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Acton Free Press

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TRAMPS.

At present the whole country is swarming with these, perhaps, most miserable of human beings—the tramp. Our Village is receiving her full share of them, as some days there has been seen as many as half-a-dozen to a dozen in one day, wandering around and begging. They will not work to earn a meal, but prefer begging to working. Some of them, we believe, are objects on which to bestow charity, while others are lazy, good-for-nothing loafers, who go around from place to place imposing on those who they think are foolish enough to give them anything. This class are fit subjects for the Central Prison, to which place they should be sent for six months or year, and made to work for their living.

The tramps who have visited us are not entirely confined to the male class, but there has been quite a number of females, who, perhaps, are the most uncivil and vicious of the whole tramp tribe. For instance, a woman called at this office one day last week and wished to know "if we would be kind enough to give her a little money to assist in taking her to Toronto." On being directed to the Reeve, who has money for that purpose, she mildly told us that "we could keep our money and go to h—." This same person went to different parties and wanted money to take her to Toronto, Guelph, and about a dozen other places.

Perhaps one of the best things that the new Council could do would be to erect a lock-up in which to lodge tramps, and make them pay for their night's lodging by breaking Corporation stones with which to grade our streets. The plea may be raised by some that if a lock up was erected we would have it filled every night with tramps. So much the better. The more tramps there are lodged the more stones will be broken, and the better will be the streets. In a short time the tramps will earn nearly enough to pay for the lock up, which would not cost over $500 or $700 to the Village, as therefore $100 lying in Milton to be appropriated for that purpose, which was granted by the County Council. This money would erect a substantial lock-up, with a Council Chamber above, and would be quite an ornament to our Village.

We hope the matter will be fully discussed at the next meeting of the Council, and we would like to see a substantial lock-up erected in this Village in a short time.

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR 1878.

Judging from present appearances, the business prospects for the year upon which we have just entered are by no means encouraging. There is an abundance of money in the country, but there is nothing to bring it into circulation. Farmers in this section of the country do not seem at all inclined to sell their grain at present, although the prices paid are good. No doubt the cause of their holding their grain is because they anticipate England's going into war against Russia very soon, when prices will take a sudden rise. Therefore, as the farmers do not sell their grain, it tends to make the money market pretty close. If they would bring their grain into the market and sell it, it would put an immense amount of money into circulation; but as they do not seem inclined to do so just now, things look pretty blank for at least the next six months. In view of these facts, business men would do well to proceed cautiously. Merchants should purchase sparingly; manufacturers should also curtail their operations to the manufacture of such staple articles as cannot well be done without; and all should live economically. There should be a general taking in of sail, and, bye and bye, they will find that things are not likely to be so bad as they now promise; it would then be easier to expend than to curtail in the event of the reverse being the case. Of course this general curtailment in business will make the labor market even duller than it is at present. This is unfortunate, as the heaviest of the burden will, of course, fall upon those who are least able to bear it. But the difficulty has to be squarely met, and the sooner and more determinedly it is faced the more speedily it will be overcome. We should, therefore, put ourselves in the best possible shape to overcome the difficulties which await us.

Prospects of the War.

According to some sensational journals, England has been as near drifting into a war with Russia as it is possible. It has been asserted that she would not admit the principle of separate negotiations between Russia and Turkey, as Austria, Germany, and Italy have already done. The London *Times*, however, in very forcible language points out the insanity of a repetition of the Crimean War policy, and that it will not be repeated at the present critical juncture of affairs. It is now affirmed that England recommends Turkey to treat separately with the Russians for peace, and it is believed the Porte will act upon the advice. Thus far, a rupture with Russia has been avoided. On what terms of peace the Czar may be willing to treat with Turkey is as yet unknown. The war party in Constantinople are disposed to give trouble and are clamoring for the return of Midhat Pasha, who is now on a mission to the Court of St. James. An insurrection is apprehended. The fortifications of the city are complete, and it is believed, impregnable. The Russians occupy Sofia, which gives them a base for operations in Roumania and opens up the resources of the country around and makes them to a certain extent independent of supplies from Roumania. A drawn battle seems to have been fought between the Turks and Russians at Petritchoi. The Servians do not appear to have been successful in their last engagement with the Turks. The Danube is said to be now thoroughly frozen over, thus rendering the passage of troops easy.

