

A FORM FROM THE PEN OF BIRCHALL.

A little local incident put in verse, as it may sound a trifle better and be more interesting, let us call it—

FRIENDSHIP.

I'm afraid it's of no use Regie, the race of my life is run; I went the pace from the fall of the flag, and now—well, my time has come: Don't cry, old man, it's not like you, who said you had no'er a heart; You must not grumble now the time has come for us both to part.

We've been good pals for many a month since I first met you at Wray's— And you've often asked me, Regie, to tell of my early days. What made me leave the racing world and come to this quiet place To meet my death from a broken heart, like a favorite losing a race.

Just give me a drink of brandy and prop me up—just so. Is that my old dog Charlie? you needn't tell him to go; He's been a good friend to me, old man, and followed me many a day. And cheered me up by his dear old face when far from my friends away.

Well, Regie, old man, you little thought that I was a married man. Although all to flirt with the girls, you know, was never my plan. You thought me a woman-hater, that the race course was my wife, But little you thought that a woman was the curse of early life.

I saw her first at the Derby, when the horses faced the green, And I thought as I stood on the grand stand such a face I never had seen. Her eyes met mine, so blue, so true, she left me like one in a trance; How could I hope to win such a pearl, what wouldn't I give for the chance?

I met her next at the Strange's ball, I waltzed with her till half past nine, I married my life to that night, though it looked so faint and bright. Within three months she became my wife and I her faithful slave, To-morrow one quiet row will see when I'm laid in my widow's grave.

Thanks, Regie, the brandy again dear boy, at heart I feel so sick. But I want to tell you all of my tale, and I grieve I shall have to be quick. I feel my strength fast leaving, and a mist seems to come over my eyes; No, I'll never jump Bescher's brook again, I'm shaking earthly ties.

Months we seemed to be happy, but I found her love wasn't real, She'd married my cash and position, and I'd thought her as true as steel. A sport-maz, rich and good-looking, as good a horse-man as made, She thought me a likely catch, you see, and for me her trap she laid.

Then soon a cousin chap turned up, rich but an awful cad, And to see him lolling about my house used to drive me nearly mad. They said he'd been mixed in some turf affairs of a rather shady shade— It was always a mystery to me how his thousands a year were made.

I was down for a fortnight's hunting and my wife to some friends had gone, When I had a short wire from Arthur to run up to town the next morn, I caught the last train that evening, as I thought it would save me some time. If I slept at my show in town that night and got back to Lechlade to die.

I let myself in with my latch key, but I seemed to be struck with a chill, For voices I heard in the drawing-room that I thought was shut up and still. I stood like one dumb with amazement, then straight to those sounds I ran, For my wife's was one of those voices, the other was that of a man.

As I opened the door of that room, my God! what a sight met my eyes! My wife, who I thought was in Yorkshire, in the arms of that cousin she lies. I scarcely knew what I was doing, I was mad at that moment I know, But I know I hit out from the shoulder and that man went down at the blow.

Then I seized him so tight in my arms his strength seemed like that of a child, And out of the place I chucked that rat, by whose touch my hands were defiled. He left for France the next morning, and his life had a very close shave; But I know he'll remember my wrath that night and carry the marks to his grave.

Regie, dear friend, I got weaker, your hand, and, Charlie, your paw. 'Tis a comfort to know when your dying there are friends like you a'er near. Mystery is very near finished, my wife now goes her own way— In Paris she has a thousand a year and I came to this quiet old place.

Send my watch and my rings to my mother, she never could take to my wife, Although to make her boy happy I knew she'd have given her life. Hark! Regie, the flag has fallen, 'tis a desperate dash we ride. Good-bye, old fellow, God bless you—then helay back still and died.

Coronation Ceremonies in Swaziland.

The natives are making preparations for the coronation of their young King and chief paramount of the Swazie nation. An impi has been sent out hunting for a lion, tiger, buffalo, and a large snake. Part of the ceremony at the coronation consists of the King eating a portion of the hearts of the first three animals, to give him courage; afterward being anointed with the snake's fat to prevent him being bewitched. The buffalo's head is placed on the ground, and the young King sits on it between the horns, clothed only in the lion's skin on the first day, and in the tiger's skin on the second day, and on the third day he must come out of his kraal quite naked and be presented to his people who came up from all parts of Swaziland to salute "Byate," the King of the Swazie nation, as the great lion, great tiger, and other titles. The chiefs, or indunas, are each expected to bring a present of cattle to the new King so as to give him a good start.—Correspondence Newcastle Chronicle.

