The Acton Free Press.

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The Acton Free Press

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AT THE

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5 inches	20 00	12 00	7 00	2 50
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Changes for contract advertisements must be in the office by noon on Tuesdays.

H. P. MOORE
Editor and Proprietor.

Business Directory.

J. F. UREN, M. D. C. M.
Office and residence Corner Mill & Frederick sts. Acton.

J. E. WILKINSON, D. D. S., L. D. S.,
SURGEON DENTIST
Graduate University of Toronto, Member of the royal College of Dental Surgeons
None but first class operations performed
OFFICE Over the Drug Store, ACTON
Open every day from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.

L. L. BENNETT, L.D.S. DENTIST,
GEORGETOWN, ONTARIO

McLEAN & McLEAN
Barristers, Solicitors, Notaries, Conveyancers &c. Private funds to loan.
Office.—Town Hall, Acton
WM. A. McLEAN. JNO. A. McLEAN

DOUGLAS & MURRAY
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, NOTARIES &c.
OFFICES—1296 Queen St., Parkdale
Victoria Chambers, 61 Victoria St
Telephone 297 Toronto
JOHN DOUGLAS A. MURRAY

E. W. BOYD,
Barrister, Solicitor, Notary, Conveyancer
MONEY TO LOAN
Office Booth's Block, Main St. Milton
Office at Streetsville each Wednesday afternoon.
Palace Bakery Block, Queen Street

GUTHRIE, WATT & GUTHRIE,
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS &c.
D. Guthrie, Q. C., James Watt, Hugh Guthrie
OFFICE,—Douglas St., Guelph

R. J. McNABB,
Clerk, Fourth Division Court County of Halton, Conveyancer, Agent Fire and Life Assurance Real Estate Agent. Money to loan, etc
OFFICE—Matthews Block
ACTON ONT

T. G. MATHESON, & J. B. McLEOD
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, CONVEYANCERS
Georgetown and Milton
Money to loan at lowest rates

JOHN DAY, ARCHITECT
Guelph Ont.
OFFICE.—Wyndham Street

HENRY GRIST,
Ottawa Canada
Solicitor of Patents, for Inventions.
Prepares Applications for the Canadian, American, and European Patent Offices, and for the Registration of Trade Marks. Send for pamphlet. Thirty two years experience

WM. HEMSTREET,
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 $500 and upwards.

FRANCIS NUNAN
BOOKBINDER
Wyndham St., Guelph Ontario
(Over Williams Store)
Account Books of all kinds made to order. Periodicals of every description carefully bound. Ruling neatly and promptly done

THE METHODIST CHURCH
ACTON.
REV J E HOWELL M A Pastor
Parsonage, Bower Ave.
Public Services 10.30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday school 2.30. Bible Class conducted by the pastor. All cordially invited.
Strangers and visitors always welcome. Active ushers at the door.
Epworth League of Christ Endeavor J B Coulter, President. Meets every Tuesday evening. All welcome invited.

Main Street
PLANING MILLS.
ACTON, ONT.
John Cameron,
Architect and Contractor
Manufacturer of Sash Doors Frames Mouldings in all styles
DRESSING, MATCHING and MOULDING to order on short notice
Well assorted stock on hand at prices to suit the times.
JOHN CAMERON,
Proprietor

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 trains day and night.
Careful attention given to every order.
The wants of Commercial Travellers fully met
JOHN WILLIAMS

JOB PRINTING,
INCLUDING Books, Pamphlets, Posters, Bill Heads, Circulars, &c., &c., executed in the best style of the art, at moderate prices and on short notice. Apply or address
H. P. MOORE,
FREE PRESS Office, Acton

Come With the Crowd.

It will pay you to do so, for at our present prices, the value we give in

- - Wall Paper - -

is unexcelled, and with the

Newest Styles,
Largest Stock
AND
Lowest Prices

not forgetting our great

CUT PRICE SALE.

We can save you time and money.

DAY'S BOOK STORE.
GUELPH.
Day Sells Cheap.

Miss White..
has now a full display of
French Patterns,
Hats & Bonnets.

I have decided to reduce all my Trimmed Stock.

LOOK OUT FOR GREAT BARGAINS.

Mrs. White, with her experience as a dressmaker, feels confident she will be able to insure satisfaction to every customer.

