

**THE STEPMOTHER.**  
 The stepmother's lot is hard. From the first she is a target for the enmity of her husband's children. Her marriage is generally an unequal one. She needs a home, and her husband requires a mother for his children. It is a business transaction on both sides. But if little sentiment exist, the call of duty is clear, and many a step-mother who reluctantly meets with abuse starts with a desire to do her duty. But her husband's children rebel per her by their unkindness, and unjust suspicion. Every fault that she commits is magnified to prove that she is true to the character of her class; and the children triumph in the vindication of a general truth. She cannot always reckon on the support of her husband for he loves his children and hates family disputes. He is apt to side with his children as against a legal wrongdoer. The wife, although she may have married practically, does not like to be set at naught in her own house, and she is determined to be the better of her husband. Every source of domestic anarchy thus becomes increased, until the entire house is plunged into all the miseries of a sort of civil war. And the poor step-mother bears the entire blame. Girls, old and young, should think carefully before consenting to occupy such a trying position. Better face the terror of old maidenhood than the duties which it is impossible to fulfil to the satisfaction of all concerned.

**CURED OF DRINKING.**—A young friend of mine was cured of an insatiable thirst for liquor, which had progressed him to the point of being unable to do any business. He was entirely cured by the use of Hop-Bitters. It allayed all that burning thirst; took away the appetite for liquor, made his nerves steady, and he has remained a sober and steady man for more than two years, and has no desire to return to his cups; I know of a number of others that have been cured of drinking by it. From a leading R. O. Official, Chicago, Ill.—Times.

**A REMARKABLE PONY.**  
 A well authenticated and extraordinary case of the sagacity of the Shetland pony has just come under our notice. A year or two ago Mr. Wm. Sinclair, pupil of the Hon. Mr. Justice, imported one of the little animals from Shetland with him to ride to and from school, his residence being at a considerable distance from the school buildings. Up to that time the animal had been untried, but sometime after Mr. Sinclair had it sold by Mr. Pratt, the parish blacksmith. The other day Mr. Pratt, whose smithy is a long distance from Mr. Sinclair's house, saw the pony, without halter or anything upon it, walking by the wayside where he was working. Thinking the animal had strayed from home, he drove it off, throwing stones after the beast to make him homeward. This had the desired effect for a short time but Mr. Pratt had only got fairly to work once more in the smithy when the pony's head again made its appearance at the door.  
 On proceeding the second time outside to drive the pony away, Mr. Pratt with a blacksmith's instinct took a look at the pony's feet, when he observed that one of the shoes had been lost. Having made a shoe he put it on, and then wanted to see what the animal would do. For a moment it looked at the blacksmith as if asking whether he was done, then pawed some or twice to see if the newly shod foot was comfortable, and finally gave a pleased neigh, erected his head and started home at a brisk trot. The owner was exceedingly surprised to find the animal at home completely shod the same evening, and it was only on calling at the smithy some time afterwards that he learned the full extent of his pony's sagacity.


**ALMOST A TRAGEDY.**  
 At Hwy, near Mens, their lately laid the peasant, the dampness of whose clothes led him to try the experiment of putting on a small scale as a cure for his ills. Some weeks ago, owing to his presumed, to the unsatisfactory nature of his habitation—he had a cow, and what appeared to him at least as serious, a cow. He and his wife also felt poorly. The man accordingly decided to consult the wise man of the village—the leviner, as that functionary was called. It appears that few leviner handle as without a divine of this description. "Go home," he said to the peasant, "and tomorrow morning burn the first person who crosses your doorway. That person will have been the cause of your ills. I will take care that God sends him." The countryman went home as directed, and with the aid of his spouse, prepared a kind of funeral pile in the biggest room in the house. Early next morning an arrived a neighbor, a kind hearted woman, who had rendered all sorts of services to the pair. Notably, she had nursed their child during its last illness. The peasant exclaimed: "Ah, it's you. I might have thought so," then seized the luckless woman and bound her to the pile. His wife had meantime bolted the door, after which she sat fire to the wood. The screams of the victim in no way softened them and her life might have ended in torture had not a lucky inspiration occurred to her. "Don't let me die without confession," she moaned. "That's only fair," replied the peasant, and sent his wife for the priest, who lived only two doors off. The woman executed her commission faithfully enough, and the tragedy was cut short—just in time. The Mons-tribune condemned the peasant to two months and his wife to forty days' imprisonment, and to pay the victim 300 francs.

