

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Canon Farrar cleared about \$35,000 from his lectures in Canada and the United States, which is very good, considering that before coming over he had made up his mind not to speak in public for money.

The idea that smallpox may be taken from Montreal papers, as hinted by some journals, is all booby. The Montreal Witness offers a prize of \$4,000, cash, for any case of smallpox caught from a Witness sent direct from the office.

QUERIES BY A RATEPAYER.

To the Editor of the Free Press.—Dear Sir.—Will you permit me to say through the medium of your valuable columns to my fellow-ratepayers that I, for one, emphatically endorse every sentiment of "Pro Bono Publico's" as expressed in your issue of 29th ult. I cannot comprehend how Messrs. Pearson and Lemond can honorably apply the epithet, "presentation humbug," to the valuable and desirable acquisition to our cemetery of 13 acres (donated by whosoever it might be), as a free gift if nothing accrues from it. I think all our people will agree in saying that it would have been a dereliction of duty on the part of the Councilors, and they would have been recreant to their trust, had they not accepted it on those conditions, as the land must eventually be a source of revenue to our village exchequer inevitably. Giving "right of way," thereby making a public thoroughfare of the resting place of departed ones, a spot so sacred to the hearts of those left behind, should not for one moment be thought of; and it is not presumption on their part to endeavor to repudiate the written opinion of men so eminent in their profession as Messrs. Blake, Lash, Cassels & Co.?

Obviously, one at least of our representatives at the Council board does not deem loyalty to the interests of his constituents a requisite quality in a Councilor, for he states distinctly that he will vote "nay" to protect himself and to free himself from all responsibility. "Alas, poor Yorrick!" If our heroic Councilor Pearson is so tremulous for fear of running so small a risk in their interests, and so desirous to insulate himself from the altar of duty to them, it may be presumed he will at least have the grace to hesitate before again presenting himself to pose as the champion of their rights in the management of municipal matters.

I would also remark how very preposterous of Mr. Lemond to lay such emphasis upon his self-sacrificing generosity (!) in yielding to the solicitations of the Reeve to accept the position of commissioner of streets and sidewalks. Does he mean to imply that because he did not find it necessary to solicit or intrigue for above position, that, if true, gave him *carpe diem* terms to do as he pleased during his occupancy of the office? If so, that warning would give a color of extenuation. If there were even one other member in the Council whom Mr. Lemond deemed it barely possible would accept the office, would he have been so blushing modest in accepting it? Is it not ill-advised to apportion such handsome emoluments as 20 cents an hour to a commissioner, being pledged to the electors to serve them in the most self-abnegating manner, if honored by election? Is it honorable thereafter to stipulate for wages, or to accept any? I have it from a most authentic source that the stipend which is allotted to our commissioner for the number of days which he claims to have given his whole of, is considerably larger in amount than similar officers of the county or township get for their services for the whole year, and this in the face of his protestations of disinterestedness on nomination day.

Believe me, yours respectfully,
S. A. SZCZOK.

P.S.—As it is not customary in this Acton of ours for ladies to express their views upon municipal matters through the medium of the press, no matter how deeply we may feel upon the subject, it may be imagined that I have been dictated to by some of "the powers that be" in so doing, but I would here asseverate solemnly that not one word of above letter was dictated to me by any individual.

Acton, Dec. 2nd, 1885.

[The above letter was received too late for insertion last week.—Ed. Free Press.]

That Presentation Humbug (?)

To the Editor of the Free Press.—Sir.—I notice in your last issue that Mr. Pearson is endeavoring to bring my name before the public in an unenviable way by stating that I foisted a piece of property on the corporation at \$30 per acre, which is not worth \$10, thereby defrauding the corporation. Now, sir, he must know that he is telling an untruth when he makes that statement. I would ask Mr. Pearson to try any one owning land adjoining mine find out what they will take for it, viz.: the Mansie property, the Matthews property, or the Matthews-Burns property. You will see what price they will put upon it. Take the same quantity of land without buildings. That will give you an idea of the untruthfulness of the statement.