Death-Blow to Love.

Father—So you think our daughter has fallen in love with that young man? Mother—She is perfectly infatuated with him.

Father—What do you propose to do? Mother—That feeling of undying love which she has must be turned to aversion or she may elope with him in spite of us. We must do it at once.

Father—But how? Mother—We must try to give her the impression that none of the other girls want him.—New York Weekly.

She Wasn't Surprised.

Friend—Madam, you have not heard from your husband since he went out in the wild West, have you? Wife—No; John has not written to me for a long time.

It is my painful duty to tell you that he has been hanged for horse stealing. Some ranchmen caught him in the act and strung him up.

I am not surprised. John was always high strung.

THE METHODIST CONFERENCE.

A Vote of Censure on Dr. Sutherland—He Resents It and Resigns—It is Modified and He Withdraws His Resignation—Dr. Sutherland and the Government.

A Friday's Montreal despatch says: The General Conference was thrown into a state of excitement and entanglement today such as has seldom been witnessed in similar bodies. So involved was the matter under consideration that the clear-headed General Superintendent gave three different rulings on the same point. The whole trouble arose from the transference of two districts, Bowmanville and Uxbridge, from the Toronto Conference to the Bay of Quinte. This piece of ecclesiastical gerrymandering, as one speaker described it, was done last night by a forced vote, and was so unexpected that many looked upon it as a huge joke. So quietly was the closure applied that the chairmen of neither of the districts interested had a chance of speaking, and many thought their silence indicated that they desired the change. The constitutional two-thirds vote was secured, and the districts were transferred. When a demand was made for reconsideration to-day, it was found that a two-thirds vote would be required to reverse the action of the previous evening, and consequently, although many changed their votes, the transference was sustained by little more than a bare majority. By this change Rev. H. S. Matthews, secretary of the Toronto Conference, and Rev. T. W. Jolliffe, who has been 25 years in the Toronto Conference, are both placed in the Bay of Quinte Conference. The rearrangement of the conference boundaries has very intimate relation with the pecuniary circumstances of ministers, hence there is a desire on the part of many smaller conferences that their limits should be extended, because the larger area places a greater number of desirable stations at the disposal of the ministers. London, Guelph, and the Bay of Quinte have been demanding more territory at the present Conference, and a general rearrangement was proposed. This was defeated largely by the Toronto vote, and in retaliation the onslaught on the boundaries of the Toronto Conference was supported by the smaller bodies, and the Bay of Quinte carries off two very desirable districts.

Rev. J. S. Williamson, who moved the vote of reconsideration, said he did so chiefly in order that those brethren who had been shut off by the closure on the previous evening, and who should be heard on this subject, might get the ear of the Conference.

Rev. H. S. Matthews seconded the motion, which was carried by a vote of 64 to 49.

MODEST TORONTIANS.

Dr. Alex. Sutherland said it seemed to be taken for granted that the General Conference was to chop up Toronto without any reference to the wishes of the people. This dismemberment would make Toronto Conference a strip 20 to 30 miles wide and 150 to 200 long, and one of the smallest Conferences in the connexion. The fact was the Bay of Quinte wanted more good stations. Every Conference wanted that, so it was not a valid reason for a change. Were the people of the Toronto Conference to be turned over like a lot of sheep to whoever might want them?

Rev. Dr. Parker moved that the action of the previous evening be reversed, and Uxbridge and Bowmanville be returned to the Toronto Conference.

The motion to transfer back was put and lost, 60 voting for it and 76 against, a two-thirds vote being necessary to carry.

Dr. D. G. Sutherland then moved that the whole matter of rearrangement of Conference boundaries be referred to a special commission to report to the next General Conference.

The motion was carried by a vote of 74 to 76, and it was decided that each annual Conference should at its next meeting elect a clerical and lay representative on the commission.

WON'T HAVE IT NAMED "HAMILTON."

The recommendation of the Memorial Committee to change the name of the Niagara Conference to that of Hamilton was opposed by Mr. J. S. Williamson, who asked why such a change was proposed. It could result in nothing but harm.

