

# MILLBROOK AND OMAHA MIRROR

Durham and Victoria Standard

VOL. 16. NO. 9. \$1 per annum.

MILLBROOK ONT., THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1904.

C. W. RICHARDS, Publisher and Proprietor

## A Cat's Paw

Or, The Maid of the Mill

### CHAPTER I.

Tourbillon looked wistfully after the retreating couple as they disappeared amongst the trees. For a moment he could have envied Mr. Egremont and Miss Tregunier their open, above board, and avowed attachment. Only for a moment, soon reflecting that such matters were quite out of his line, that he was totally unfit for the flat sameness of domestic life, that the only sort of woman, half devil, half coquette, who could hope to interest him now, was the last he would wish to place beside him in his home, and that he was actually here at this spot but in accordance with that evil spirit which made novelty, mystery, and intrigue the daily bread of his existence.

A rather stout, showy-looking lady dressed in black, came rapidly along the broad gravel walk, and when she approached the Count, disclosed, as if purposely, the envelope of a letter in her left hand. The Frenchman's eye brightened, his languor vanished in an instant. The hawk in her sweep, the leopard in her hair, the wolf on the spot, every beast of prey wakes into energy when its quarry comes in sight. Tourbillon took his hat off without hesitation, and wished her "Good morning," as if he had known her for all his life.

"Madame has been most gracious in according me this interview," said he. "I have no time to learn how I can be of service to Madame." He tried hard to see her face, but a couple of black veils drawn tight, concealed the features as effectually as could any riding mask of the last century. His quick perceptions, however, took in at once that her figure was remarkably good, that she was exceedingly well-dressed, and that the jewelry, of which she wore a good deal, though very magnificent was in perfect taste.

Her handkerchief, too, and this with a gentleman of Tourbillon's experience counted for something, was trimmed with an edging of broad and delicate lace.

"A lady," thought the Count, "no doubt. Not quite a grande dame, but still a person of position. Who can she be, and where can she have seen me before?"

He had no question, notwithstanding the protestations in her note, that this was a fresh conquest; assuming, therefore, his pleasantest manner and his sweetest smile, but the bright face clouded, the comely cheek turned white with the first tones of her voice, while she replied—

"I know Count Tourbillon well. I think he cannot have forgotten me. I am sure he will not deny that I have a right to ask of him any favor I please."

He could only gasp out, "Fanchon! Madame Enslee! Just Heaven! And I thought you were dead!"

"It would have made little difference to you if I had been," she answered, perfectly unmoved, but not without a touch of scorn. "It need make no difference to you now. Count I did not come here to talk about yourself, but about somebody whose boots you were never fit to black. I speak pretty plain. I've come from the side of the water where people say what they mean, and give it mouth too."

"You did not think so once," he broke in angrily, and then growing conscious that the position was false even ridiculous, continued more temperately—"We all make mistakes, Madame. This is a world of mistakes. I cannot see that it is the interest of either to injure the other. Circumstances conspired against us, but my feelings towards you have ever remained the same."

"I can easily believe it," she answered bitterly. "There was no love lost, Count, you may take your oath. I told you that, pretty smart in the letter I left on my dressing-table at Milan. You used to laugh at my French, but you understood every word of those six lines, I'll be bound. Short and sweet, wasn't it? And what I said then I mean now."

"Your French like everything about you, was always charming," he replied gallantly. "Shall we sit down a little apart from the public walk? Your appearance, Madame, is sufficiently attractive to command attention anywhere."

"I'm sure I'm not ashamed of my company you needn't be," said the lady, moving to a less conspicuous spot, nevertheless, and lifting her double veil, that she might converse more freely. "I've not much to say, and I shouldn't care if the whole world saw you and me together; but I don't want to be overheard all the same."

Just the old petulant, willful, off-hand manner, he thought; the old self-scorn, the old want of tact, refinement, and good-breeding. Looking into her face, too, he could still recognize much of the bright, comely beauty that had so captivated his fancy for a few weeks many years ago. It was coarser now, indeed; bolder, harder, and what people call overblown; but, notwithstanding her life of change, sorrow, excitement, and adventure, the miller's daughter was a handsome, striking-looking woman, even yet.