He makes another misstatement when he says, "Why did I not reserve a roadway out of my own property, according to a diagram that accompanied the petition?" He would lead you to believe that I knew all about the petition and diagram. I will just say here that I was never consulted by the committee who selected the property. Not one ever asked me to go with them to show them the property, neither did they ask me where I wanted the road. The only person who spoke to me about it was Mr. Warren, and he never showed me a diagram. I told him it would be more desirable to have my road direct from the entrance, to which he complied. He further says: "Let us see how the committee proposed to raise the Dr." I suppose you are aware of the conditions of my proposal, if not I will tell you how it came about. A good many ratepayers (and those ratepayers contribute more than half of the taxes collected in the municipality) stated to me respectively that they were dissatisfied with the choice of ground and that they preferred

the back part. I mentioned to them that I was willing to make to the corporation a road in the simple, free from buildings, providing they would survey and give acres of the thirty, and sell at the same time as other lots were sold, and as soon as they realized \$300 out of such sale and gave it to me they could have the whole. By that means the people would have a choice. They seemed satisfied and asked me to make the proposition to the Council, which I did, and they accepted it. The fact is that many of those same parties sold me plainly that they would never remove their friends to the place selected, but would remove them elsewhere, hence the "ungracious humbug," which epithet he undoubtedly intended for me.

Now, Mr. Editor, anything Mr. Pearson can say or do to belittle me in the eyes of the people of this place will do me much harm, as my record is before them and has been for over thirty years, and moreover, I defy him to point to a single act of mine in which I ever attempted to defraud the municipality. I do not think it fair to use my name disrespectfully. I have that confidence in the citizens of Acton that they will not coincide with him in his views, and my reason is that they have honored me with their confidence for a number of years by electing me as their representative in the village as well as the County Council, and I trust I have yet to forfeit this confidence. I am out of the arena of municipal matters and I intend to keep out, but that will not prevent me taking a lively interest in anything that is for the benefit and prosperity of this village. I have done so heretofore, and I hope to do so in future.

I remain yours, &c.
N. MCGARVIN.

Acton, Dec. 10th, 1885.

The Cemetery Question.

To the Editor of the Free Press.—Sir.—I see that Mr. Pearson has condescended to answer my letter, and it is the most remarkable production I ever read for verbosity, without point. If your readers will take out his quotations from my letter, and erase the Billingsgate interspersed, there would be very little argument left; but what little is left I think I can satisfactorily prove against him out of his own mouth, except when he says "load of with a whopper." I am very much pleased to learn that we have in our midst a person so gifted as to produce a letter occupying two and a half columns of your paper, but sorry he had to make up the half of it with quotations from mine in order to make it appear lengthy. In fact it is remarkable for its length, but its attenuated form is rather nauseating to your readers. Such as it is, I am pleased to learn is the production of his own fertile brain.

He says he is "self-important enough to tell the truth." Now we will see if such is the case. He says Mr. Wells never presented a petition to the council, because there was no meeting of the council that night. I would ask him Mr. Wells go to the council chamber at the time spoken about? Did he have a petition with him? I believe Mr. Wells to be a gentleman worthy of respect, will he kindly rise and say whether Mr. Pearson is correct or not, and also as to how Mr. Pearson obtained such an admission from him as published in his last, because it was generally understood by the public from Mr. Wells' own words that he was violently and grossly insulted by Messrs. Pearson and Lemond. This I will leave Mr. Wells to answer if he thinks fit.

Again, Mr. Pearson says the petition was never before the council, and in another breath he says the council sent it back for more signatures. With this brilliant and sarcastic gentleman say how the council could by any freak of jugglery send back a petition which had never been presented to them? Please unravel this mystery to your own satisfaction even if you do not to the satisfaction of the people. Where is the "whopper?" Again does not the By-Law set forth in its preamble that it is by the request of a petition, &c., yet he has the audacity to say there never was a petition presented. I never said it was received by the council but he can explain why that was not done so as to bark their wishes. He further admits that there were not sufficient names to it to give expression of the majority, &c. Is that true? Then there was a petition. Let us take the vote on the 18th of May. What does it say?—54 for the By-Law, 23 against it, majority 31, and 77 was the total votes polled, which was less than the number of signatures to the petition. Did not the petition represent the wishes of the people? What a "whopper." He says a petition with 82 bona fide signatures of owners, was never obtained. Will he please produce the petition, and count the owners of property and tell us now far it was short of the vote. I challenge him to produce it. Then we will see where the "whoppers" are.