Rev. J. S. Ross said that as Toronto had a name given to a conference, why not give the name of Hamilton to a conference and have uniformity?

Mr. J. A. Donley—Why not use the name of St. Catharines or Brantford? Dr. Alex. Sutherland said it was a general agreement at the time of the union that the name of this conference should be retained. There would be no gain in the change except perhaps to gratify a few people in Hamilton.

The recommendation of the report was voted down, and the name remains as at present.

DR. SUTHERLAND CENSURED.

A clause of the report of the Committee on Indian Affairs read:

That at the session of '87 the Dominion Parliament appropriated the sum of \$10,000 for the establishment of industrial institutions in the Northwest, to be placed under the direction of our Church; that this appropriation having lapsed, they, in the session of 1888, appropriated the sum of \$37,000 for a like purpose; that this appropriation having also lapsed, they, at their last session appropriated the sum of \$25,000 for the same purpose. This last appropriation is now in force and if not acted upon it will likewise lapse on the 30th day of June next. Your committee recommend that it be an instruction from the General Conference to the Mission Board to take immediate steps to arrange for sites and secure as soon as practicable the erection of industrial institutions, for the establishment of which the \$25,000 has been appropriated. Your committee feel that for several reasons it is a matter for regret that these moneys have not been utilized for the purpose for which they were appropriated, for the purposes and in accordance with the best interests of Indians themselves, alike from a worldly and a religious point of view, and so in keeping with the policy and object of our missionary labors among them, and they regret to add that they have been unable to discover any sufficient reason why our Church has not before this time been in possession and control of an industrial institution in full operation such as was contemplated by those appropriations.

THE SECRETARY EXPLAINS.

This was a direct arraignment of the missionary secretary and was accepted as such by him. He came to the front and went into a history of the whole transaction to show that the mission authorities had done all they reasonably could to utilize these grants. A warm debate ensued.

MODIFYING THE CENSURE.

Rev. A. C. Courtois moved that the part of the clause implying censure be struck out.

Rev. J. W. Holmes moved in amendment that simply the last few lines, stating that the committee regret they have been unable to discover any sufficient reason why the Church has not been in possession of the industrial institute, be expunged.

The amendment to the amendment was carried by a vote of 63 to 60.

The clause as amended was adopted by a vote of 60 to 59.

A RESIGNATION TENDERED.

The General Conference rose for dinner, and on resuming business the following letter was read:

REV. A. CARMAN: DEAR BROTHER,—In view of the issue raised in the debate on the report of the Special Committee on Indian Affairs, and the subsequent vote thereon, I feel convinced that my usefulness as General Missionary Secretary is so seriously compromised that it would be unwise, looking solely to the interests of the society, that I should continue to hold office. I beg, therefore, respectfully to tender my resignation, and request that you will be good enough to lay the same before the Conference for immediate action. Yours respectfully, (Signed) A. SUTHERLAND.

WANT THE CENSURE REMOVED.

Mr. John S. Clark rose and said he voted with the majority before dinner under a misunderstanding, believing that the censuring clause of the report had been eliminated.

Rev. J. J. Rice said he also had voted under a misunderstanding, and would second the motion.

The motion was carried. Dr. Douglas proposed the clause be entirely eliminated from the report.

THE CONFERENCE MUST RESPECT ITSELF.

Judge Dean said the object of the report had been accomplished, and he would be quite willing now to withdraw it altogether. But the Conference must preserve its self-respect. If Dr. Sutherland was prepared to admit he had been in error, he was willing that the whole thing should be wiped out. The self-respect of the Conference demanded that they should not be brought to rescind the report under the whip of Dr. Sutherland's resolution.

The vote on the two amendments was then taken over again, and resulted in all the objectionable parts of the report being struck out, the simple statement of the money voted by Parliament and the recommendation that the matter be proceeded with as soon as possible remaining.

Dr. Douglas then moved, seconded by Judge Dean, that Dr. Sutherland's resignation be not accepted.

The motion was carried almost unanimously, and Dr. Sutherland arose and withdrew his resignation when the matter dropped.

THE DOCTOR AND THE GOVERNMENT.

On the clause of the Missionary Committee's report recommending that 45 per cent. of the total amount devoted to missions during the next quadrennium be devoted to domestic missions instead of 38 1-10 per cent.