Please Remember the Place

Mrs. Secord's Block, Acton

Dress and Mantle Making

Miss Armstrong
LATE OF TORONTO,
Has opened Dress and Mantle-Making Rooms in Mrs. Secord's Block, next door to Miss White's millinery rooms, Acton, and invites the patronage of the ladies of Acton and vicinity.
Having had experience with the best classes of work I feel that I can confidently assure all who favor me with their orders the best of satisfaction.
MISS ARMSTRONG

SEASON 1895

We are extending thanks to our customers for their liberal support, and we wish to inform you that we have entered into an arrangement with R Stewart, Guelph, to keep constantly on hand a full stock of the ordinary sizes of

Sash, Doors, Etc.

and will also supply any special sizes at short notice at Guelph prices.

Frames of All Kinds
made to order. We also keep in stock a full line of Moulding, Window and Door Casing, Corner Blocks, &c.
Your Lumber Dressed While You Wait
Price $1 50 per M

PUMPS
Suitable than ever. We can supply either wood or iron pumps (wood if worn guaranteed satisfactory).
Please call and inspect before purchasing elsewhere
THOS. EBBAGE, Manager
Acton

EVERTON MILLS.
Highest prices in cash or trade for all kinds of grain.
Everton Mills on Roller process for 10 cents per bushel.
FLOUR,
BRAN
SHORTS
Chop
Highest price in cash for Wheat
HENRY EVERTON

Acton Flour Mill.
CHEYNE & CHEYNE,
Proprietors.
Have our roller mill now in complete order, running night and day, and are in a position to supply the wants of the public with
FLOUR, BRAN, SHORTS
and all kinds of Feed,
AT RIGHT PRICES.
Every order will receive prompt attention and be delivered to any part of the town.
Our terms are cash and one price for all.
Don't forget to patronize home industry, give us a fair trial and we will leave the matter for you to decide as to the quality of the goods we manufacture.
Orders taken at the Mill or at Jas. Kannawin's Drug Store.
CHEYNE & CHEYNE.

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

J. H. HAMILTON
Granite and Marble Dealer,
GUELPH, ONT.
Purchased while in Europe one of the best stocks of
Norway, Swede, Russian, Irish and Scotch
GRANITE
Ever imported and is selling at present 30 per cent below others. Superior work guaranteed. Marble at half others' prices. Call early for bargains.
J. H. HAMILTON.

The Traders' Bank
OF CANADA
Capital Authorized $1,000,000
Capital Paid up 607,400
Rest 85,000
GUELPH BRANCH
3½ PER CENT INTEREST paid on sums of $1 and upwards from date of deposit to date of withdrawal, or compounded half yearly on 31st May and 30th November
Deposit Receipts issued
Farmers notes discounted
The collection of sales notes a specialty
A general Banking business transacted.
A. H. JONES,
Manager

WE WANT A GHOST
Of a show to prove that it will pay you to buy your
Hardware
—Builders or any other kind—from us.
WE KNOW
we can save you money
Why not give us a trial.
BOND'S
HARDWARE
GUELPH

GOOD
VIOLIN
STRINGS
Mail orders promptly attended to.
We supply the trade
Write and we will be pleased to quote prices.
Savage & Co.
(NEW STORE)
GUELPH
Large Sacrifice
Wall Papers
Window Poles
Window Shades
AT
SMITH'S Book
GUELPH
Stock must be sold and the price of goods is no object as to accomplish it. To those not in the trade this also presents an opportunity seldom offered.
Books, Stationery, etc., at very low cash prices.
Public and High Schools supplied at the rate of one fifth off Job May.

SEED CORN
Mammoth White, Early Butler, Yellow Horse Tooth, 90 Bushel. All the new early varieties for Early Planting.

Turnip Seed.
The finest in the land. All the best sell. Fifteen varieties to choose from. Twenty cents a pound or six pounds for one dollar.

Rape Seed.
GENUINE DWARF ESSEX
Tested at the O. A. College again this year. Price for 25c or 1 lbs for $1.00
Also in stock the New Baccalieu Forage, Hungarian, Millet, Sugar Cane, Tares, Flax Seed, Buckwheat, Chicken, etc., etc.

