The Acton Free Press.

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—AT THE—

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H. P. MOORE

Editor and Proprietor

Business Directory.

W. H. LOWRY, M. B., M. C. P. S., Graduate of Trinity College, Member of College of Physicians and Surgeons. Office and residence.—At the head of Frederick street Acton.

JOHN LAWSON, GRADUATE OF Ontario Veterinary College, Toronto.—Veterinary Surgeon, Acton, Ont. Office:—In Kenny Bros. boot and shoe store.—residence in the rear. Horses examined as to soundness and certificates given. All calls, night or day promptly attended to. Terms cash.

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JOHNSTON & McLEAN Barristers, Solicitors, Notaries, Conveyancers &c. Private funds to loan. Office:—Town Hall, Acton. E. F. B. JOHNSTON. WM. A. McLEAN.

J. A. MOWAT, Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public. Money to Loan. Office Days—Tuesday and Saturday. Office:—Matthews' Block, - Acton, up-stairs

SHILTON, ALLAN & BAIRD, Barristers, Solicitors &c., TORONTO AND GEORGETOWN. Offices:—Creelman's Block, Georgetown, and 66 King street east, Toronto. E. F. ALLAN. J. SHILTON, B.A. J. BAIRD, B.A.

BADGEROW, CARSON & CO., BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS & NOTARIES. Court Chambers, Cor. Church and Adelaide Sts., Toronto, Canada. Telephone No. 1275. Cable Address: Badgerow, Toronto. C. W. BADGEROW. JOHN CARSON, B.C.L. CO. CROWN ATTORNEY.

JOHN DAVIS, P.L.S. & C.E. ENGINEER FOR G. J. Ry. Co. All orders for surveys will receive prompt personal attention. Office:—25 Perth St., Guelph. In writing please state character of Survey.

PATENTS SECURED FOR INVENTIONS HENRY GRIST, OTTAWA, CANADA. Twenty Years Practice. No Patent, No Pay.

WM. HEWSTREET, LICENSED AUCTIONEER For the Counties of Wellington and Halton. Orders left at the FREE PRESS office, Acton, or at my residence in Acton, will be promptly attended to. Terms reasonable. Also money to loan on the most favorable terms, and at the lowest rates of interest, in sums of $300 and upwards.

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FRANCIS NUNAN (Successor to T. F. Chapman) BOOKBINDER, St. George's Square, - Guelph, Ontario. Account Books of all kinds made to order Periodicals of every description carefully bound. Ruling neatly and promptly done.

THE HANLAN BARBER SHOP, MILL STREET, ACTON. An easy shave, a stylish hair-cut, a good sea-foam or exhilarating shampoo, always given. Razors honed and put in first-class condition. Ladies' and children's hair tastily cut. J. & H. WORDEN, Tonsorial Artists.

SALESMEN WANTED.

PERMANENT positions guaranteed with salary and expenses paid. Any determined man can succeed with us. Peerless advantages to beginners. Stock complete, including many fast-selling specialties. Outfit free. Name this paper. Address at once. BROWN BROTHERS, Nurserymen, Rochester, N. Y.

Guelph Business College.

GUELPH, ONTARIO.

FIFTH Scholastic Year. Its graduates are now employed as book-keepers, business managers, stenographers, etc., by many of the largest business houses in Canada and the United States. Young men and women desiring a thorough business education will consult their own welfare by attending the "Guelph Business College." For terms and particulars, address

M. MacCORMICK, Principal.

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Fruit Trees, Small Fruits

And Ornamental Shrubbery.

REV. E. B. Cook, Acton, has been appointed sole agent for this section for the well known Old Rochester Nursery, S. Moulson, proprietor, and is prepared to take orders for any of the fruit trees, small fruits or shrubs which are shown in the illustrated catalogues of the nursery. The products of the Old Rochester Nursery are known to be generally reliable and correctly named; and I can promise satisfactory results to all who purchase stock from me. Prices reasonable.

REV. E. B. COOK, Agent

Lumber, Shingles, AND LATH.

The undersigned desires to inform the public that he has now on hand and will keep in stock a full line of Pine and Hemlock as well as other kinds of Lumber, also, First and Second class Pine Shingles & Lath.

Coal & Wood.

Having purchased the Coal business of Mr. C. S. Smith, I am prepared to supply all kinds of Stove Coal. I have also a good stock of Wood—Hard wood, Ash, Cedar and Mill Wood, at reasonable prices. Wood and Coal delivered.

JAMES BROWN

MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

—OF THE—

COUNTY OF WELLINGTON.

ESTABLISHED 1840.

HEAD OFFICE, - GUELPH.