Dr. Sutherland moved in amendment, that the amount be increased to 42 1/2 per cent. instead of 38 1-10 per cent.

The amendment was carried. The clause of the report protesting against the want of assistance from the Government to the British Columbian institutions caused a warm discussion. A number of the delegates protested strongly against the Government being attacked in the report.

Rev. Mr. Addison moved that all such references be struck out of the report. He claimed that the reason the Government had not done more for the Methodist Church was that its offers had not been improved upon.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland said the whole question in regard to the British Columbia institutions had been brought before Sir John Macdonald and the Superintendent of Indian Affairs by a deputation over a year and a half ago, and the matter had been fully gone into and the claims of the Methodist Church pressed upon the Government, but no answer had yet been received from the Government.

Rev. Dr. Griffin said the trouble seemed to be that the Methodist Church was not in touch with the Government like the other churches. (Laughter.) It was unfortunate, but it looked as if Dr. Sutherland was not in touch with the Government. (Loud laughter.)

Dr. Sutherland—There must be a big mistake somewhere, as the papers on the other side have all along been saying that I am running a donkey engine in the interests of Sir John. (Great laughter.)

Rev. C. Bryant, President of the British Columbia Conference, supported the report. He charged that the Government agents in British Columbia had endeavored to undermine the influence of the Methodist missionary by the Indians. The missionaries were persistently traduced and their interests neglected. He knew whereof he spoke, and this was a matter for the most serious consideration of the Government.

Mr. Addison said that after Mr. Bryant's statement he would withdraw his amendment for the removal of the clause, which was then unanimously adopted.

OCUMENICAL COUNCIL.

The following were elected representatives to the Ecumenical Council: Rev. Dr. Briggs, Rev. Dr. Dewart, Mr. Warring Kennedy, Mr. J. J. MacLaren, Mr. James Graham, Mr. Wm. Bowman, Rev. John Wakefield, Mr. J. H. Beatty, Rev. W. S. Griffin, Mr. R. W. McKenzie, Rev. Dr. Carman, Rev. N. Burwash, Judge Dean, Rev. Dr. Douglas, Rev. T. G. Williams, Mr. W. H. Lambly, Mr. S. Findlay, Dr. Lathern, Dr. David Allison, Rev. James Woodworth and Mr. David Spencer.

The Lachine canal is to be deepened from thirteen to fifteen feet.

The steamer Majestic made the westward trip in 5 days, 21 hours, 20 minutes.

It is understood that Mr. Parnell will shortly call a convention of the Irish Nationalist party.

North Grey Liberals will meet at Owen Sound on Saturday, to nominate a candidate for the Commons.

The yacht Annie S. of Detroit, is supposed to have capsized off Belle River, several men on board being drowned.

An explosion occurred yesterday on board the steamer Pandora at Newcastle, Eng., by which twelve persons were so badly injured that they will die.

STEWING AND BOILING.

A Practical Lesson as to How They Are Properly Done.

Girls, says a writer in Demorest's Magazine, which one of you knows how to make a stew? "I do." That is well; tell me how you do it. "Oh, I just take some meat and potatoes, carrots, onions, and any vegetables I choose, put some water on them, and boil them together, and—that is all." You have described a great many stews in describing yours. I don't think I should like any of them, so I shall tell you how I make it, and I want each one of you to try and follow my directions, and if you do so conscientiously I think you will be able to make a stew, and, what is more, a good stew.

The first step is to understand what "stewing" is. Do not for one moment imagine it is boiling, for they are distinctly different methods of cooking. Stewing is cooking by a slow, gentle, moist heat. Keep this well in your mind. You must not let your stew boil or you change the character of your dish at once. Boiling toughens meat; stewing, on the contrary, softens the fibers and renders it more tender.

In purchasing meat for stewing you may take the cheaper, poorer parts, where there is most blood. That is where there has been most action. Now, what part should you imagine that would be? "The legs." Yes; and although perhaps a little tough they are the juiciest parts of beef. Pieces from the round, chuck, or upper portion of the shank are all good. The meat should have some bone and fat. Cold meat makes a most excellent stew, as the roasting or broiling it has already gone through tends to improve the flavor.