GEO. J. THORPE,
The only practical seedsman and direct importer in Guelph.
I WANT 10,000 LBS OF WOOL THIS YEAR

It Will Pay You
TO VISIT
THE
WALL PAPER Department
OF
WATERS BROS.
Guelph, Ont.
Prices from 5c to 75c per Roll.
About 3,000 Rolls Last Years Gilts at Half Price.
ST. GEORGE'S SQUARE.
DO NOT MISS IT.

Poetry.

WAYSIDE HINTS.

The wayside, where the wagon wheel
Tolls through the dust, its bands of steel
Now jolting over root and stone,
That makes the axle creak and groan
The wayside, trampled, rooted, torn,
With tangled grass and weeds forlorn
What see you there, O traveler by,
That pleasantly doth greet your eye?
God's sweetest flowers are often there
The thorn-armed briar scents the air,
The goldenrod its tasseled spray
In every corner doth display
The lily with her pretty face,
Beside the sumach takes her place
Red-headed groom and freckled bride,
Dame nature placed you side by side,
Assuming as a thing of course
That you would never seek divorce
But, either beauties and their home
Where oftimes beasts and footpads roam
Rare concerts for the wayside cheer,
That was a robin Did you hear
The lisping pee wee in the brake
His challenge to the blustird make?
Field sparrows chirp up the trees,
From which the kingbird on the bees
Doth swoop, transfixing them at will
With merciless destroying bill
With flowers sweet the dull wayside
A God of love hath glorified,
There feathered minstrels, never mute,
Sing both for vagabond and brute
The wayside, with its blooms and birds,
Drops in my ear suggestive words
Life's wayside paths are dark and cold,
Made sad by sufferings manifold
Why should we not plant flowers there
And smooth the wrinkled brow of care?
The birds we hear, the blooms we see,
Are but God's hints to you and me
To make His wayside children glad
For well He knoweth they are sad
God's lowly ones, unseen, unknown
Life's battle often fight alone
Our brothers they, our sisters dear
Give them kind words their hearts to cheer
And in their hour of sorest need
Follow the word with some kind deed.

ROBERT L. B.

Select Family Reading.

Aunt Hitty's Debut

[illegible] January 8th, [illegible] was getting ready for morning [illegible] she had heard the deacon's chore to the front window put the Bible and the church paper on the stand by his side, and shut the cat into the back shed, lest she might take a fancy to make a cushion of the deacon's swollen feet. It seemed heartless to leave the poor man alone and helpless, but since he could not hear the sermon himself the next best thing to do would be to hear Hitty a report of it, what was said, how it seemed to move the brethren and how the collection turned out.

"My sakes, said Hitty, turning back from the door "I came near forgetting the missionary money having so much on my mind

She took the big black wallet from the top drawer in the bureau, and brought it dutifully to the deacon who opened it with his clumsy fingers and extracted a carefully folded five dollar bill

"I have been keepin that bill ever since I sold the russet apples I like to have clean money for the collection, seems better somehow

"I s pose you don't feel that you could go over five dollars this year do ye, Dan'l? You know it's going to be a tight squeeze to bring up the amount to last year, and the board is in debt they say

"I don't feel I can Hitty said the deacon resolutely strapping his wallet "I did plan to double up, mebby if things went right, but here I be with a doctor's bill, and can't be out a cent of that int rest money The board had no business to go in debt Tain't sound policy

"I don't see but it's the same kind of policy you trusted to, Dan'l, said Aunt Hitty with some spirit "You promised to give the Lord ten dollars stead of five, and now you can't do it because Lighlot Sanders don't pay you that int rest

"I didn't promise, Hitty. I was only considerin It's something to have the willing mind, ye know I declare, Hitty, I don't feel quite safe to have ye put that wallet in the draw Some tramp might come along and there's a hundred dollars in it.

"Think I better put it in the spare room?

"Goodness sakes, what a man you are for a little help! I'd put it where I can see it

Aunt Hitty looked at the clock and the cupboard with an air of indecision but the bell was ringing and there was no time to waste so she thrust the wallet into her deep pocket

"I'll just take it along and then I shall know it's safe she said as she took up the hymn book, but seen whose heart was the missionary money

If the deacon had any expectations he had no time to mention them He saw his wife's comfortable figure moving up the village street he watched John Anderson drive past with his little family and noticed that a new spoke had been put in the near hind wheel, he followed the stooping form of Deacon Happgood with the satisfied reflection that if he did have rheumatism by spells he stood as straight as ever when he could stand at all And then the bell stopped ringing, and the Carters trooped by, breathless and late, as they always were, some how the Carters never did quite catch up with things.