**WEEKLY SPECTATOR**  
 AT 100 EIGHT-PAGE PAPER  
 ONLY—  
 Per Year. (\$1) Per Year.  
 One of the Largest and best Weeklies in Canada.  
 Agents receive 25 Cents for every yearly subscriber. Any party sending us three subscribers will have been the cause of your ills. I will take care that God sends him." The countryman went home as directed, and with the aid of his spouse, prepared a kind of funeral pile in the biggest room in the house. Early next morning an arrived a neighbor, a kind hearted woman, who had rendered all sorts of services to the pair. Notably, she had nursed their child during its last illness. The peasant exclaimed: "Ah, it's you. I might have thought so," then seized the luckless woman and bound her to the pile. His wife had meantime bolted the door, after which she sat fire to the wood. The screams of the victim in no way softened them and her life might have ended in torture had not a lucky inspiration occurred to her. "Don't let me die without confession," she moaned. "That's only fair," replied the peasant, and sent his wife for the priest, who lived only two doors off. The woman executed her commission faithfully enough, and the tragedy was cut short—just in time. The Mons-tribune condemned the peasant to two months and his wife to forty days' imprisonment, and to pay the victim 300 francs.

**ROBT. ASKIN, MARKDALE,**  
 Has opened out a First-Class  
**Furniture!**  
 UNDERAKING ESTABLISHMENT,  
 And therefore has established a want long felt, especially in the Undertaking Line.  
 COFFINS, CASKETS, SHROUDS, and all  
**FUNERAL FURNISHINGS,**  
 supplied on the shortest notice.  
**A Splendid Harse**  
 for hire at moderate rates.  
**FURNITURE!**  
 From the Common to the  
**Best and Latest Styles,**  
 in everything in the line.  
 Call and see for yourself.  
**ROBT. ASKIN.**

**Dr. Loring, the new commissioner of agriculture, is the son of a clergyman who lived at North Andover, Mass.** The story is told that he and his brother were gaunt boys. Their father sent them one day to a "sage-jack" to show with some very fat hogs to exhibit. The boys were rather proud of the many compliments paid to the hogs, until a farmer came along and said to an acquaintance: "Mighty nice hogs those of Person Loring's; but why don't he feed his boys more and hogs less."  
**Beckon Blood Bitters** cures scrofula, erysipelas, salt rheum, piles, and all humors of the blood. Cures dyspepsia, liver complaint, biliousness, constipation, dropsy, kidney complaints, headache, nervousness, female weakness, and general debility.

**Markdale General Agency**  
 IS THE BEST PLACE TO GET  
**Money at the Lowest Rates.**  
**STRAIGHT LOANS, NO FINES, CHARGES LOW.**  
 If you want insurance patronize the  
**UNION FIRE INSURANCE Co.**  
**LANCASHIRE FIRE and LIFE Co.**  
**BRITISH AMERICA ASSURANCE Co.**  
**CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION.**  
**Wanzer Sewing Machines,**  
 Unequaled in range of work and ease of motion.  
**DOHERTY ORGANS,**  
 Unsurpassed in beauty of tune and power.  
**Farms for Sale and More Wanted.**  
 Thankful for past favors, I am determined to merit a further share of public patronage by fair and honest dealing and prompt attention.  
**THEOPHILUS HALL.**  
 Markdale, March 29, 1881.

**MARKDALE CARRIAGE WORKS!!**  
**McKENNA & MASON**  
 HAVING leased the Wagon and Blacksmith shops owned by John Benson, we are prepared to furnish all kinds of Vehicles, such as  
**BUGGIES, DEMOCRITS, WAGGONS, ETC.,**  
 AT PRICES TO SUIT THE TIMES.  
 And by using the Best of Material and Good Workmanship, hope to receive a fair share of your patronage. Special attention given to  
**HORSE SHOEING**  
 AND  
**General Jobbing!**  
 As we warrant all our work. A call is solicited, and we guarantee satisfaction.  
 Shop on Mill street, opposite the Revere Hotel.  
 Markdale, March 5, 1881. 25 3m.  
**FLESHERTON**  
  
**Harness Shop!**  
 THE Subscriber begs to inform the public that he has constantly on hand a large assortment of  
**CARRIGE, BUGGY AND TEAM HARNESS.**  
 Made in good style and of the  
**THE BEST OF MATERIAL,**  
 And as he means business give him an early call, as he will sell at the lowest living prices, for cash. A good supply of  
**WHIPS, TRUNKS, &c.,**  
 always on hand.  
**Scotch Collars A Specialty,**  
 And a good fit guaranteed.  
 Remember the stand the Post Office is opposite. N. B.—Stave timber wanted.  
**J. GORDON.**  
 Flesherton, March, 1881. 16  
**ESTABLISHED 35 YEARS**  
**WEEKLY SPECTATOR**  
 AT 100 EIGHT-PAGE PAPER  
 ONLY—  
 Per Year. (\$1) Per Year.  
 One of the Largest and best Weeklies in Canada.  
 Agents receive 25 Cents for every yearly subscriber. Any party sending us three subscribers will have been the cause of your ills. I will take care that God sends him." The countryman went home as directed, and with the aid of his spouse, prepared a kind of funeral pile in the biggest room in the house. Early next morning an arrived a neighbor, a kind hearted woman, who had rendered all sorts of services to the pair. Notably, she had nursed their child during its last illness. The peasant exclaimed: "Ah, it's you. I might have thought so," then seized the luckless woman and bound her to the pile. His wife had meantime bolted the door, after which she sat fire to the wood. The screams of the victim in no way softened them and her life might have ended in torture had not a lucky inspiration occurred to her. "Don't let me die without confession," she moaned. "That's only fair," replied the peasant, and sent his wife for the priest, who lived only two doors off. The woman executed her commission faithfully enough, and the tragedy was cut short—just in time. The Mons-tribune condemned the peasant to two months and his wife to forty days' imprisonment, and to pay the victim 300 francs.


