

Flesherton Advance.

"TRUTH BEFORE FAVOR." — "PRINCIPLES, NOT MEN."

VOL. XIV., NO. 633

FLESHERTON, ONT., THURSDAY, JUNE 7 1894.

W. H. THURSTON EDITOR & PROPRIETOR

CLOCKS.

One of the finest assortments outside of Toronto and at prices to meet every pocket, from \$1.25 up.

SILVERWARE. A full stock of beautiful and useful goods in cruets, pickle dishes, knives, forks, spoons, ornamental goods, &c.

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D. McTavish, Flesherton
Horseshoer and General Blacksmith, keeps on hand
Repairs for Massey & Harris, Maxon, Fleury and Wilkinson Bros.
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Plows:—Fleury and Veity—on hand all the time, also all kinds of repairs for the same. We manufacture Wagons, Buggies, Cutters, Sleighs, etc. Horseshoeing promptly attended to. Special attention to tender or contracted feet. Logging and Plow Chains constantly on hand.

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GENTLEMEN:

I DESIRE TO ANNOUNCE that I have taken over the Carriage and Wagon making business lately carried on by Mr. Moore, and am now prepared to fill all orders in my line to your entire satisfaction. Having lately added to my sixteen years' experience in the business a nine months' training in one of the best carriage shops in the city of Detroit, where I succeeded in carrying off a first class recommendation, ought to be a sufficient guarantee that all work will be done in a first class manner. I manufacture Wagons, Buggies, Cutters, Sleighs; in fact everything in the carriage line. Wood and lumber taken in exchange. Kindly give me a call.

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Next door to McTavish's blacksmith shop.

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WANTED Energetic men can find steady employment with us as salesmen. Experience not necessary. Handsome outfit and the benefit of over 25 years experience furnished every man. Choice special lines and control of territory.—We have over 700 acres of choice stock and can give you many advantages. Our mode of securing and retaining salesmen is superior. Call for our terms. The trial will cost you nothing.

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A Rare Chance.

FOR Sale or Exchange for Village property in Flesherton, Flesherton Station, Maxwell, Southampton, or Faversham; a valuable Farm of 107 acres, one mile north of Kimberley in the Beaver valley, Tp. of Euphrasia. On the premises are a good frame house, barn and drive house, also a good orchard and well supplied with water. Apply to

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A HAUNTED SCHOOLHOUSE!

Some Ghostly Manifestations

IN S. S. NO. 10, GLENELG, CREATE INTENSE INTEREST AND EXCITE THE POPULACE — AN UNFATHOMABLE MYSTERY.

It is seldom that this county has been treated to a visit from a genuine ghost, and as a rule the people are not susceptible of belief in the supernatural, but school section No. 10, Glenelg, has just now a mystery which has defied the investigations of intelligent and trustworthy gentlemen who have spent days in trying to arrive at the cause. For two weeks past these "manifestations" have been scaring the wits out of teacher and pupils, and the cause is still as far from solution as ever. The Advance visited the scene on Monday and found fully two hundred people present, drawn hither from many miles around through curiosity. A Globe reporter has written up the affair, the article appearing in Monday's paper. The Advance submitted this report to Miss McKechnie, the teacher, and Inspector Campbell, who assert that it is thoroughly reliable in every particular. We quote from it as follows:

On the afternoon of Monday, May 21, the school being perfectly quiet, the teacher, Miss Annie R. McKechnie, at her desk, and the scholars (about 30 in all, ranging from 6 to 14) being engaged in writing exercises, a low, humming noise was heard, apparently coming from some spot between the teacher's desk and those of the foremost pupils.

The sound was ascribed by the teacher to the pupils, and vice versa. Miss McKechnie ordered less noise under this delusion, but the humming instead of ceasing rose in volume, until it seemed to fill the whole room. It was too sustained to be produced by any animal, beast or human. There was no wind, and it is variously described by the hundreds of listeners who have since been attracted to the school as resembling the whirr of a threshing machine when the cylinder is empty, wind blowing into the mouth of a bottle, and the moans of a human being in pain. Sometimes it sounds like the "hum-hum," continually repeated, which many people use instead of the monosyllable yes.

What makes the mystery still deeper is that the sound appears to possess intelligence; indeed both teacher and pupils claim to have heard it speak in muffled human tones. This of course may be hallucination, but Miss McKechnie struck a hammer on the wainscoting, with the remark, "Come out of that," and not one of the children and the teacher herself but stoutly avers that a faint reply came, "I will not."

The following day, Tuesday, a number of the pupils' parents who had been informed of the strange occurrence, gathered at the school house about 9.30 a. m., and the humming having started as before, sent down for Mr. Archie McCuaig, the nearest neighbor, and for the school trustees, Messrs. Hooper, McKinnon and Hempstock, who were as utterly non-plussed and unable to account for the sound as the scholars or teacher. On account of the story told regarding the "reply," the consensus of opinion fixed the blame upon the teacher, and put it down to ventriloquism, the more so that when she was addressing anybody the sound ceased, and though the trustees and a number of the neighbors spent the entire day investigating, without once being able to locate it, this verdict gained considerable strength. At one time the sound would appear to come from the floor, and upon their going to the spot whence it apparently emanated its locality would shift to the ceiling, and although the self-constituted investigating committee spread itself over the entire room the humming always appeared to each hearer to come from three of the girl scholars, and Mr. Hooper, who had just arrived, was so sure it was his daughter, who was one of the number, that he jokingly asked her to do it "real well." Finally all the pupils were sent over an adjacent hill 100 yards away, and three of the adults stood outside to see that they remained there, but still the humming continued. Suspicion again fell on Miss McKechnie, as during noon hour of the following Friday the sound ceased returning when she did.