The clock struck, and the deacon took his powders, he put on his spectacles and tried to read a little, but the paper did not seem to interest him

"Kind of a dry number said the deacon to himself, "don't appear to be much but the same old story about hard times, and the deficit I'm about sick of it myself Everybody's got a deficit somewhere this year, and I dunno it's any wuss for the missionaries than other folks"

Well, the minister preached a powerful sermon, made a most touching appeal, and then the collection was taken. It barely equalled that of the previous year. The minister gave a rousing exhortation, at the close of which, with a kindling face said, "Brethren let us take another collection for the debt.

The people seated themselves, and the deacons emptied the baskets and started slowly on their rounds. Aunt Hitty watched with fascinated eyes as the basket came toward her If Daniel only were here he certainly would give that extra five dollars just to think, that would make up for fifty members, and they could do it as well as not. Her hand fumbling for her handkerchief, touched the wallet, and an electric thrill ran through her as she seized and jerked it out in frantic haste "If there was a $5 bill she would give it herself, but alas, when her trembling fingers unfolded the packet there were only two bills twenty dollar bills, and there stood the collector, only two seats ahead, waiting on Cap'n Dorrance to fish up a coin from his long slippery "pu's" her heart thumped so it seemed as if folks must hear it This was the hundred dollars that was to be paid for the new buggy she had wanted so long Dan'l had never been very keen to buy it, but had just declared she was ashamed to ride in the old one any longer. She might but there was Miss Dyer, she could give 10 cents for all the members, and mebby but Miss Dyer dismissed the basket with a gracious nod, and here it came down the pew straight at Aunt Hitty. She crushed the bill in her nervous fingers, gave a little gasp, and then laid a crumpled wad among the scattered coins.

"There, she said, "I cant give Dan'l's half of the buggy, but I'm free to give mine. I and Dan'l can ride in a new buggy and think of the folks over in India. I'd feel as if it were a car of Juggernaut

She hurried out after service scarcely waiting to speak to any of the neighbors, and all the way home she was in a tremor of excitement. But when she got home she found the doctor talking to the deacon, and there was nothing to do but set about preparing dinner And then Cousin Silas drove over to see how the deacon was getton, and Aunt Hitty told them both about the sermon, and especially the last appeal and the extra collection

"Wonder how they came out, said the deacon "Why didn't ye wait and ask Hitty? I hope they got something worth while, ten cents aint much for anybody to give.

"But then you have to allow for them that don't give anything, and they wn't much in the basket when it got to me," sat Aunt Hitty, looking critically at the deacon, through the upper section of her glasses

"If I had been there I believe I shd have ventured on the promises and put in another five dollars, said the deacon, complacently, and Aunt Hitty gave a queer little chuckle to herself and said no more.

That night the deacon could not sleep. It might have been the mince pie which he insisted upon eating, or it might have been too much company, but after much groaning and sighing, he ventured to ask absently

"Hey you asleep Hitty

"No, said Aunt Hitty, sharply, coming herself from an awful dream in which she had seen herself riding in a gorgeous chariot over a road paved with prostrate heathens

"I can't seem to sleep said the deacon and somehow that *debt* it keeps running in my mind, does seem a pity to have it come on the missionaries

"Well, said Aunt Hitty if that's all, you can go to sleep with a clear conscience It aint coming on the missionaries, not our part of it, anyhow, it's a coming on us We've got a deficit ourselves, Dan'l, we are just half a buggy short

Aunt Hitty laughed hysterically as the poor man looked imploringly into her face, with the full conviction that she had gone crazy

"I am crazy, Dan'l, you needn't stare at me in that way I just couldn't help it Think of me sittin there with the price of a new buggy in my pocket and all them poor souls

"Hitty, gasped the deacon you don't mean to tell me you didn't

"Yes, I do mean Dan'l, I gave our half of the buggy and I believe in my soul if you'd been there you'd give your half You always said we didn't really need it, and it was just my foolish pride, so now we'll ride in the old buggy, and you've saved fifty dollars

The deacon was silent, but there was a twinkle of amusement in his old eyes as he said

"You pear to like the idea of havin a deficit Hitty

"So I do, said Aunt Hitty, but I can tell you, Dan'l when it would be terrible depressing to have a deficit, and that a when the Lord says, Give an account of thy stewardship, for thou mayst be no longer steward