Mr. Justice B. P.— says he did go "hand and glove" to assist the ratepayers to procure the six acres. He immediately afterwards says he skulked away, and did not vote at all. A nice way to go "hand and glove" with the people.

He says each member of the council got a letter from Messrs. Movat, McLellan, & Co., stating they had been instructed to take proceedings against them. This was on the 7th of Sept. That is no evidence that proceedings have been instituted. Any person—crank or otherwise—can get a lawyer to write a threatening letter, if he pays for it. Why don't they soon? A similar letter was received by the clerk some time before that stating the same thing from another lawyer and what was the result? Nothing. The fact is they never got any encouragement that they could successfully attack the By-Law, and they very well know it, otherwise they would have moved before this time. Suppose I pay a lawyer to write you a letter stating if you buy a store and attempt to sell goods I will enter proceedings against you, what would you say? The answer would be, "go on, I am ready for you." Such notices are not worth the paper they are written upon. He further says the cemetery By-Law, the selection of the property, were carried by the people and he stuck up like a little man for their interests. His transactions show plainly that he has left out a very important advert which should read "a very little man."

In regard to the gravel pit he tells me to draw it mild, and admits he was at the

council meeting and don't find a word was said about the gravel pit. Now, is your council so stupid as not to have the minutes of the previous meeting read and approved, and was not his quotation read at the same meeting, at which he says he was present? And does he not take the Free Press and within 36 hours after that committee made their report the paper gave a full report of the proceedings, including the report he quotes, yet he says he never heard of it or knew anything about it. Where are the "whoppers?"

Mr. Pearson says it is quite right for a councillor to vote against an account when presented, and quite right for the same person when in the Finance Committee to vote the payment of the same account. If it is wrong in the first instance it is certainly wrong in the second. Where is the consistency?

I am taunted with being out of the county and "taking it mixed." How witty and sarcastic. This is a bar-room phrase with which I am sorry he is so familiar. However, I have heard it incidentally before, and know its purport. Now, Mr. Pearson let me say to you I am not in the habit of taking it either "mixed" or "straight," and if some others were as prudent in this respect they would be without the sympathy of those who do take it "mixed," for there lies the secret of your opposition and the opposition of the small clique you represent.

As he has admitted having done wrong in supplying materials to the corporation I would advise him in future to read his declaration of office. In winding up his epistle he tries to show a little sarcasm or Billingsgate which is unworthy of the position he now holds or to that to which he aspires and to which I have no occasion to reply. I wish to state facts without using invectives unworthy of a gentleman.

It is quite unnecessary to reply to his effusions towards the doctor as he is capable of answering it if he thinks proper. As my space is limited and very properly so, I will try and not overstep your limit. I may have something to say hereafter.

I remain, yours again,
Geo. Doso Prynaco.

Acton, Dec. 7th, 1885.

New Advertisements.

CATTLE ASTRAY.
STRAYED from the premises, lot 25, con. 2, Esplanade, on the 21st of the month of June, two calves rising three past, one white and red and the other brown and red. Any party giving information which will lead to the recovery of the same will be suitably rewarded.
DONALD McCLARY,
Esplanade, Dec. 2nd, 1885.

FARMS WANTED TO BUY.
TWO 200-acre farms; three 100-acre farms; two 150-acre farms and one 50-acre farm wanted for customers who are waiting till we get them suitable places. Intending purchasers' names and addresses will be given to owners of the farms. At present we have 40 applications for farms from all parts of Canada, the United States and Europe. No charge unless sale is effected. Apply to
JOHN J. DALEY, Esq., Guelph.

CARETAKER WANTED.
TENDERS will be received by the undersigned up to the 21st, for the office of caretaker of the four departments of the Public School. Full particulars respecting the duties of said office, etc., upon application to
W. P. HOWES,
Chairman Property Committee.

THE FASHIONABLE WEST END GUELPH. BUCHAM & CO.

We have pleasure in stating that our stock for the season's trade surpasses in extensive variety and choice selection anything we have ever formerly laid before our customers.

BUCHAM & CO.

SILKS, SATINS AND VELVETS.
In this department no house here can successfully compete with us in point of variety, real sterling value, and downright cheapness. Ladies who are in the habit of buying elsewhere are not aware of the inducements we offer in this department to purchasers. Inspection invited.

BUCHAM & CO.

DRESS GOODS.
This department is a large one with us, and always presents a choice of really desirable goods to select from seldom met with even in the largest cities.