An effort is being made to change the hours of opening the Ontario Legislature and carrying on its business. Many object the late sessions of the House, and are in favor of having a forenoon session from eleven to two p.m., then a second from three to six, when the business of the House would be closed for the day. It is proposed that the Committees, which now meet in the afternoon, could have their sittings at night. The proposed change is a good one. It would greatly benefit the health of members, and would in no way retard public business.

If Pope Pius IX. lives until next June he will have reached, according to tradition, the years of the Pontificate of Peter in Antioch and Rome. The Roman Catholic societies of Rome intend to mark the day by the distribution of money to the poor schools of Rome and other educational institutions there. The officers of these societies appeal to Roman Catholics everywhere to contribute to the fund.

It is stated on good authority that Lord Dufferin will not leave Canada until October next.

Lord Derby is confined to his room.

The British Court goes into mourning for three weeks for Victor Emmanuel.

The Belleville City Council have decided to test the success of artesian wells by sinking one on the Market Square of that town. The cost of boring is stated at $1.50 per foot.

Stanley, the African explorer, arrived at Marseilles on Monday, 31st ult. During his stay in Rome he was presented with a complimentary letter and gold medal from the late King.

The business people of Mount Forest have decided to limit the terms of credit to three, six and nine months. The time allowed will depend upon the season of the year at which goods are sold.

A Case of Baby Farming.

The neighborhood of Don Mount is in a fever of excitement over the arrest of a women named Matilda Willoughby, an alleged keeper of a private lying in hospital, on a charge of killing an infant child by administering paregoric. The particulars, so far as they have come to light, are these: In the early part of August last Mrs. Willoughby rented a house on Dundrassic street, and opened an hospital for the care of infants. For several months her business remained a secret to the neighbors, but the frequency with which funerals occurred from her house aroused the suspicions of those living near, and the matter was fully talked about. No action was taken, however, until Friday, when a girl named McCaffrey, informed the authorities of what was going on, and swore out a warrant against Mrs. Willoughby. It appears that McCaffrey, some three months ago, entered the hospital and had a child on the 7th December last. Upon recovering she complained to Mrs. Willoughby that her child was not being properly cared for, the complaint being followed by a quarrel between the two. This caused Mrs. Willoughby's arrest, which was made by Constable Hodgson. The prisoner was brought before Mr. Bond, J. P., and was committed for fourteen days to await inquiries. The woman McCaffrey says that at her request she was shown the children by Mrs. Willoughby, who [illegible] five women and [illegible] children, all of the former being in bed and two of the latter in a precarious condition. One of the infants had been in an unconscious state for about ten hours, and was still sleeping when the arrest was made. The prisoner acknowledges that seven deaths have occurred in the house since she started it, but denies that they died through druggery, attributing them all to early weaning. The names of two doctors of the city are mentioned as the medical attendants at the hospital, but nothing definite regarding this has been made public. The case is being investigated.

A tragic culmination of a bank robbery took place recently at Lewiston, Pa., not long ago. Thomas Hetrick, famed throughout the country for his integrity and unremitting devotion to duty, was a director of the Mexican Bank, in which his brother-in-law was cashier. Some time ago the bank was robbed of $5,000 under the circumstances indicating that some one connected with the bank was privy to the theft. Hetrick, in great distress, appealed to the clerks, one after another, to confess, and finally the brother-in-law himself acknowledged the crime and promised to return all the money if the whole matter should be kept secret. Hetrick promised, the money was returned through him, and the matter subsided for a time. But the people lost confidence in the bank, and the directors decided that, to save the bank from ruin, the secret must be revealed, and a criminal suit was therefore brought to recover the reward which had been offered at the outset. Hetrick was, of course, compelled to take the stand to give the testimony which would convict the brother of his wife to a prison cell. Every one knew that he would tell the whole truth, and that the mystery would be disclosed at any cost, and every eye was turned upon him. He rose slowly, his face revealing the terrible mental agony under which he labored. His limbs seemed paralyzed, a friend rose beside him to support his trembling form, when his jaw dropped with a gurgling sound, and he fell back into the arms of his friend dead.