"That's so Hitty, said the deacon solemnly "I dunno but I might as well give my half of the buggy, too. We're gettin along in years and we've got a right of things to be thankful for

ISOLATED PEOPLE

People who isolate themselves from all but a no near and dear family ties, are the most uncomfortable of human beings Byron says, "Happiness was born a twin," but the phrase, though pretty, and poetic does not go far enough We are gregarious and not intended to march through life in single or in double file In pairing time, and during the honeymoon, individuals of opposite sexes may find it very pleasant, not to say delightful, to walk apart from the unsentimental world, two and two But as a general thing they are ready enough to rush back into the crowd when the billing and cooing season is over Petrarch would have grown tired of Laura and she of him, had they been condemned to a life long *tete a tete* in the wilderness, and Sappho would have jumped into the sea to have escaped ennui, had she been compelled to matrimonial solitude with the man for lack of whose love she made "a damp body" of herself

It has been well said that the vitar principle grows weak when isolated The man who cares for nobody, and for whom nobody cares, has nothing to live for that will pay for the trouble of keeping soul and body together You must have a heap of embers to make a glowing fire Scatter them apart, and they become dim and cold. So, to have a brisk, vigorous life, you must have a group of lives, to keep each other warm, as it were, to afford to each other mutual encouragement and confidence and support If you wish to live the life of a man, and not that of a fungus, be social, be brotherly, be charitable, be sympathetic and labor earnestly for the good of your kind.

THE INTEREST OF A CLERK.

Every clerk, says a contemporary, who studies his own best interest should aim at all times to be improving himself, and not only able to do his present work in the right way, but prepare him df for future duties which may come to him. He not only should study to do well the nearest to his hands, but be ever on the alert to gain information relating to the business with which he is connected This information will come in good play some time, and, besides, it will broaden his intellect and sharpen his ideas.

TWINS.

A gentleman, whose home had been honored with a double blessing, thus wrote to a friend:

"Did you ever have twins at your house? Did your relatives ever have twins at their house? Does it run in your family to have twins at its house? Did you ever visit a friend who had twins at his house? If you can't answer these questions in the affirmative, you don't know what life is. I have heard twins, seen twins, slept with twins, fed twins, dreamed about twins, talked about twins, telephoned about twins, telegraphed about twins, and tried to name twins, till even my sight is doubled, and I see everything by twins. Don't have time to eat, don't have time to attend to business, don't have time to kiss my wife, and talk about having time to sleep, pshaw! that's out of the question. I go to bed at eight o'clock, and get up at seven o'clock, and haven't had any sleep either. I am like an old soldier, who after having gone to church with old Gov. Stephenson and worshipped in his Episcopal pew, said to his rural friends, who asked him about the church service: "I don't know nothing about it, boys, except I riz and fell with 'em every time." My predicament reminds me very much of the darky, who, in discussing the relative danger of the steamboat and the railroad train said: "When the kars run off the track, Honey, dar you is, but when the boat sinks, whar in the name of God is you?"

When I nurse one baby I expect to be able to manage it, and get a little sleep, but when there are two of them and they are seesawing all during the night, first one up, up, up, and the other down, down, down, and what in the name of 'babydom' is a patient loving father to do? The carpet on my floor from the bed to the fire, and from the fire to the cradle, has worn to a frizzle. I have gotten through one pair of slippers, and have another pair on rapid road to ruin. I have sung all the songs from 'Shout, Shout, We are Gaining Ground," "Old Ship of Zion," up to the latest operatic airs of Gilbert and Sullivan, especially 'Patience.' No, sir! I'm kinder like Uncle Remus when he was telling Brer Rastus about his church 'sperience. "Needn't sing out church to me, Brer Rastus, I's done been and got my dose." Not the least of my difficulties, produced by this recently rapid growth of my family is to name these two promising, industrious, enterprising, never sleeping young people. A few nights ago, at twelve o'clock, when the lightning flashed and the thunder roared, and the elements were in wild commotion, and while I sat clothed in my nocturnal habiliments, looking more like an ancient Roman than a Nineteenth Century American, rocking a noisy boy, and my wife sat opposite to me singing to an equally noisy girl, I cried out to her, 'Eureka! Eureka! their names shall be Paul and Silas! for thus it is written, that at midnight Paul and Silas sang praises.' She did not seem to like this very much, but I told her about a friend of mine who named his bantam rooster Robinson, because he Crusoe (crew so), and thus illustrating the appropriateness of things, gained her consent

After this pathetic recital of the woes which have befallen a once faithful and prompt correspondent, do you wonder that my tongue has cleaved to the roof of my mouth, and my right hand has forgotten its cunning?"