You have already learned by Tourbillon's exclamation of astonishment that it was no other than Fanny Draper, or rather Mrs. Ainslie, who thus sat by his side in Kensington Gardens, whom he had never seen since she left him in a fit of anger, disgust and passionate repentance, some two months after her desertion of Gerard, and whose subsequent ca-

## LEADING MARKETS.

The Ruling Prices in Live Stock and Breadstuffs.

**BREADSTUFFS.**  
Toronto, July 26.—Wheat—Is steady at 91c to 92c for No. 2 red and white west and east. Goose is steady at 78c for No. 2 east. Spring wheat is steady at 85c for No. 2 east. Manitoba wheat is steady. No. 1 northern is quoted at 95c, No. 2 northern at 92c, and No. 3 northern at 89c at Georgian Bay ports, and 6c more grinding in transit.

Flour—Cars of 90 per cent. patents are quoted at \$3.95 to \$3.70 in buyers' bags—west, 2c. Choice brands are held 15c to 20c higher. Manitoba flour is firm at \$1.80 for cars of Hungarian patents, \$4.50 for second patents, and \$4.40 for strong bakers' bags included, on the track Toronto.

Millfeed—Is steady at \$16.50 for cars of shorts and \$15 for bran in bulk west or east. Manitoba millfeed is steady at \$19 for cars of shorts and \$18 for bran, sacks included, Toronto freights.

Barley—Is steady at 41c for No. 2, 39c for No. 3 extra, and 37c for No. 3 west or east.

Buckwheat—Is nominal at 45c for No. 2 west or east.

Oats—Is nominal at 57c to 58c for No. 2 west or east.

Corn—Is steady at 45c for cars of Canada west. American is steady at 59c for No. 2 yellow, 58c for No. 3 yellow, and 56c for No. 3 mixed in car lots on the track Toronto.

Cats—No. 1 white are quoted at 33c, and No. 2 white at 32c east and at 32c west and middle freights.

Rolls—Oats—Are steady at \$4.50 for cars of bags and \$4.75 for barrels on the track Toronto; 35c more for broken lots here and 40c more for broken lots outside.

Peas—Are steady at 60c to 61c for No. 2 west or east.

**COUNTRY PRODUCE.**  
Butter—The market continues easy in tone.

Creamery prints ... 17c to 18c do solids ... 15c to 16c Dairy tubs, good to choice 12c to 13c do inferior grades ... 9c to 11c Dairy pound rolls, good ... 11c to 12c do inferior ... 9c to 10c

Cheese—Quotations are unchanged at 8c for large and 8c for twins.

Eggs—Receipts are not large, but the shrinkage is. The market is quoted at 16c to 16c.

Potatoes—Old stock are quiet and are quoted unchanged at 70c to 75c for out of store. New are unchanged at \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bushel.

Poultry—Quotations are unchanged at 20c for spring chickens and 11c for yearlings.

Baled Hay—The market is steady and is quoted unchanged at \$8.50 to \$9 per ton for No. 1 timothy on track here.

Baled Straw—Car lots on track here are quoted unchanged at \$5.50 per ton.

**MONTREAL MARKETS.**  
Montreal, July 26.—Flour—We quote as follows:—Winter wheat patents, \$4.80 to \$4.90; straight rollers, \$4.60 to \$4.70; straight rollers, in bags, \$2.20 to \$2.25.

Feed—Manitoba bran, in bags, \$15.50 to \$16.50; shorts, \$17.50 to \$18.50 per ton; Ontario bran, in bulk, \$15 to \$15.50; shorts, \$16.50 to \$17.50; and molasses, \$24 to \$28 per ton, at quality.

Meal—There was no improvement in the demand for rolled oats, and prices were unchanged at \$2.15 to \$2.20 per bag. Cornmeal was also quiet at \$1.30 to \$1.40 per bag.

Hay—No. 1, \$9.50 to \$10; extra good No. 2, \$9 to \$9.50; ordinary No. 2, \$8.50 to \$9, and clover, mixed, \$7.50 to \$8 per ton, in carload lots.

Cheese—Quebec goods were offered here from first hands at 7c, and the spot range to-day was 7c to 7c, while for township 7c was the general bid, and while there was no dealings in Ontario makes, it is doubtful if the even figure could have been realized.

