successfully carried on, without a market for home consumption of Agricultural products. It is only by means of manufactures that the requisite consumption can be furnished. The towns of Cornwall, Stratford, Guelph and other places have voted bonuses and exemption from taxation for a number of years to various factories, and now our sister town of Peterborough has granted a large bonus to the Woollen Mill: more, it has set aside the enormous sum of $40,000 to encourage manufactories of different descriptions. Will Port Hope, favored by its position and water power, remain idle! It depends upon the spirit of enterprise of our citizens whether we shall keep equal pace with Peterborough, Stratford, &c., and the rapidly growing Oshawa.

And may we be permitted to ask what is Orillia going to do to foster manufactures, upon which the town must mainly depend for its future prosperity.

QUESTIONABLE POLICY.—Daubing the walls of every railway station along the line of emigrant travel with rainbow-hued advertisements of cheap lands in Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska. Placarding them too with every conceivable way of getting out of Canada into the Western States. Doing States' Emigration Agency for wall paper and hanging one meek and paid counter-attraction containing some inoffensive remarks about our Free Grants alongside the brilliant and meretricious petticoat-patterned posters of Uncle Sam.—*Mail.*

THE SUEZ CANAL.—De Lesseps, the Suez Canal engineer, has just issued his report for 1871. The report is not as satisfactory as was expected. It was generally predicted that the last year's income of the canal would reach $2,000,000, the result of tonnage fees on 1,000,000 tons of shipping. The report, however, shows that tonnage to the amount of 771,409 only passed the canal, at a toll of $2 per ton, making the total receipts $1,542,818. The total expenses, meanwhile, amount to $3,700,000. Anybody but a Frenchman would be crushed at once at such a result, but M. De Lesseps now proposes to make up the deficit by raising a new loan of $5,000,000, but just how it is to be done does not appear. Of the vessels which made up the canal traffic seventy out of every one hundred were English, making a total tonnage of 556,621, the tonnage of American vessels being only 4,170. There is little doubt that after another year or so more of M. De Lesseps' experience in keeping a toll-gate on the Suez Canal he will gladly "sell out" to the English Government, which is looking on and patiently biding its time.

CAUTION.—I hereby caution all parties against paying accounts due the firm of RAMSAY & CO., to any person, until further notice, as no dissolution of the said partnership has yet taken place, and R. Ramsay having failed to carry out his part in the award of the late arbitration, it is null and void.

P. MURRAY.

Orillia, 28th Feb., 1872.

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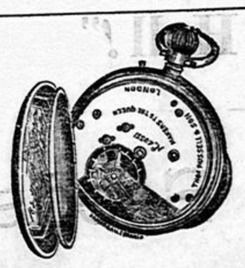

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