Stores Buildings, Merchandise, Manufactories and all other descriptions of property on the Premium Note System.

P. W. Stone, President. Chas. Davidson, Secretary.

JOHN TAYLOR, Agent.

Acton Banking Company,

STOREY, CHRISTIE & CO.

—BANKERS,—

Acton. . . Ontario.

A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

MONEY LOANED ON APPROVED NOTES.

Notes Discounted and Interest Allowed on Deposits.

W. BARBER & BROS.

PAPER MAKERS,

GEORGETOWN, ONT.

MAKE A SPECIALTY OF

Machine Finished Book Papers

—AND—

HIGH GRADE WEEKLY NEWS.

The paper used in this journal is from the above mills.

WM. BARBER & BROS.

—ACTON—

PUMP FACTORY

—AND—

PLANING MILL

THOS. EBBAGE, Man.

I have resumed the management of the pump business in Acton and would respectfully inform all parties in want of pumps that we are now prepared to supply them from

The old St le Wooden Pump to the Best Force Pump made.

Pumps for Wind Mills or Rock Wells supplied on short notice.

Deep Wells a Specialt.

PRICES RIGHT EVERY TIME.

Our Planing Mill

Lumber dressed while you wait. Mouldings &c., made to order. We have also a quantity of Lumber for sale, suitable for building purposes. Orders by mail will receive prompt and careful attention.

Shop at foot of River Street.

THOS. EBBAGE, Manager

NEVER LEAVE ACTON

When you can get as good an article and as cheap at

J. H. Matthews'

HARNESS SHOP.

Call and see if he is not giving the best bargains in

Light and Heavy Harness, Blankets, Bells, Curry Combs, Brushes, Whips, &c

I have come to Acton to stay and will endeavor to give the best satisfaction to those who favor me with their patronage. I have small expenses and can afford to sell cheap.

Collars Warranted Not to Hurt.

J. H. Matthews, Acton.

Removed to shop next Kelly Bros.

BUSINESS CHANGE

Having purchased the business formerly carried on by McNab & Co., I take this opportunity of inviting a share of public patronage and feel confident that every customer will be satisfied with the manner in which I will fill his order.

—New Spring Goods—

I have just put in a very fine assortment of English, Irish and Scotch Suitings in the latest patterns.

Spring Overcoatings in Variety.

Our garments are all well made under my personal supervision. A call invited.

WM. J. LEE, Acton.

PICTURE FRAMES

—AT—

WATERS BROTHER'S

PICTURES

—AT—

WATERS BROTHERS

Cornice Poles, Banner Rods, Mouldings, Cords, Nails, Glass, Bevelled Mirrors, ARTIST'S MATERIALS Winsor & Newtons

—AT—

WATERS BROTHERS, 25 WYNDHAM STREET GUELPH

—THE ACTON—

* Free Press *

—THE LEADING—

LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Of Halton County.

Is Published every Thursday morning at

—ACTON, ONT—

Subscription Price Only $1.00 in Advance.

Try it for Three Months for 25 Cents.

WEAVING.

MR. T. MITCHELL

Desires to inform the people of Acton and surroundings that he is prepared to take orders for weaving all kinds of Fancy Rag Carpets, Flannel Sheeting, Shirting and Dress Goods, striped or plaid, twill or plain, also Bed Blankets and Horse Blankets, two yards wide and over.

And I will guarantee that I will give good satisfaction to all farmers and others who will favor me with their patronage.

T. MITCHELL.

WANTED.

GOOD, reliable men can find permanent employment for Maple Grove Nurseries of Waterloo, N. Y. Good salary and expenses paid weekly. Liberal inducements to beginners. Outfit free. Previous experience not required. Established over 20 years. All goods first-class. Write at once for terms. Address, J. W. McKay, Gen. Manager, St. Thomas, Ont. (Mention this Paper.)

We have opened out during the week large quantities of new

Paper Hangings

BORDERS

—AND—

Ceiling Decorations

Very Choice Stock and extra Low Prices

—AT—

DAY'S BOOKSTORE.

GUELPH.

DAY SELLS CHEAP.

THE MERCHANTS'

Protective and Collecting

ASSOCIATION OF CANADA.

Head Office,—Hamilton, Ontario.

(Established 1860)

Is an Association of business and professional men, having for its object the

Collection of Debts;

And to prevent its members from making bad debts by furnishing them with lists of parties who do not pay. Merchants and others having accounts to collect will find it to their advantage to become members—as hundreds of accounts are being collected through it that could not be collected in any other way. Many an account that has been sued and then returned by the bailiff as no good, after putting the merchant to great expense, has been collected through this association. Merchants wishing to become members, by remitting $10.00 to our Managers, at Hamilton, will receive by return mail full particulars, certificate of membership, etc. Testimonials sent.