The hangman's record for the past year shows that 83 murderers were hanged in the United States. Of this number 47 were white, 31 colored, 1 Indian, and 1 Chinaman; 4 were hanged for indecent assaults, 1 for burglary, 3 for wife-murder, 1 for fratricide, and 1 for fratricide. There were 3 double executions, 1 triple, 2 quadruple, and 1 in which 6 men were hanged. Not a single woman was hanged; the only one sentenced, Mrs. Louisa Lawson, of Virginia, had her sentence commuted to imprisonment for life by the Governor. Pennsylvania still maintains its reputation in the black list as the favorite district on which to confer the death penalty, more murderers having hanged on that day than on all the other days of the week combined. Forty-seven murderers were hanged on Friday, 17 on Thursday, 8 on Saturday, 6 on Monday, 3 on Tuesday, and 1 on Wednesday. There were five executions in January, 5 in February, 6 in March, 6 in April, 10 in May, 15 in June, 11 in July, 1 in August, 5 in September, none in October, 9 in November, and 10 in December. Pennsylvania stands first in the list of States for the greatest number of executions during the past year, South Carolina being second.

Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy, died on the 9th inst. He will be succeeded by his son, Prince Humbert.

Pen and Scissor Selects.

St Louis has 40,000 voters.

Paris has 3,000 artists of repute.

Philadelphia has 700,000 inhabitants.

George Cruikshank, the artist, is seriously ill.

An Ohio man cured $4,000 hams this season.

A man in Louisana married five times in eleven months.

The latest sensation in Dalton, Ga., is a female blacksmith.

Vennor predicts that February will be the coldest month on record.

Philadelphia has 20,000 unoccupied houses at the present time.

The *Globe* states the Dominion Parliament will meet on 7th February.

Some Toronto ladies have formed a mutual improvement literary society.

It is computed that London will contain fully 6,000,000 of people in 1900.

A. T. Stewart's hotel for women, in New York city, cost over $2,000,000.

The Dunkin Act has been carried in Lakefield, East Peterboro' by 29 majority.

A by-law to raise $6,000 for harbor improvements has been carried in Owen Sound.

A movement is on foot to raise [illegible] for Mr. Tilton with a benefit [illegible].

It is proposed by a New York gentleman to establish a kid glove factory at Welland.

Mr. Thos. Ballantyne, of Stratford has paid out $120,000 for cheese inside of ten days.

The steps sold from Toronto distillery to owners of cattle in the city realize $300 daily.

The British public smoked, chewed and snuffed 25,000,000 pounds of tobacco last year.

One Russian corps in the Balkans has had 53 men frozen to death and 820 frost bitten.

The G. W. R. station at Toronto was burglarized on Monday morning, and $100 in money carried off.

There are upwards of 70,000 Sunday schools in the United States, with about 6,000,000 scholars.

When a girl begins to take an interest in a young man's grave it is a sign she does not love him as a sister.

Philadelphia is credited with ninety-nine millionaires of whom the richest is Asa Packer, worth $12,000,000.

Capt. in Bogardus, of New York, recently performed the astonishing feat of breaking with a shot gun, 5,000 glass balls in 500 minutes.

The Brampton *Conservator* says that the Hessian fly has done a great deal of damage to the wheat in the neighborhood of Smithville.

Sir John A. Macdonald was presented with a fine gold watch and chain on Wednesday evening last in Toronto, by the workingmen of that city.