In preparing your meat you must first wash it. How would you do that? "Put it under the faucet and rub it well." You might just as well take the scrubbing-brush to it! No; to wash meat take a clean cloth, wet it with cold water, and wipe your meat carefully. Remember that cold water extracts the juices, and all such losses must be carefully guarded against. Cut your meat in small pieces, take off superfluous fat and bone, and keep the bone for the bottom of the kettle; it will prevent from sticking or burning. To a pound of beef you will require one quart of cold water. Put the bones in the kettle, and also the ragged, poorer bits of meat, that some of the juices may escape into the water which is to form your gravy; then put the kettle on the fire.

The meat which you have cut in small pieces should now be well dredged with flour, then fried a good brown on both sides. As fast as they become brown put them in the kettle, and as soon as the contents thereof boil it should be moved to the back of the range and there allowed to simmer steadily for about three hours. To one good pound of meat add one small onion, sliced, one small carrot and turnip cut in cubes, dredged with flour, and slightly browned. Put them in the kettle to simmer with the meat.

"Why do you dredge and brown the meat and vegetables?" For several reasons. The flour forms a paste over the meat and keeps in the juices and it thickens and browns the gravy to such an extent that you will seldom find it necessary to add thickening when your stew is finished, as is generally necessary. A stew is a most economical dish unless you keep up your fire purposely, then it becomes expensive, for you cannot make it quickly—never under two or three hours. The slow, steady simmering renders your meat both tender and nutritious.

BOILING.

There is no process of cooking which requires so much care, and is so often neglected, as boiling. This is the most extravagant method of cooking any meat if the water in which the meat is cooked is not utilized as stock. In the necessity of the case no meat can be boiled without losing some of its nourishing qualities and enriching the water in which it is cooked. The French process of brasing, by means of which meat is slowly covered and slowly boiled in a stock which becomes gradually absorbed by the meat, is the only one by which the meat does not suffer actual loss. All meat, in boiling, should be merely simmered. There should be a slight ebullition to the edge of the pot, nothing more. This ebullition should be kept up steadily till the meat is tender, and no longer, as nothing is more injurious to any boiled dish than to allow the boiling to stop or to cook it after it is done.

There is a difference of opinion as to the best methods of cooking salt meats. Some excellent cooks plunge such meats into clear, cold water, and bring the water gradually to the boiling point, while others believe they obtain the best effects by cooking them in boiling water. In either case, after the meat begins to boil, it should merely simmer. There are also two methods of cooking fish. One is to plunge the fish from cold water into boiling salted water, and let it slowly simmer till done. The better method is to put a perfectly fresh fish over the fire in cold water, bring it very slowly to the boiling point, and let it remain at this point till done.

Most vegetables are better cooked fast excepting potatoes, beans, peas, cauliflower and others which contain starch. Cabbage should be boiled rapidly in plenty of water; so should onions, young beets and turnips. Peas can be cooked thoroughly when tender in twenty minutes. They should be slowly simmered in as little water as possible. The best way to cook string beans is to merely simmer them for at least two hours, when the water in which they are cooked should be nearly or entirely absorbed. A little hot cream sauce may now be added, and the beans may be boiled upon.

As a rule most vegetables are overdone, but there is something obstinate in the tissues of all the bean family, and long cooking is required to make them tender. Lima, or any other fresh shelled beans, require an hour to cook tender; but corn from the cob is better for only fifteen minutes' cooking, and will be ready for the table if it is steamed on the cob twenty-five minutes. Potatoes are often badly cooked. Half an hour is the average time for boiling them mealy, though some potatoes will cook in less time. All stale vegetables require more cooking than fresh ones.—New York Tribune.

An epidemic in a Berlin suburb is believed to be influenza.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

Bishop Farand of Athabasco, died yesterday at St. Boniface, Man.

A death from cholera is reported to have occurred at Bristol, England.

Toronto will advertise for tenders to light the whole city by gas, and may abandon the electric light system.

Sir Hector Langevin ridicules the idea of dissolution, and says Parliament will not meet before February.

The American fishing schooner David Crockett was seized at Souris, P.E.I., yesterday for violation of the fishery law.

The body of Dr. Ebersson, drowned in Rideau Lake and buried in Portland cemetery, has been carried off by resurrectionists.