On Saturday and Sunday, although a large crowd had gathered at the school house nothing was heard. On Monday the trustees locked the building up, and brought Mr. N. W. Campbell, of Durham, Inspector of Public Schools for South Grey, to the scene of the mystery, and under his directions a most thorough investigation was made. The floor was torn up, a hound and a fox terrier being sent underneath to discover if possible whether the sound (which was still continued) was caused by any animal, but without result. Then for a time there was no unusual manifestation, until the children began to recite the multiplication

table, which they chanted in the usual school drape, when it was heard again, at first low and pitched in the same key as the children's voices, but finally increased to a miniature roar, entirely drowning all other sound but its own. Dr. Hutton and Mr. Donald McCormack, of Priceville, thought it was caused by the same three girls who had been charged before with being the cause of the disturbance. This theory was of course, proved to be erroneous, and was but the outcome of the bewilderment which the entire affair has caused. Finally all the scholars and the teacher were sent away, windows were stopped up, the walls examined for cracks and the roof opened and about twenty investigators stood inside, but the sound had stopped. Mr. Campbell stood with watch in hand timing the silence. At the end of five minutes he made some observation, which was replied to by someone else, and the watch being returned to the pocket again the humming was apparent. This, in conjunction with a still more peculiar incident, gives rise to the theory of "intelligences." The incident aforesaid was as follows: In the early part of the investigation the three girls mentioned had been subjected to the test of being sent from one part of the room to the other, and, while the sound always appeared to follow them, it remained for the space of a quarter of a minute in the place they had left, then would be silent, and then be heard again, proceeding, apparently, from one of them. Thus it will be seen that the investigators have proven that it is not ventriloquism, that it is not caused by pupils or teacher, or, indeed, by any one having human lungs, it being a physical impossibility for them to sustain such a prolonged breath; that it is not caused by a silver rattled by the wind or by the wind itself blowing through some crevice, as it has been heard loudest when there was no breeze at all; that it does not proceed from any animal concealed about the building (an insect theory is out of the question, as the noise is too loud), and, finally, that it apparently possesses intelligence. Now the question is: What is it? Miss McKechnie states that not only did the sound take all the forms mentioned, but that often it would be impossible to tell it from the cry of a child, and that she had been asked by one visitor who had heard it from without whom she had been "giving it to" now? Sometimes it sounded like the yelp of a hound, sometimes it resembled the smothered whimpering of a litter of pups, and always appeared to come from within the apartment, but could never be located. I am perfectly convinced that such conclusions as have been arrived at, regarding what it is not caused by, are correct. The school is a plain log building in poor repair, but so small that the idea of ventriloquism (with which I am slightly acquainted) is ridiculous.

The above report gives all the facts with regard to the matter up to date. On Monday of this week the teacher reopened the school, which had been closed for three or four days, in presence of Inspector Campbell and others, but the noises still continuing the whole floor and wainscoting were torn up and without any result, and the building has been vacated. School will henceforth be held in another vacant building not far away until a new schoolhouse can be erected. Miss McKechnie's nerves, which are not of the weak kind, have been completely unstrung by the affair. The "What is it?" will probably never be discovered and the matter may go down to posterity as one of those unexplained psychological phenomena that mankind appears incompetent to solve. We have yet to meet the man who believes it is supernatural, but then, what is it?

Kimberley.

Miss McLean passed over to the silent majority last Wednesday night after a lingering and painful illness. Her remains were interred in the union cemetery at Thornbury. The bereaved ones have the sympathy of the surrounding vicinity.

The married and single men had a very interesting baseball match on Saturday, resulting in a victory for the latter by a score of 11 to 20, but the married men are not discouraged yet as they purpose playing on Saturday again, this time for the supper.

We are sorry to have to mention it, but we deem it our duty. There are some of our young men and boys who seem to have very little respect for the house of God. They are in the habit of standing around the door and gazing in through the windows and making considerable noise when service is going on. If you do not care to have your names mentioned in print, take warning.

Mount Zion.

From our own Correspondent.
Mrs. James Cornfield, sr., who has been in ill health all the winter is, we are happy to say, improving.
Our Sunday School is now in operation for its summer's work under the able superintendence of Edward Ross.
Miss Lizzie Henderson has returned from a lengthy visit to friends in Toronto.
Mr. Bowerman, of Eugenia, has moved onto Mr. Armstrong's farm.
Miss Tillie White is home from Allan-

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—OR—
Light Spring Suit

See our stock and prices.
CJ. LEITCH,
MERCHANT TAILOR.

ville, Michigan, where she has been teaching school.
Mr. and Mrs. James Cornfield, jr., paid a visit to Brampton lately.
The Patron picnic in Thompson's grove was a success in spite of the inclement weather which prevailed.
We are sorry to hear that we are to lose both of our popular ministers at this point. We think that we might get keeping Mr. Perry but we must bow to the will of fate.
And now, Mr. Editor, as the busy season of seeding is a thing of the past for this year we will try to send in our budget of news more regularly, i. e. if we have any to send, as news is often at a discount here.

TO THE
Independent Electors
—OF—
Centre Grey:

At Colpoys, a hamlet three miles from Warton, a tame bear belonging to James Shackleton, hotelkeeper, of that place, while playing with the four-year-old child of the owner, became angry, and tore the child to pieces.

Rheumatism Cured in a Day—
South American Rheumatism Cure, for Rheumatism and Neuralgia, radically cures in 1 to 3 days. Its action upon the system is remarkable and mysterious. It removes at once the cause and the disease immediately disappears. The first dose greatly benefits. 75 cents. Sold by W. E. Richardson, Druggist.