

THE ACTON FREE PRESS.

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CHEAP BREAD FOR THE MILLION, B. & E. NICKLIN, Beg to announce that they have secured the services of a First-Class Baker,

and that their baking business is now in full operation, in the premises owned by Mrs. Hanna.

Bread will be delivered daily at the houses in the village and vicinity. Wedding Cakes, Tea Cakes, Pastry, Buns, &c., made in the very best manner, and kept always on hand, good and fresh.

The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited. B. & E. NICKLIN, Acton, Feb. 22, 1876.

JAS. MATTHEWS, ACTON, Clerk 4th Division Court, Conveyancer, Commissioner in Q. B., Fire Insurance Agent, Life Insurance Agent, Issuer of Marriage Licenses, Agent Money to Loan or Borrow, Agent Montreal Telegraph Co., Debts Collected on Commission, and General Agent, &c., &c.

Parties intrusting their business with me will be satisfactorily dealt with. Office at the Post Office, Acton.

DOMINION HARNESS SHOP, E. K. COOK, Having purchased the stock and good will of the business lately carried on by Mr. J. E. Donahy, begs to announce to the inhabitants of Acton and vicinity that he will continue the harness business in the same premises.

Old Post Office Building, Mill Street, Acton, where he is prepared to turn out work second to none in the Dominion, being a practical workman of considerable experience. All work done promptly and as cheap as the cheapest. On hand a large and well selected stock of Harness, Horse Blankets, Trunks, Whips, Brushes, Combs, &c. Repairing promptly attended to. E. K. COOK, Acton, Sept. 26, 1876.

ACTON LIVERY & SALE STABLE, J. P. ALLAN, Takes pleasure in announcing to the public generally that he is prepared to furnish First-class Horses and Carriages at Reasonable Rates. His Horses and Carriages are the best that can be had, and he is determined not to be surpassed by any City Stable. Acton, July 1st, 1876.

STEAM Carriage & Wagon WORKS, MICHAEL SPEIGHT, General Blacksmith, Carriage and Wagon-maker. Best Horse-Shoers in the County. Perfect satisfaction guaranteed or no price charged. First-Class Plows and Colman's Patent Iron Harrows always on hand. A good stock of Carriages and Wagons. Repairing promptly and properly attended to. Acton, July 18, 1876.

THE SMACK IS SMOOK. A district school, not far away. Mrs. Hanna, the mistress of the mill. Her father handed them to her, after stowing away his belt. Carrie wrote tremblingly, in a fine hand, 'Father do not be frightened; we are in a trap.' Go in the opposite corner of the room, where your face will be in the dark, and look at the bust above the door. In it you will see two glittering eyes that have watched you count your money. 'Read it,' she said aloud, handing the card to her father. 'I want you to see if I am too extravagant.'

A BRAVE GIRL. In the winter of 1842, a gentleman and his daughter, a young lady, while travelling through Canada, arrived about midnight at an old-fashioned tavern. The gentleman concluded to stop there instead of going on to the village of S—, which was ten miles distant, and which they had thought to reach. The daughter—Lurrie—expressed a willingness, as the tavern presented a comfortable appearance, and they alighted, when it was plainly to be seen that the gentleman was quite lame; so much that he was obliged to use a cane.

The landlord came out, and calling a boy to take the horse and sleigh to the barn, he ushered Mr. Spencer and his daughter into a bright fire burning on the hearth, which proved very acceptable to our travellers, who had been in the sleigh since morning. 'Your room will be ready by supper-time, sir,' said the landlord, as he left the room and went into the bar room.

Supper was shortly announced, and after refreshing themselves, Mr. Spencer and Carrie returned to the cozy sitting-room, where they talked and chatted until half-past eight. They were then shown to their room, which was the second story, in a wing somewhat distant from the main portion. The room was very long, with a high ceiling. On one side was a window, and on the other a door. Just above the door was a bust of King George III. The room was plainly furnished, containing two beds, wash-stand and a few chairs.

Carrie took in the whole at a glance, and it must be confessed, had there not been a cheerful fire burning, she would have felt nervous about sleeping there. As it was, the warm glow lit up the room into comparative cheerfulness. 'While she and her father sat by the fire, her eyes wandered to the bust above the door, when she noticed that the eye-balls had evidently been knocked out, leaving two empty spaces. 'Well, Carrie,' said Mr. Spencer, presently, 'I think you had better lock the door. I am going to count my money.'