**WILLIAM STRAIN,**  
 Dealer in all kinds of  
**AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, WAGGONS, Sewing Machines, Organs, Fanning Mills, Tin and Copper Ware.**  
**COOKING, PARLOR AND BOX STOVES**  
 Always in Stock. As I keep all kinds of REPAIRS for the Implements I sell, Farmers will see the advantage of dealing with a Local Agent.  
**WM. STRAIN, Flesherton.**  
 Flesherton, March 24, 1881. 28 1f

**OH, HEAR. OH, HEAR. OH, HEAR.**  
 Squander your money if you want to, if not, get your Photographs of  
**W. BULMER,**  
 The People's  
 Photographer,  
 Flesherton  
 Who is again prepared to take Pictures, and do Copying and Enlarging as heretofore.  
**FRAMES AND FRAME FIXINGS.**  
 We receive a large stock of MOTTOS and Motto and other Frames, and Frame Fixings, which we can, and mean to sell at Remarkably Low Prices. Call and receive bargains.  
 Bring along your pictures and have them copied and enlarged by your old friend.  
**BULMER.**  
 Flesherton, March 10, 1881.

**THE RUSH. THE RUSH.**  
 Three Women after a Dozen Herrings.  
 SPRING HAS MADE ITS APPEARANCE, AND  
**BUTTER & RAE**  
 In order to make room for their Spring Stock, offer all their  
**WINTER GOODS AT COST!**  
 NOW IS YOUR TIME TO GET BARGAINS  
 In Dress Goods, Cloths, Shawls, Men's Caps, Shirts, Drawers, Overcoats, Flannels, &c.  
**DON'T PASS THE PLACE AS WE MEAN BUSINESS.**  
**New Goods Arriving Daily.**  
 In Tweeds, all patterns. Cottonades, Ducks, Shirtings, Ginghams, Denims, White and Grey Cottons, Dress Goods, Prints, Hollands, Towellings, Collars, Ties, Bracons, Colored and Dress Shirts, and all small wares usually kept. Hats in Felt and Fur—all prices.  
**Ordered Clothing a Specialty.**  
 Don't forget that COOPER & SMITH'S BOOTS are the only Boots worth buying, and we are the ONLY SHOP in Town that keep them.  
**CROCKERY and GLASSWARE IN ALL STYLES.**  
 N. B.—We trust that all customers will remember that we MUST have money. If accounts are not paid by the 15th inst., the Bailiff will deal with them after that date.  
**BUTTER & RAE.**  
 Markdale, March 3, 1881.

**D. J. SHANAHAN'S Dissolution of Partnership.**  
 WAGON and  
**Carriage Works,**  
 Just opened, opposite the drug store, Mill street. Having long experience in the business, we feel confident we can give satisfaction to those favoring us with their orders for CARRIAGES, SPRING WAGGONS, LUMBER WAGGONS, &c.  
 Horse-shoeing, and all kinds of repairing in our line either in wood, iron, painting, and trimming neatly and promptly executed. We use nothing but good material and employ first-class practical workmen.  
 Our aim is to give the best value for the least money, thus securing a repetition of your esteemed orders and the best of your influence among your friends.  
 Markdale, April 24, 1881. 30 2m

**MARKDALE**  
**ALEX RUTLEDGE, Proprietor.**  
**Artemesia Warehouse!**  
**FLESHERTON STATION.**  
 Now on hand for sale, and will be constantly renewed, a complete Stock of  
**Dry Goods, Ready-Made Clothing, Boots and Shoes, HARDWARE, CROCKERY, GROCERIES, PROVISIONS, &c.**  
 All kinds of Country Produce taken in exchange for Goods.  
 Inspection of the Stock respectfully invited.  
 Lumber, Laths and Broomhandles manufactured and for sale.  
**Wm HOGG.**  
 2-1f  
 Flesherton Station, May 27th, 1881.