J. B. Mills & Co., Managers

—ACTON—

LIVERY

—AND—

BUS LINE.

The undersigned respectfully solicits the patronage of the public, and informs them that

Well Equipped and Stylish Rigs can always be Secured.

At his stables. A comfortable bus meets all day trains and those at night if ordered. Careful attention given to every order The wants of Commercial Travellers fully met.

JOHN WILLIAMS.

STOCK-TAKING

-SALE-

—OF—

Boots and Shoes

I have decided to give 10% off my already low prices for the

—NEXT THIRTY DAYS—

To make room for my Spring goods.

I have a large stock of Felt Boots on hand which I will sell cheap.

—NOTE THE PRICES—

Half fox $1.40.

Whole fox $1.65.

I have a good stock of Trunks & Valises I will sell cheap. Also remember

THIS IS FOR CASH ONLY.

W. WILLIAMS,

Mill Street, Acton.

Fancy Goods

IN GREAT VARIETY

I desire to inform my numerous Customers that I have purchased a fine variety of Goods for the Xmas Trade, comprising a splendid lot of toilet articles in

Hair, Tooth and Nail Brushes,

The Finest Perfumes in the Market.

I have also the finest stock in

Ladies' Satchels

Ever shown in Acton

For Xmas Presents I have a beautiful selection of

Albums, Booklets, &c.

We also keep all the Authorized School Books and School Supplies. Hymn Books, Pens, Pencils, Slates, Ink, Etc.

We keep a large selection of Spectacles to suit all sights.

Give us a call before purchasing. Don't forget the place,

McGARVIN'S

DRUG STORE.

Poetry.

A BARREL OF WHISKEY.

A drayman rolled forth, from his cart to the street
A red-headed barrel, well-bound and complete;
And on it red letters, like forked tongues of flame,
Emblazoned the grade, number, quality and fame,
Of this world-renowned whiskey from somebody's still,
Who arrested the grain on the way to the mill.

So there stood the barrel delivered, but I
Could see that a shadow was hovering nigh—
A sulphurous shadow, that grew as I gazed,
To the form of Mephisto. Though sorely amazed,
I ventured to question this imp of the realm
Where Vice is the pilot, with Crime at the helm,
And asked him politely his mission to name,
And if he was licensed to retail the same
Identical barrel of whiskey, which he
Was fondly surveying, with demon-like glee.

"Oh I never handle the stuff," he replied,
"My partner's good morals are trusted and tried;
Mayhap, peradventure, you might wish to look
At the invoice complete—I will read from this book,
You will find that the barrel contains something more
Than forty-two gallons of whiskey galore."
And ere I could slip but another word in,
He checked it off gaily, this cargo of sin:
"A barrel of headaches, of heartaches, of woes,
A barrel of curses, a barrel of blows!

A barrel of tears from a world-weary wife;
A barrel of sorrow, a barrel of strife;
A barrel of trouble by evil beset,
A barrel of all unavailing regret;
A barrel of crimes and barrel of pain;
A barrel of hopes ever blasted and vain.
A barrel of falsehood, a barrel of cries
That fall from the maniac's lips ere he dies:
A barrel of poison—of this nearly full—
That shatters the nerves—makes the intellect dull.

A barrel of poverty ruin, and blight;
A barrel of terrors that grow with the night;
A barrel of hunger, a barrel of groans,
A barrel of orphans' most pitiful moans;
A barrel of serpents that hiss as they pass
From the bead on the liquor that glows in the glass

My barrel! my treasure! I bid thee farewell—
Thou'lt sow the foul seed that is reaped down in hell.

—Catholic Times.

Select Family Reading.

Marian Stafford.

BY AN OLD CONTRIBUTOR.

"False! false! And I would have staked my life upon her truth! It only proves what an idiot a man in love can be."

In his strong excitement, George Morton had spoken aloud, holding clenched in one hand an open letter. He thought himself alone until a low, sweet voice in an adjoining room said:

"It can't be Marian, George!"

"It is Marian," he said, in a fierce tone, striding into the cosy little room off the library, where his sister Una was embroidering a pair of slippers. She looked up with her blue eyes full of sympathy as her brother stood over her, leaning against the mantel-piece.

"I had a letter from Harkinson this morning," George said, in a low tone evidently forced, to keep down an outbreak of passionate utterances. "He writes: 'I went last evening to Miss Marian Stafford's wedding—a grand affair. Everybody was amazed, for she married Captain Bond, of the navy, who has been away several years. I send you some of the newspaper notices, as I know you visited the Staffords."