Favorable reports of the Northwest crop have failed to keep up the price of Canadian Pacific stock on the London Exchange.

President Palmer of the World's Fair says the principal buildings will be located in Washington Park, and the overflow in Jackson Park.

During the past seven days there were twenty-seven business failures in Canada. Their number was the same for the corresponding week last year.

A despatch from Berlin denies the report that Germany has demanded satisfaction and compensation from England for the killing of German subjects at Viti.

Mr. G. T. Davis, proprietor of extensive shipyards at Levis, has closed all his works and dismissed 102 men because the Knights of Labor sought to dictate to him whom he should employ.

A grand jury at Toronto recommended that poor families of prisoners incarcerated in the Central Prison should receive 40 cents per day, which is the average earnings of men in the Central Prison.

The report of the Conference Committee on the tariff bill was submitted to the House of Representatives yesterday, and is to be taken into consideration to-day. Mr. McKinley proposes to fix the final adjournment of Congress for Tuesday.

Frank J. Dougal, a prominent citizen and merchant of Windsor, died on Thursday. The deceased was a son of the late James Dougal, one of the pioneers of Windsor, and who was one of the prominent figures in the patriotic war.

Attorney-General Hardin, of Kentucky, has instructed the State auditor to refuse to grant a license to the Frankfort and Henry county lotteries. The last Legislature passed acts designed to exterminate these lotteries. The lotteries claim that their license should be renewed yearly until their charters expire, which will not be for some years.

Across the Atlantic in Eighty-Four Hours.

The Canadians have actually under consideration a project which, they allege, will result in reducing the run from shore to shore of the Atlantic to eighty-four hours. The project is to construct a railway eastward from Quebec to the coast of Labrador, somewhere between Belle-Ile straits and Cape Weebriock or Hamilton inlet, and thence run a service of fast steamers to Milford Haven. The most easterly point of the Labrador coast is about 900 miles nearer to us than Quebec, and Milford Haven is nearer to America by fully 300 miles or thereabouts. The saving effected in mileage, compared with the run as at present performed from Liverpool to Quebec or Portland, would reach, it may be assumed not less than 1,000 miles, and it is perfectly evident that a voyage of under 2,000 miles could be made well within four days—nearer three and a half, indeed, than four days. The journey by train from the most easterly portion of Labrador to Quebec would hardly take more than eighteen to twenty hours, so that the travellers would be enabled to reach the old Canadian capital within four and a half days of stepping on board the boat at Milford Haven; or, taking into account the railway journey from London to the Welsh port, it would be possible to reach Quebec within five days of leaving the metropolis, only three and a half of which would be spent on the water. At present the voyage occupies fully seven days, or, allowing for the journey from London to Liverpool, nine and a half to ten days. The choice of the Labrador route would reduce the duration of the voyage by nearly or quite one-half in point of time, to say nothing of the extra comfort travellers would experience from the shorter period spent on the open sea.—London Morning Post.

History of the Barber's Pole.

Of all symbols, none is so ancient as the barber's pole; few have caused so much antiquarian research. According to the "Athenian Oracle," the ancient Romans were so benefited by the first barber who came to their city that they erected a statue to his memory. Anciently barbers acted in a dual capacity as hair-dressers and surgeons. In Rome they were wont to hang out, at the end of their pole, basins, that weary and wounded travelers might observe them at a distance. The particular staff is said to indicate that surgery was carried on within, the color-stripe representing the fillet elegantly entwined round the patient's arm while he was phlebotomized. An illuminated missal of the time of Edward I. has a plate representing a patient, staff in hand and arm in fillet, undergoing phlebotomy. Barbers proper—that is, hair-dressers and barber surgeons—were distinguished by the color of the bands on the poles, the former having a blue and the latter a red. As far back as 1797 barbers and surgeons were compelled by statute to display their poles, the latter likewise affixing gallipots and red rag at the end. The fabulist Gay, in his fable on the "Goat Without a Beard," alluding to a barber's shop, speaks of the red rag pendant from the pole.—All the Year Round.

David Tolmie, of Brantford, aged 75, was choked to death while eating his dinner yesterday.

The Anti-Slavery Convention, sitting in Paris, recommends that the work of suppressing slavery be divided among national committees, which shall have a common aim, but which shall act separately, chiefly through missions, to moralize the natives.