Mr. Geo. Munro, who represented the third riding of York in Parliament in 1844-5, died at his residence in Toronto on Saturday last, aged 77 years.

Gen. O'Neil, who commanded the Fenian force at Ridgeway, in 1866, when the Q. O. R. were disembarked through mismanagement, died on the 9th inst. at Omaha, Neb.

Over $21,000 was raised on Monday of last week in the Elm Street Methodist Church, Toronto, to liquidate the indebtedness caused by the recent enlargements and improvements.

Mr. Sutton, a well known professional base ball player, was converted at a revival meeting in Philadelphia, not long ago. He arose to address the meeting, and said: "I have made the first base, and by the help of the Lord will make a home run."

An English company has been formed to construct underground railways in New York city, on the same principle as those in London. Work is to be commenced immediately and the line will cost from $2,000,000 to $8,000,000. This scheme seems to be the most feasible for the establishment of rapid transit in the metropolis.

Mecker, who, it will be remembered, shot Mr. Jos. Dain, of Yorkville, on the 10th March, 1874, has been tried this week in Toronto and found guilty of shooting with intent to kill. He was discovered in State Prison, Indiana, where he was serving a term for burglary. He was sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment in the Penitentiary.

The photograph is the name given by the inventor, Mr. Edison, to an improvement on the telephone. In connection with this instrument Mr. Edison has an arrangement by which the undulations produced by the human voice are recorded upon a strip of paper, from which at any subsequent time the sentences uttered may be reproduced automatically.

On Sunday evening last the pump and tool shop, of Mr. A. Riddell, Guelph, was completely destroyed by fire. The loss is about $2,500, insurance $1000. It is supposed that the fire was the work of an incendiary.

A Free Thought (Atheist) Society is being organized in Petersville, London. One of the leaders recently went to a room where lay a dying dupe, forcibly ejected a Church of England clergyman (who had been sent for at the twelfth hour), and then implored the poor fellow, hovering between life and death, to "die game." The day after this blasphemous exhibition the clergyman was again sent for, the sick man confessed the error of his past life, and deeply deplored his connection with the wretched Atheist.

Counterfeit twenty-five cent pieces are in circulation in Hamilton, and elsewhere, which are said to be very well executed, and would pass anywhere, unless inspected. The pieces are heavily plated with pure silver and would bear a number of tests. Owing to the purity of the plating, the surfaces of the coin are brighter than those of the legal coins which contain alloy. When examined carefully and compared with the genuine article, it is perceivable that the die by which they are struck does not give the clear impression the latter bears. The counterfeit is about one-fifth lighter than the other, but it has the "ring" and the difference in the weight is not perceptible. The year stamped upon the counterfeit shown was 1874.

WELCOME TO FENIAN PRISONERS.—A despatch says the ovation to the Liberated Fenians, in Dublin, on Saturday, was magnificent. About fifteen thousand men who packed into the open space in front of the station, and a thousand torches were blazing as the four ex-prisoners, Chambers, McCarthy, O'Brien, and Daitt stepped out of the train. They were seized by stalwart men and carried on their shoulders to carriages. As the procession emerged from the station they were greeted with deafening cheers. The bands struck up "God Save old Ireland," and on the instant every head was uncovered, and the immense crowd sang the National air. An address of welcome was read, to which one of the prisoners replied, and the torch light procession proceeded to an hotel. At the Home Rule conference in Dublin, Mr. Butt proposed a resolution that the Home Rule members form a separate and distinct parliamentary party, united on the principle of obtaining self-government for Ireland. It had been arranged, to avoid differences in future, that a committee meet weekly, and the party be governed by its decision.