"Did he send the notices!"

"Certainly! I shall accept Hill's offer now."

"Oh, George, no! Marian is not all you leave."

"True, dear. There is the dearest little sister in the world, but it is better for me to go. You have father and Aunt Kate, and—look up, Una. Will there not soon be another to more than fill my place!"

"I meant to tell you," Una said, blushing, "but it seemed cruel when you were so troubled. Harry asked me yesterday to be his wife, and I do love him, George."

"He is worthy of love, even of yours, Una! But I can leave you now with an easy conscience. I was writing to Marian an hour ago, telling her that I should decline this proposal, but now—"

A little hand was put caressingly upon his own, but Una did not attempt spoken consolation for a sorrow she felt to be beyond the reach of words.

She had been with George the previous summer at the hotel near Mount Washington, where Miss Stafford was also sojourning with her married sister, Mrs. Alexander.

The "course of true love" ran very smooth. Both were young, both possessing a sufficient income for every comfort, both handsome, well educated, moving in the same social circle. There had been no serious interruption to the wooing, and when the summer party broke up, George accompanied Marian to her city home, her promised husband. His own home was in the western part of Pennsylvania, where his father had large interest in coal, and his son a position of trust in the same firm.

But just before the cruel letter reached him telling him of Marian's marriage, George had received an offer from an old friend to join an exploring party going to South America.

"I know you will be glad to use your pencil," his friend wrote; "so write to ask you to join us at once, in the place of our artist, Meredith, who died suddenly last week. All expenses paid, salary two thousand and a share in the profits of the expedition. Do come."

The next morning George started for New York to join his friend's party for the expedition proposed.

It cannot be denied that his heart was very heavy as he passed through Philadelphia without seeking Marian, but he knew "the happy pair had gone to Niagara for a wedding trip," and made no delay in the city of Brotherly Love. He was quite unaware that he was seen in the depot by a tall, remarkably handsome man, who turned pale at the sight of him, and whose unspoken thought was:

"Morton! My letter must have missed fire!"

It was not altogether a pleasant idea. True, he had not been informed of any engagement between his friend and Miss Stafford, but he had intended to remove one rival from his path when he wrote the letter from which we have quoted to his old college chum, George Morton.

It was nearly a week later before he summoned courage to call at Mrs. Alexander's, when, to his relief and amazement, he was informed that Morton had joined the South American expedition.

"We saw it in the New York papers," Mrs. Alexander told him, "and Marian has been ill ever since. You know they were engaged."

"No, I knew he was very devoted last summer. Was there a positive engagement?"

"Most positive. It is the most extraordinary conduct. We expected him at the wedding, but he did not even answer the invitation."

Fred Harkinson winced. The invitation intrusted to him, with many others, to post, was in his desk, safely locked away from prying eyes.

"But have you no letter from him?" he asked.

"That is the most extraordinary part of it. Marian has a letter telling her of this very expedition, and saying positively that he will decline the position offered to him. The next news is that he has sailed."

"May there not be some mistake in the papers?"

"I think not, as his letters have ceased. He wrote nearly every day."

A politic man, one who could bide his time, was Frederick Harkinson, and he allowed the sun to rise and set many times before he again called upon Mrs. Alexander. But his attentions, when he resumed his post of confidential friend of the family, were unobtrusive, and so delicate that Marian, though her heart and pride were sorely wounded, took comfort in the tender care, the gentle courtesies of her long-time friend, and Frederick Harkinson's hope rose daily.

In the meantime, far away, the South American party were meeting with varying fortune, but moving about so constantly that nearly two years passed before George Morton received any direct communication from Una, long before Mrs. Henry Mason, a happy little wife.

He was at Rio, turning over a large pile of letters, sipping a little of the contents of each one, when a familiar name upon one of Una's long epistles caught his eye.

"You will be surprised, dear George," Una wrote, "when I tell you who is as Mary Robeson's, a governess to her children. I was so astonished when I met her that it took some time to get a clear idea of her story into my mind, but I will tell it to you as well as I can. You know, or perhaps I tell you for the first time that Mr. Frederick Harkinson is Mrs. Alexander's lawyer, and in that capacity he had control of Marian Stafford's property, a handsome sum. We will suppose that he was also in love with her. Be that as it may, he offered himself to her and was refused, although she had a warm sisterly affection for him. He was terribly depressed by the refusal, and, report says, drank heavily for several weeks. Then he was attacked by a low nervous fever, grew weaker very rapidly, and died. But before he became too ill he sent for Mrs Alexander, and confessed to her that he had used Marian's money in a speculation and lost it. Worse than this, he told her he had grossly deceived you, and succeeded in driving you from Marian; for, dear, it was Marian's aunt and namesake who was married to Capt. Bond, and in Mr. Harkinson's desk was found our Marian's letter to you, inviting you to the wedding. When she found her own fortune was gone beyond recall she refused to live in idleness, and Mrs. Alexander allowed her to take this situation, thinking it well for her to have some absorbing occupation. But I hope you will soon be at home. She is so pale and sad, so sorry for you, in the midst of all her own troubles, that I am sure nothing will ever make her happy but seeing you."