Butter—The butter market holds fairly steady, and the inquiry over the cable was sufficient to lead to the turn-over of some good-sized lots of fine townships, on which the shipper realized 17c. There is quite an export demand for unsalted township butter also, and it commands 18c, and even better, if it is alleged, was paid. With regard to spot trading, exporters were buyers of finest creamery at 17c to 17c.

Eggs—Select, 17c to 17c; straight gathered, 15c.

**BUFFALO GRAIN MARKETS.**  
Buffalo, July 26.—Flour firm. Wheat dull; No. 1 northern, 1.06; Corn steady; No. 2 yellow, 55c; No. 2 corn, 53c. Oats easy; No. 2 white, 45c; No. 2 mixed, 41c. Barley, nothing doing. Rye, No. 2, 74c in store; Canal freights steady. Wheat, 2c to New York.

**LIVE STOCK MARKETS.**  
Toronto, July 26.—While trade was not absolutely quiet at the Western Market to-day, sales did not pass off with their accustomed vigor. Prices in cattle did not decline in any appreciable degree, but the values of lambs sunk under the weight of unusually liberal offerings, and closed steady at the decline. Hog prices were firmly maintained.

The following was the range of quotations:—Rest butchers' sold at \$4.50 to \$4.80; fair to good (including cows) \$4 to \$4.50; common cows, \$2.50 to \$3.50 per wt.

The following quotations were for feeders and stockers:—Short-keep feeders, 1,200 lbs., \$4.75 to \$4.90; feeders, 1,000 to 1,200 lbs., \$4.50 to \$4.75; feeders, 800 to 1,000 lbs., \$3.50 to \$4; stock calves, 400 to 700 lbs., \$3 to \$3.50 for choice, and \$2.75 to \$3 for common.

## JAPS SCORE SIGNAL SUCCESS

Drove Russians From Strongly Fortified Position on Chi River.

WITHIN A MILE OF GOAL. A despatch from London says:—It is rumored from Shanghai that the Japanese have captured the western fort at Port Arthur, and are now within a mile of the main defenses, which they are bombarding. It is stated from the same source that the garrison is reduced by fighting and sickness to 20,000 men.

**JAPS' POOR SHOOTING.**  
A despatch from Liao-Yang says:—In the course of an interesting interview General Rennenkampf, who was recently wounded, and is now in a hospital, coolly criticized the Japanese shooting as not up to the mark, and said the Japanese relied upon the quantity, rather than the quality of their fire.

**THREE RUSSIAN ARMIES.**  
The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris states that the Russian War Office has decided that as Japan has three distinct armies in the field in Manchuria, there shall be three Russian armies also, two under Gen. Kouroupatkin, and the other under some other general, but all under the general direction of Vice-roy Alexieff.

**BRITISH VESSEL TORPEDOED.**  
A despatch from New-Chwang states that the commander of a Russian torpedo boat reports that he accidentally torpedoed a British vessel in the Gulf of Peking. The vessel is supposed to be the steamer Hipsang, which belonged to the Hindeo China Navigation Company, and has been four days overdue at Chefoo from New-Chwang.

**BURIED IN THEIR BLOOD.**  
Rabbi Drabkin, of St. Petersburg, in an interview had with him by an Associated Press correspondent, asserted that there were 150,000 Jews fighting in the Russian army in Manchuria. The Rabbi calls attention to the fact that when Jews fall in battle their burial is different from that which occurs when dead results in other ways. The Talmudic law requires that those who fall in battle shall be buried in their blood. Therefore, the bodies of such are not placed in shrouds, but are interred in their clothes.

Although Jewish soldiers can officiate at such burials, Rabbi Drabkin thinks that rabbis should be sent to the Far East, together with the instruments prescribed by the Jewish ritual, the only place in that region where these now are being Harbin. The Jews in Russia are subscribing immense sums for the aid of the families of their co-religionists in the field. Odessa alone having contributed \$175,000.

**RUSSIAN SHIPS AT**  
A despatch from Tokio says:—The Russian fleet is now engaged in cremating the bodies of those who were killed in the fighting on Sunday, July 17, than can be buried, and the Japanese are now engaged in cremating the bodies.

**AIM CRUSHING BLOC.**  
A despatch from St. Petersburg says:—The army organization believes that the Japanese are preparing for a general offensive against the Russian positions in the north of Liao-Yang and the south of the Yalu.

Regard is being paid to the superiority of their position, and the great changes in the position of the Japanese army.

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