A CONVERTED FOREX

Certainly I am grateful to you for the [illegible] Put me down for $25."

A look of pleased surprise passed over the solicitor's face, succeeded by one of perplexity, for it happened that he knew that his friend had precisely the same salary as he, and that $25 was a generous fraction of his month's income

"O, that's more than we expect, Frank, and that you can afford, too, I fear," he added, with the freedom of a comrade.

"Oh, no. Let me tell you how it is, Jack You know I turned right about face when I became a Christian, last winter, and I resolved at the start not to enter into a junior partnership with the world, and a senior partnership with the church.

"You knew my habits I was not an inordinate smoker cutting off three cigars a day, with a treat now and then reduced my expenses $100 a year. Then I had a careless habit, ruinous to my digestion, of adding a bottle of claret or some fancy, indigestible pudding or cream, at least twice a week to a wholesome lunch. Looked squarely in the face and given its right name it was an indulgence of unlawful appetite, so I made seventy five dollars a year by stopping that Sunday head ache, too went at the same time

One day I was looking over my neckties to find some particular color and I found I had thirty seven with at least ten scarf pins That made me run through my accounts next day (they weren't very well kept, but I guessed as nearly as I could) to see what there was in my wardrobe that could leave me better dressed from a Christian and artistic point of view, too, for that matter, if I never wore it again, and I am ashamed to say, I found I had $150 worth of dry goods on hand That was the price, not of good taste, but mere caprice

Now, I don't propose to submit a taxation on behalf of my weakness and vices and be niggardly with the church. I've promised before God and man to support and increase.

There, you have it all I spent over $400 a year, you see in the service of appetite and fashion, for things that make me less a man I've transferred that mortgage. Yes, I can afford easily that $25, especially when it is to rescue some other fellow deeper in than I was. Come to think of it, make it $30, the other $5 is a thank offering." *Sunday School Times.*

DOES NOT IRRITATE, BUT HEALS.

South American Kidney Cure Cures Kidney Disease Speedily and Effectively.

It is remarkable that those who suffer from kidney disease grow impatient of those medicines that are slow in their cure. Who enjoys pain? The beauty of South American Kidney Cure is that it relieves the sufferer almost instantaneously. What sickness does not know the delight that comes when pain is relieved? Kidney cure as a plain matter of fact, relieves the most distressing kidney and bladder troubles in six hours. It is hard to say anything more for it Who wants more said for it? Sold by J. V. Kannawin.

SOLAR ECLIPSES.

Some weeks ago, Prof Wiggins announced that the total eclipse of the sun that was about to take place (March, 1895), was the eclipse that occurred at the crucifixion. A correspondent called on him to inquire if the phenomena attending the eclipse were as he anticipated, also to learn the real object he had in view when he gave the information to the press.