"And this letter is ten months old," said George, with a sigh that was almost a groan. "Who can tell what may have happened."

He tossed over the other letters impatiently, finding often a line about Marian, but no long communication.

Winter had come for the second time since George Morton's departure, and two ladies, both young and both fair, were seated in a cosy sitting-room, worshipping at a true woman's favorite shrine, a baby's feet—a pretty baby with Una's eyes and rings of golden hair over a brow fair as ivory. She was just at the cooing, crowing age, and the usual offering of nonsense talk was calling forth her rapturous admiration.

"You know, dear," Una was saying, "we have decided to call her Georgiana, haven't we, toot wootsey! She was to be named for her Uncle George if she was, the darling!"

The face of the other lady, always lovely was improved by the softest of blushes, as she said:

"He will be here for the christening, Una. I had a letter this morning."

"Perfidious woman! Why did you not let me see it?"

"Why, it was—was—so—so foolish."

"Dear me!" said Una, with affected concern. "I hope that horrid South American climate has not injured his brain."

"Nonsense!" And the blush deepened. "You know I don't mean that."

"Oh! He was not more idiotic than other men, under such circumstances. There, it is too bad to tease you!"

"In the sitting-room."

This was a man's voice, loud and clear, in the hall, and Marian sprang from her kneeling position beside baby to her feet, just as the door opened and George Morton entered the room.

Tableau! George and Marian in the foreground in rapturous embrace. Una in the background, kissing the baby, till it was a wonder it had any cheeks left.

But all great excitements have an end, and George did remember presently that he had a sister and niece awaiting notice.

"I did not expect to find Marian here," he said, "although I did not find her at Mrs. Robeson's."

"So," said Una, laughing, "you went there first."

"I plead guilty!"

"But you would not have found her there for several weeks past. She has been my guest; and not only that, George, but—open your eyes—those speculations of Fred Harkinson's have taken a turn and paid handsomely. Marian sold out at double the price originally paid for the stock. So, I am sorry to say, you do not come to the rescue of a distressed damsel."

But he came to bring happiness and love, and there was a quiet wedding soon after, where Marian Stafford became Mrs. Morton, and no enemy made mischief.

VOTE FOR LICENSE.

If you ever knew a bar-room reclaim a drunkard.

If you ever knew a bar room improve morality.

If you ever knew a bar-room aid a Sunday School.

If you ever knew a bar-room an auxiliary to a church.

If you ever knew a bar-room help God's cause.

If you ever know a bar-room, save a soul.

But remember the denunciation against him who puts the bottle to his neighbor's lips, and he who votes for license is in the same condemnation.

"THE EYE."

An Interesting Lecture Delivered by Mr. G. D. Pringle, Guelph, before the Scientific Society.

The last lecture of the course under the auspices of the Guelph Scientific Society, was delivered the other evening by Mr. G. D. Pringle, in the Society's rooms, and as much information of value to the public is given we reproduce a part of the lecture.

Mr. Pringle began by giving an account of the nature of light and its most important laws, especially that of refraction by means of a prism. He showed how it was that the ordinary white sunlight was, in passing through a prism, broken up into all the various colors of the rainbow, owing to the different degrees of refrangibility possessed by the various rays. Passing on to the subject of lenses, he showed by diagrams that a lens is simply a pair of prisms placed edge to edge, the thick edges in contact if the lens is convex, and the thin edges together when the lens is concave. By means of chalk diagrams on the blackboard he clearly indicated the paths of light rays passing through prisms and lenses of various forms.

He next exhibited colored diagrams of the human eye and its various parts, pointing out that there are four lenses in the eye which serve to refract the rays entering it and to bring them to a focus on the retina at the back of the organ. From this the impression is conveyed by means of the optic nerve to the brain, and the result is the sensation which we call light. Clearness of vision depends on the accurate focusing of rays from observed objects on the retina, and anything that interferes with this makes sight indistinct. Hence the necessity of spectacles of various forms to correct the defects caused by abnormal forms of eyes; the effect of these lenses being to cause the pictures of object to be thrown exactly on the retina and thus make distinct vision.