Ladies will do well before buying to visit our Establishment, and look through, compare prices, &c., &c.

BUCHAM & CO.,
Fashionable West End Dress, Mantle and Millinery Establishment.

SANTA CLAUS

Begs to remind you that Merry Christmas is close at hand and that as usual he will make his Headquarters at

GEORGE HYNDS, ACTON,
where everybody is invited to call and see the Most Complete Assortment of Christmas Presents, suitable for old and young.



Sunday School Teachers and Scholars will find at my store the most complete assortment in Acton from which to purchase their Xmas Tree presents.

Wishing you all a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year,
REMEMBER THE STAND

George Hynds, Acton, Santa Claus' Headquarters.

Keep Your EYE On This ADVERTISEMENT.

For it is liable to change any time.
Everybody goes to the Metropolitan Studio for their Photos. Why? Because they get first-class work at moderate prices. Enlargements made from card size to life size. Bring any picture you wish enlarged direct to the Studio, and thus secure better work and save agents' profits. Your friends will appreciate a nice photo of yourself better than any Xmas card. Come the first convenient day, as we are becoming more and more busy every day as the holidays approach.

RUBY, - Metropolitan Studio.

—30 suits, 75 vests, 40 overcoats to be cleared out, they must give up this branch.
—Rare values in wool hoods, wool caps, shawls, cloaks, scarfs, &c. Beautiful goods.
Nelson, McRae & Co.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
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NELSON, McRAE & Co.

We have made arrangements to continue the business of Nelson, McRae & Co. under the same firm name until the first of January, 1886.
Our Clearing Sale continues and we are giving rare values for

CASH

We respectfully ask all indebted to the firm to call and settle their accounts before the first of January, as they must be provided for in some way by that time.

NELSON, McRAE & Co.
Acton, November 24th, 1885.

—Now is the time to secure bargains in ready made clothing, boots and shoes, and fur goods.
—Over 600 pairs boys' and men's boots and shoes, clearing them out, from 50c. upward. Big value.
Nelson, McRae & Co.

THE POST OFFICE STORE, ACTON.

HAVING moved my Bakery and Feed Business into this commodious store, where I have added a choice stock of Groceries, all new and fresh. I beg to tender my most sincere thanks to the people of Acton and surrounding country for their very liberal support in the past, and now most respectfully solicit a share of your patronage in my new place of business. It will be my aim to merit this by square dealing, reasonable prices, attention to business and wants of my customers. Please call and see me.

GROCERY DEPARTMENT.
Teas, 25c. up, Sugars of all kinds, Syrup, good, 50c. per gallon and up. Raisins, Currants, Peels, Eggs, Canned Goods of all kinds, Coffee, Rice, Tapioca, Sago, Spices of all kinds, Essences, Pickles in bulk, &c., Mince Meat, Nuts, Candies, Tobaccos, and everything kept in a First-class Grocery. Fruits and Vegetables.

FLOUR AND FEED DEPARTMENT.
Very best Roller and Stone Flour, Bran, Shorts, Clops, Oats, Peas, Barley, Oat and Corn Meal (three kinds of each), Buckwheat Flour (two kinds), Cracked Wheat, Thorley's Food, Lined Oil Cake Meal, Lined seed and ground, Package Goods, Crushed Oats, Wheat and Barley, Yellow, White and Flaked Maize, Sump Hominy, S. R. Buckwheat Flour, Wheat Germ, Prepared Pea Flour, Rice Flour, Choice Perina.

My "Buds" is ahead of any other Flour manufactured.

BAKING DEPARTMENT.
Bread, white, brown and steamed, Rolls, Cottage Sponge Cake, Jelly Rolls, Cakes and Buns of all kinds, Mince Pies, Meat Pies. Wedding Cakes to order.

L. G. MATTHEWS

ALL THE FARMERS AND OTHERS

Having crippled horses, will do well to call on
CEO. STODDARD,
Who is prepared to remove
Ringbones, Spavins, Curbs and Splints,
Without injuring the horse.
Satisfaction guaranteed or no charge.
CEO. STODDARD,
Greene's Old Stand,
Acton.

CAUTION

EACH PLUG OF THE
Myrtle Navy
IS MARKED
T. & B.
IN BRONZE LETTERS.
None Other Genuine.

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