After Carrie had done so, he drew out a money-belt, heavy with bills, and proceeded to count them. While doing so, Carrie's eyes involuntarily wandered again to the bust, when, to her horror and astonishment, in place of the empty spaces were two glittering eyes, greedily watching every movement of her father's.

The young girl could scarcely repress a scream; but controlling herself, she looked toward the fire, while her father went on counting a large roll of bills. 'I must have been mistaken,' thought the fair girl. 'What could make me have such a strange fancy, though?' she continued, glancing again at the bust.

The eyes were still there—two burning, savage eyes, that brightened as Mr. Spencer went on counting. 'Good Heavens!' thought Carrie, 'what shall we do! We are evidently in a den of thieves, and will be murdered for my poor father's money. 'How to communicate their danger to her father without those terrible eyes noticing it, Carrie could not think. Suddenly a bright idea came to her. 'Father,' she said aloud, 'let me take a card and pen-knife. I wish to take a memorandum of some items I want to purchase in the village.'

Her father handed them to her, after stowing away his belt. Carrie wrote tremblingly, in a fine hand, 'Father do not be frightened; we are in a trap.' Go in the opposite corner of the room, where your face will be in the dark, and look at the bust above the door. In it you will see two glittering eyes that have watched you count your money. 'Read it,' she said aloud, handing the card to her father. 'I want you to see if I am too extravagant.'

Then followed a whispered consultation, during which Carrie kept her eyes fixed on the bust; but the glittering orb had not come back. As she concluded, Carrie went to the window, threw it up, and looked out. Beckoning to her father, who came, she said or rather whispered,—

'You see this shed, father! Well, they will probably come up on it, and get in through the window. I do not think they will begin the attack before twelve, so I will get out of this window jump from the ledge, go to the barn and take our horse, and go to S— for help.'

Flinging a wrapper over her slight figure, she bade her father tenderly, and bidding him not to worry over her, she jumped lightly on the shed and disappeared. Mr. Spencer watched her for a while, then closing the window, took out a watch, saw that it was nine o'clock, and proceeded to work. He first covered up the fire, blew out the light, and rolled up a blanket, with which he made a dummy. This he placed in the bed which his daughter was to occupy. Then he lit a pipe, and waited—oh, how anxiously!

Ten, fifteen, twenty minutes went by, and no sound came from the vicinity of the barn. Taking off his boots, he crept noiselessly to the window and peeped out, but he could see nothing. Then creeping to the washstand he laid his money in the drawer and closed it. He then threw himself on the bed and waited.

After an hour had apparently gone by, Mr. Spencer threw off his coat and vest, tumbled up the bed, hobbled to the door, unlocked it, and stepped out into the hall. This was all in accordance with Carrie's plan. 'Landlord! landlord!' he shouted.

'He then went back into the room and noiselessly threw up the window, all the time shouting for the landlord. The worthy came flying up the stairs, and late as it was, he was still dressed. 'Landlord!' gasped Mr. Spencer, rushing toward him, 'I have been robbed! my money is all gone!' 'Gone!' echoed the landlord in dismay. 'Who could have stolen it?' gasped Mr. Spencer. 'I have never a dollar in a belt, and it is gone—stolen!'

The landlord lit the candle and looked around, chagrin depicted on every feature. 'Why don't you wake your daughter, sir?' he questioned. Mr. Spencer hurried to the bed. 'Carrie, Carrie!' he called, but no answer came, and the landlord, drawing near with the light, saw the dummy, and cried, 'Why, man, the girl isn't there!' 'What?' gasped Mr. Spencer. 'Oh, I see it all! The wicked girl has robbed me while I slept, and run off to meet her lover, from whom I was taking her.'

The sheriff and his posse of men held the landlord and his confederates in a vice like grip, while Carrie related the adventures of her perilous ride. 'After I left the barn I led Tommy to a fence, all unsaddled, sprang on him, wound my arms tightly around his neck, and whispered, 'Go, Tommy! I and away he went like the wind. Up and down over the frozen road we went! My arms felt like ice. I thought I should certainly freeze, and after what seemed to be an age of cold, pain, and misery, I dashed into the main street of S—. As we came up in front of the tavern the stage drove up, and the inmates sprang out and rushed to my assistance. I must have been almost insensible for I had to be carried in by the landlord. I was given warm drinks and fully recovered, and was able to relate my story. 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