The various imperfections of sight were next mentioned and their causes explained. They are chiefly Presbyopia or Old Sight, Hypertopia or Far-Sight, Myopia or Short-Sight, Astigmatism and Muscular Irregularities. Of these Presbyopia is the most common, coming to everyone as he advances towards old age. The cause of this defect in vision was very clearly explained by the lecturer. In youth the ciliary muscles attracted to the crystalline lens of the eye enables the person to accommodate his eye to objects at various distances by altering slightly the form of the lens, but as old age comes on the muscles lose this power to some extent and the result is that rays of light entering the eye while we are looking at reading distances and passing through the various lenses, come to a focus behind the retina, and, therefore, only a confused image of the object looked at is thrown on the retina itself and conveyed to the brain. This defect is remedied by placing a convex lens in front of the eye, which artificially does the work of the lens originally provided by nature but grown stiff from advancing years, and thus bringing the focus on the retina again.

The subject of Myopia or Shortsightedness was very fully treated. No one, Mr. Pringle said, is born short-sighted. It is true he may inherit a tendency to this from the fact that his eyes are soft and are liable to be made myopic if improperly used. The Germans, as a nation, seem to be peculiarly liable to myopia, and we find that a very large percentage of them are compelled to wear spectacles. The fault in this case is exactly the opposite of Hyperopia; the eye is drawn out, as it were, from front to back, so that the retina is too far away from the front of the eye; this causes the rays entering the eye to be brought to a focus in front of the retina so that a confused image is produced. The myopic subject attempts to correct this by bringing the object looked at closer to the eye. This causes the rays entering the pupil to be more divergent, and the consequence is that they are not brought to a focus so soon; in other words, the focus, instead of being in front of the retina, is exactly on it and clear vision results. But this expedient tends to elongate the eye still farther and, therefore, to increase the evil. The proper remedy is to use concave lenses which produce the same effect without further injuring the organ. In this connection it is of the greatest importance to pay attention to the way in which children use their eyes. If in reading, the type is small or indistinct, or the light is bad, the book is sure to be held too close in order to see the letters clearly and shortsightedness is the inevitable result. Careful examination of the eyes of thousands of children has shown that that there are many more suffering from myopia than is generally believed. Youth is the time to attend to this, as no one, except in rare cases, becomes shortsighted after they grow up.

The lecturer also explained the defects in the Hyperopic or far-sighted eye and their different peculiarities, which cause in some cases cross eyes, head ache, muscular fatigue, etc. As the time had expired Astigmatism and Muscular Irregularities were briefly but clearly dealt with, creating a feeling in those present that the speaker was thoroughly conversant with the subject.

At the conclusion of the lecture the Vice-President, in the name of the Society thanked Mr. Pringle very heartily for his exceedingly instructive address. A general discussion of the subject followed in the course of which a number of questions were asked and satisfactorily answered. Mr. Pringle also exhibited the cards and the large and valuable collection of lenses used in testing sight and these were examined with much interest by many of those who were present.

BOMBS FOR BASEBALLISTS.

"Base hits."—Whacks below the belt.
"Never muffs a 'ball.'"—A toper.
"Makes a home run."—A good husband.
"Safe hitters."—Burglars.
"Caught napping."—Policemen.
"Lines 'er out."—Fishermen.
"Daisy-cutters."—Cattle.
"Out on strikes."—Dissatisfied workmen.
"A scratch hit."—Lighting a match.
"A man of sighs."—The umpire.
"Heavy hitters."—Lucky investors.
"On the fly."—Hotel beats.
"A fowl tip."—A chicken's tail.
"A double play."—Borrowing $5 to pay a $5 debt.
"Often 'caught at it.'"—Catchers.
"Rounds many a curve."—Pitchers.
"Resembles the comma."—Short stops
"Lays them all out."—Undertakers.
"Makes the circuit."—A garter.
"An old ringer."—O.
"Familiar figures on the diamond."—00000000.

THE ANCIENT BATTERING-RAMS.

They exerted greater power than any gun or cannon invented up to the year 1860. These battering-rams were probably as effective in knocking down a wall or staving in the side of a ship as the best modern cannon, but for making a breach, the guns are far superior. Such was the solidity and thickness of the walls of Jerusalem that, Josephus tells us, it took all of one night for an enormous battering-ram to dislodge four stones!