An interesting account of the German army has lately been published by a French officer, who was for many years military attache at the Court of Berlin. The total number of trained soldiers Germany could place in time of war, including the troops of the Landsturm, is estimated by the writer at 3,600,000 to 3,500,000 men, of whom 1,2000,000 belong to the regular army and landwehr. Owing to improvements which have been made in the details of the mobilization scheme since the war of 1870-71, the writer calculates that in three weeks the whole of the regular army could be concentrated on the French frontier, while in another three weeks the fourth battalions and six divisions of landwher troops could be brought up into line, the total strength of the invading army being thus raised to about 900,000 men. The mobilization of the second levy of troops could not be begun until the tenth week; but by the end of the thirteenth week 250,000 more men could be added to the field force, raising the strength of this latter to 1,150,000, leaving still 290,000 recruits.

TAXES ON EDITORIAL FAITH.—One of the greatest trials of the newspaper profession is that its members are compelled to see more of the shams of the world than any other profession. Through every newspaper office, day after day, go all the weaknesses of the world; all the vanities that want to be puffed; all the revenges that want to be reaped; all the mistakes that want to be corrected; all the dull speakers who want to be thought eloquent; all the meanness that wants to get its wares noticed gratis in the editorial column, in order to save tax in the advertising columns; all the men who want to be set right who were never right; all the crack-brained philosophers with stories as long as their hair, and as gloomy as their finger-nails in mourning because bereft of soap; all the bores who come to stay five minutes but talk five hours. Through the editorial and reportorial rooms all the follies and shams of the world are seen day after day; and the temptation is to believe in neither God, man nor woman. It is no surprise to me that in this profession there are some skeptical men. I only wonder that journalists believe anything.—*Talmage.*

J. E. McGarvin's Worm Powders.

J. E. McGarvin's Cough Syrup.

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ACTON
TIN WORKS
Main Street, Acton.

The undersigned is prepared to do all kinds of WORK, with neatness and despatch, on the shortest notice, and at the most reasonable prices. He keeps constantly on hand all kinds of

TINWARE
and STOVES
of the latest designs,

Japan Ware, Etc.

All orders for Repairing and eavestroughing strictly attended to.

COAL OIL A SPECIALTY.

Call and be convinced that the above statements are not balderdash or frothy babblings

WM. LEITH, Proprietor.

Acton, Dec. 29, 1877.

ACTON PLANING MILLS
D. W. CAMPBELL, Prop.

Having purchased the above named establishment, I am prepared to manufacture

SASH, DOORS,
MOULDINGS, &c
All kinds of
PLANING
Promptly attended to.
D. W. CAMPBELL.
Acton, Dec. 4th, 1877. 22-3m

ACTON MONTHLY SALE.

The Acton monthly sale will be held at Agnew's Hotel, on Fair Day,
Thursday, Feb. 7, 1878
All kinds of Stock, Implements, &c. will be sold by paying 50 cts a-piece.
Sale at 12 o'clock.
TERMS.—Twelve months' credit on approved joint notes
All entries must be made to Mr. Jas. Ryder, Sec.
WM. HEMSTREET, Auctioneer.

SWEEPING
Half-Yearly
CLEARING SALE.

Christie,
Henderson
& Co.,
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To avoid carrying over any heavy goods yet in stock on account of the unprecedented mild winter announce a

GRAND SWEEPING SALE,

COMMENCING ON

SATURDAY JAN. 19, 1878.

All lines of heavy Woolen Goods—Dress Goods, Fancy Goods—In fact, their entire Stock of Dry Goods will be offered at

"VERY BOTTOM PRICES."

Two cold months yet to be Provided for. Heavy Overcoats, Tweeds, Blankets, Mantles, Shawls, Shirtings, Winceys, Furs, Socks, Hose, Mitts, &c. &c., will be absolutely required. Don't fail to secure them at the right place and at the right price.

This is a Genuine Sale.

TERMS CASH ONLY.

No goods charged except at regular marked Prices.

REMEMBER THAT FAMOUS 50c TEA.
In 5 lb. lots at 45 cents.

CHRISTIE, HENDERSON & CO.

Acton, Dec. 5, 1877.