**MEDICAL HALL**  
  
**SEEDS!**  
**FIELD SEEDS,**  
 INCLUDING  
**CLOVER, TIMOTHY, CARROT, MANGEL WURTZEL, &c., &c.**  
**GARDEN SEEDS!**  
 A CHOICE SELECTION,  
 All of which will be sold at lowest market rates.  
**A. TURNER & CO.**  
 Markdale, Dec. 9, 1880. 13 1f

**STOP. MARK. LEARN!**  
 And then you will know where to go to get the best value for your Money, at  
**R. J. SPROULE'S**  
**GREAT ANNUAL CLEARING SALE,**  
 AT THE  
**POST OFFICE STORE,**  
**FLESHERTON.**

In order to make room for heavy Spring Importations now arriving daily. I have decided reducing my present large and well selected and assorted stock of  
**GENERAL DRY GOODS, FURS, MILLIERY, Ready-Made Clothing, BOOTS AND SHOES, Hats, Caps and Groceries**  
 TO THE LOWEST POINT POSSIBLE, and in order to do so,  
**Will Sell at and Under COST, FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS.**  
 The stock is all new, well bought, and well worth the attention of the closest buyers. In GROCERIES you will find everything of First-Class Value. As I do not pursue the course of some of our windy Merchants of our neighboring Villages, of sending out numerous samples of cheap trash (with unscrupulous recommendations, in order to impress the public that they are properly treated by their more honorable dealers, and draw custom from the many, as you can possibly get for your money anywhere else, as I have always held that honorable dealing is the only true course for a business man. My Groceries are all bought for strictly net cash, consequently I can and will sell at  
**The Lowest Possible Prices!**  
**For CASH and FARM PRODUCE BUT NOT FOR CREDIT.**  
 I have also in stock and for sale, a large quantity of  
**PURE SEED GRAIN!**  
 Such as White Russian, Glasgow, Red Chaff, and other varieties of Spring wheat. Also Pure Clean Peas, Oats and Barley. Prime Timothy and Clover Seed; also Fresh Garden Seeds, and as it pays each and every Farmer to sow clean seed, you will make money by paying a few cents extra, and purchasing a good article.  
 I am now selling large quantities of  
**COARSE LAND SALT, FOR MANURE,**  
 Which will pay every Farmer Five Dollars for every one imported in it, and as I am anxious to sell this locality and neighboring Townships shall sell it, home-landed in direct from the Manufacturers, and bought for half price at Bottom Prices.  
 I would also intimate that  
**SPRING IMPORTATIONS ARE ARRIVING DAILY**  
 And I will have opened out and show  
**On The 1st of April,**  
 One of the Largest and Best Assorted Stocks ever known into this part of the country. Thinking one and all for liberal patronage in the past, and soliciting an increase here purchasing elsewhere,  
 I am, your obedient servant,  
**R. J. SPROULE**  
 Flesherton, March 10 88

**GLASSWARE AND CROCKERY Cheaper than ever at**  
**PIANOS & ORGANS**  
 FOR SALE AT  
**VERY LOW PRICES!**  
 ADDRESS,  
**J. A. CRAWFORD,**  
 429 King Street East, Toronto, Ont.  
 Toronto, April 14th, 1881.

**FOR REASONS NOT GIVEN**  
**The Cheapest Place to Buy Goods**  
**REYNOLDS & SON'S,**  
 Come One, Come All.  
 As they have purchased a well assorted stock of Goods at Lowest Cash Prices, and examine our goods before purchasing elsewhere.  
 Good Fresh Teas for 25c. and upwards.  
 10 pounds of Light Sugar for One Dollar.  
 12 pounds of Currents for One Dollar.  
 Coal Oil 30 cents per gallon.  
 Extra heavy Cotton, 9c per yard.  
 Muslins, 10c. per yard.  
 Mens' Felt Hats 75c  
 Tweeds for 60c and upwards.  
 Prints, 6c. and upwards.  
 Glassware and Crockery Cheaper than ever at

**\$1.00. Chord Index \$1.00**  
**Wonderful Invention,**  
 THIS IS A  
**MECHANICAL DEVICE**  
 For Learning to Play  
**CHORDS AND ACCOMPANIMENTS,**  
 ON THE  
**PIANO AND ORGAN**  
 Any person, Young or Old, whether  
 have any Musical talent or not,  
 can learn or PLAY ANY-  
 THING, in a VERY  
**SHORT TIME,**  
 what would take  
 years in the old way,  
 besides a great expense  
 for Books, Tuition, etc., etc.  
 Sent, pre-paid on receipt of \$1.  
**ALSO—**  
**PIANOS & ORGANS**  
 FOR SALE AT  
**VERY LOW PRICES!**  
 ADDRESS,  
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