Vitruvius has left us the description of a ram weighing 180,000 pounds; but probably the most celebrated of all the ancient moving-tower rams was that constructed by Demetrius Poliorcetes at the siege of Rhodes. The base of the tower was seventy five feet square. The ram itself was an assembly of large square beams resting on wheels in size proportioned to the weight of the structure, and all are riveted together with iron. The felloes of the wheel were three feet thick and strengthened with iron plates. From each of the four angles of the tower a large pillar of wood was carried up to a height of 150 feet, and these pillars were inclined towards one another. The tower has three stories, communicating by two staircases each. Three sides of the machine were plated with iron to protect them against fire. In front of each story there were loop holes, screened by leather curtains, to keep out darts, arrows, etc. Each story was provided with machinery for throwing large stones and darts; and in the lower story was the ram itself, thirty fathoms long, and fashioned at the end into an iron beak, or prow. The entire machine was moved forward by 3500 soldiers.

But it can easily be understood that among so many men some must be more or less exposed to the enemy's darts and arrows; and so, to drive the enemy from the walls and open places, to break the roofs of his houses, and otherwise annoy him, machines were necessary for throwing missiles, from small darts up to huge boulders.

THE WATCH TOWER.

A minister in Baltimore has been computing the size of heaven, and reaches the conclusion that it contains exactly 5,759,750,000,000 rooms, each, 16 by 16 feet in size. He is not the first professed minister who exhibits his lack of good sense by dabbling in matters he knows nothing about. Such things manifest the lack of reverent piety as well as a lack of good sense.

The New York *Observer* says: "On Sunday last the Rev. C. H. Parkhurst, D.D., pastor of the Madison avenue Presbyterian church surprised his congregation by expressing himself emphatically in favor of the free pew system. He subsequently remarked: 'I believe thoroughly in free pews, and if my people see fit to abolish the rents and depend upon voluntary contributions, I will accept for compensation whatever may be left, if it is not too much, after the running expenses are paid.' Dr. Parkhurst's free and decided expression of his views will no doubt lead to no little discussion of the question of free or hired pews."

An honest skeptic asked an evangelist: "How can I come to believe these things which you so earnestly teach?" The clergyman exacted the promise that his directions should be implicitly followed, and then gave the inquirer 3 verses from the Bible, which, he promised him, if explicitly followed, would lead to light and salvation. The texts were: "Search the scriptures" (John 5:39); "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God" (John 7:17); "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). Then they parted. Two weeks afterwards, when they met, the inquirer's face was entirely changed. In a glow of enthusiasm he exclaimed: "It is all right. I have found it just as you said, and I am saved."

A TALK ABOUT FLOWERS.

Give your plants all the sunshine possible. These short spring days are quite likely to be cloudy ones, and plants will not bloom well without sunshine. So be sure to take advantage of every clear day, and allow your plants to get all the benefit they can from them.

Be careful about giving too much water. Some persons get into the habit of giving water daily, not taking into consideration the fact that in dull weather evaporation takes place slowly. If water is applied too frequently, the soil will be in danger of souring, and good plants cannot be grown in sour soil. Watch your plants, and withhold water till the surface of the soil looks dry. Then give enough to permeate the entire ball of earth in the pot.

In winter never apply water that has not had the first chill taken off. I do not believe in giving warm water to ordinary plants, but I would advise letting it stand until it is of the temperature of the room which the plants.

FOR BUSINESS.

Pay as you go.
Never fool in business matters.
Do not kick everyone in your path.
Keep ahead of rather than behind the times.
Use your own brains rather than those of others.
Have order, system, regularity and also promptness.
If you have a placeof busines, be found there when wanted. No man can get rich by sitting around stoves in saloons.

Constipation followed by fitful diarrhœa, shooting pains in the breasts, drawing down aching pains, burning sensation in the small of the back, scanty, dark-colored fluids which scald in passing, and many deposits—sand, mucus, tube casts, and fluids covered by a greasy scum, any one of the foregoing signifies advanced kidney trouble. Prof. Wm. H. Thompson, M. D., of the University of the city of New York, says: "More adults are carried off in this country by chronic kidney disease than by any other one malady except consumption." The late Dr. Dio Lewis in speaking of Warner's Safe Cure, said over his own signature: "If I found myself the victim of serious kidney trouble I would use your preparation."

If you want to buy or sell a Farm, advertise in the Toronto *Weekly Mail*. That paper reaches 100,000 Farmers' homes every week, and your advertisement should meet the eye of someone who wants to purchase. Advertisements of this class are inserted in the Toronto *Weekly Mail* for Five Cents a word each insertion, or Twenty Cents a word for five insertions. Address The Mail, Toronto, Canada.

A HOME-MADE SCARE.

Carl was a jolly little fellow,
With eyes of blue and curls of yellow,
And rosy cheeks, and just the chin
To hold a pretty dimple in.
He found himself alone one day,
And wondered what 'twas best to play.
Pencil and paper soon he saw,
And seized them both. Said he, "I'll draw
An ogre like the one so grum
Poor Jack heard growling 'Fee-fe-fum.'
First, here's his forehead full of bumps,—
And then his nose with three big humps,
And then two ears of 'normous size,
And then two dreadful staring eyes,
And then a mouth from ear to ear,
With long, sharp, teeth-like tusks." But here
The artist, with eyes opened wide
In fright, gazed on his work and cried,
"Mamma, Mamma,—come, come, please, do,
I'm very lonely without you;
And oh! Mamma, I'm so afraid,
Of this old ogre that I've made."

—Margaret Eytinge, in St. Nicholas for April.

FRIENDSHIP.

He who kindly relieves the distressed
And visits the sick in time of need;
Or tenderly lifts up the oppressed,
Is truly a friend indeed.

It is not what we do for ourselves alone
Not gain of wealth or power
But what we have for others done—
That counts in the final hour.

HE WOULDN'T KNOW.

A bustling, busy, rosy-cheeked, bright-haired daughter of Erin one day entered the library of a gentleman in Liverpool, in whose establishment she was house-maid, holding between her thumb and finger a letter, which she held at arm's length, as if she had a gunpowder plot in her hand. In answer to his enquires as to her business, she said, "An' it plase yer honor, I'm but a poor girl and haint much larnin', and ye sees, plase yer honor, Paddy O'Reilly—and a better than him doesn't brattle in ould Ireland—has been writing of me a letter—a love letter plase yer honor, an—an—" He guessed at her embarrassment, and offered to relieve it by reading the letter. Still she hesitated, while she twisted a bit of raw cotton in her fingers. "Shure," she resumed, an' that's what I want; but it isn't gentlemen like yerself that would be knowing the secrets between us; and so"—here she twisted the cotton nervously—"If it'll plase yer honor, while ye're reading, so that yer may not read it yourself, ye'll jist put this bit of cotton in yer ears, and stop up yer hearing; and thin the secret 'll be unknown to yer!" The gentleman, of course, hadn't the heart to refuse her, and with the gravest possible complied with her request.

The thin cannot gain in weight if they are troubled with dyspepsia, because the food is not converted into the due proportion of nourishing blood which alone can furnish the elements of flesh. But there is no reason, when this wearing, attenuating disease is conquered by Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery why there should not be an appreciable gain in weight, which indeed is usually the case. It is a peerless remedy also for Constipation, Liver Complaint, Kidney troubles, and roots out all impurities from the blood.

O. Bottle, of Manchester, Ontario. Co., N. Y. writes:—"I obtained immediate relief from the use of Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil. I have had Asthma for eleven years. Have been obliged to sit up all night for ten or twelve nights in succession. I can now sleep soundly all night on a feather bed, which I had not been able to do previous to using the Oil."

Holloway's Corn Cure destroys all kinds of corns and warts, root and branch. Who then would endure them with such a cheap and effectual remedy within reach?

B. A. Gunn, M. D., Dean and Professor of Surgery of the United States Medical College, Editor of "Medical Tribune," Author of "Gunn's New Improved Handbook of Hygiene and Domestic Medicine," says over his own signature, in speaking of a severe case of kidney disease: "A chemical and microscopical examination of the patient's urine revealed quantities of albumen and granular tube casts, confirming Bright's disease. After trying all of the other remedies in vain, I directed him to use Warner's Safe Cure. I was greatly surprised to observe a decided improvement within a month. Within four months no tube casts could be found, and only a trace of albumen, and as he expressed it, he felt perfectly well."

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers; there is no mistake about it. It cures dysentry and diarrhœa, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind.

It is worse than madness to neglect a cough or a cold which is easily subdued if taken in time becomes, when left to itself, the fore-runner of consumption and premature death. Inflammation, when it attacks the delicate tissue of the lungs and bronchial tubes, travels with perilous rapidity; then do not delay, get a bottle of Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, the medicine that grasps this formidable foe of the human body, and drives it from the system. This medicine promotes a free and easy expectoration, subdues the cough, heals the diseased parts, and exerts a most wonderful influence in curing consumption, and other diseases of the throat and lungs. If parents wish to save the lives of their children, and themselves from much anxiety, trouble and expense, let them procure a bottle of Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, and whenever a child has taken cold, has a cough or hoarseness, give the Syrup according to directions.

"When the spring-time comes," we usually find ourselves drowsy and exhausted, owing to the impure and sluggish state of the blood. To remedy this trouble, take Ayer's Sarsaparilla, the most powerful, yet safe and economical blood-purifier in existence.