"My object," he said, "was to convince scientists that the New Testament story of the darkness at Christ's death, now generally discredited, really took place, and that it was caused by a total eclipse of the sun. A large number of the greatest thinkers of our time believe that nearly all the books written about the time of the Christian era, which refer to Christ and his religion, are forgeries. The learned French Jesuit, Hardouin, who died in 1729 says that the writings of the Christian fathers such as the works of Eusebius and Tertullian, were forged by the Benedictine monks of the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Now, St. Jerome (A D., 400), the translator of the Latin Vulgate, the only bible acknowledged by the Roman Catholic Church, quotes a Greek writer named Phlegon, who wrote about A D., 150, to prove that there was a remarkable eclipse of the sun at the time of Christ's death. St. Jerome says: "And so writes Phlegon, an excellent compiler of the Olympiads, in his 13th book saying: "In the fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad, there was a great and extraordinary eclipse of the sun distinguished among all that had happened before At the sixth hour the day was turned into night, so that the stars in the heavens were seen and there was an earthquake in Bithynia which overthrew many houses in the city of Nice.'" Now, I know from calculation that on March 19 A D., 33, a total eclipse of the sun happened at or near the meridian of Jerusalem like the eclipse of March 25, 1895, and if Phlegon and the evangelists told the truth about the earthquakes at the former eclipse, then we should have alarming earthquakes in Italy after the eclipse. Did these earthquakes happen? If they did, then the critics of the last century, who said that St. Jerome forged the passage from Phlegon, were all wrong! In April, 1895, the town of Laibach, in Austria, was nearly destroyed by an earthquake. Of a total of 1350 houses only a hundred and fifty are intact, while a hundred and fifty were totally destroyed. Ten thousand people fled from the town. This earthquake then moved southward into Italy and wrecked scores of houses in the vicinity of Florence exactly like the earthquake mentioned by Phlegon I am satisfied, therefore, first, that there was great darkness on all the land of Judea, March 19, A.D., 33; second, that St. Jerome did not forge the passage from Phlegon, and third, that the learned Jesuit, Hardouin, was mistaken when he said that all the writings of the Christian Fathers are forgeries by the Benedictine monks. Gibbons disbelieved in this eclipse because Pliny did not mention it, but Pliny would not speak of a great eclipse that happened in some other country than his own The earthquake force is now moving eastward towards Judea"

RIVAL MELODIES

During the war it so happened at one time the armies on both sides were encamped on the banks of a river on one side the Union army, across the rebel And as they lay there in their encampments the bands on both sides began to discourse music. On the northern side it was "The Star Spangled Banner" swelling out upon the breeze, and on the southern side the band responded with "Dixie's Land." Again, the northern side said in their music, "Hail Columbia," and yet the southern bands responded with "Dixie's Land." Again the northern bands played "Yankee Doodle," but the response was only "Dixie's Land"

And then a chord of "Home, Sweet Home," was struck up on the northern side of the stream and the bands on the southern side took it up, and it was "Home Sweet Home" on both sides, and every voice responded in perfect harmony, and strains of those instruments and the great soul of the country breathed anew and again with the delightful inspiration of the love of home That was the lesson that was implanted deep in the hearts of all the men assembled there

PETER

[illegible] as the year old the first [illegible] same through Uncle Peter [illegible] the small boy to see it

A train boy threw a peach [illegible] Peter. He ate it, and laughed and squeeled with delight

"Don't throw away the stone," said Uncle Peter "We'll plant it

Peter's chubby, brown little hand patted the soft earth over it That first season he watched the green shoot break through and send out a few leaves The next season it was tall enough for Peter to jump over it The next it was so tall he could not

When Peter was eight years old there were seven peaches on his tree One for each of the family, and not one of them tasted anything so good before He planted all the stones

To-day Peter is a big lad He has eight well grown peach trees, which carry health and delight to all the neighborhood And he has a young orchard coming on which will some day bring more money than all his father's crops *Youth's Companion*

THE DOG AND THE POOR HOUSE

An incident which would seem to prove that a dog learns to understand the language of his country was related by one willing to vouch for its truth. And this is the story

"A dog had come to be very old in a family in a country village. One of the family remarked on a certain day as the dog lay in the room:

"I think Sancho ought to be put out of the way. He is only a nuisance now"

That afternoon Sancho disappeared, and as the days passed did not return. In the course of a week a neighbor said

"I see that your dog is up at the poor house." On inquiry it was learned that Sancho, having called at the poor-house and been kindly received, had continued on as a guest. And ever after, although he sometimes made a brief call at his own home, he lived at the town farm, and there peacefully ended his dog's life.—*Our Animal Friends.*

SHAKING HANDS.

BY JOSEPHINE POLLARD

There is an art in shaking hands
Not everybody understands,
And as they go through life untaught,
The simple act expresses naught

The fingers limp within our own
Awaken no responsive tone
From the electric wires, that send
The hearty greeting to a friend.

But, oh, there is a simple touch,
Gentle and soft, it at means so much
The pulses of our soul are stirred,
As if we heard the spoken word.

The outstretched hand, the hearty grasp
The fingers locked in loving clasp,
Fresh strength and courage have bestowed
To many a one along life's road

Some lonely traveller it may be,
Yearning for love and sympathy,
And quick the sign to comprehend
My heart is true and I'm your friend

Thus one repels another draws,
And many are unjudged because
Not one in twenty understands
The gracious art of shaking hands

A VALUABLE HINT.

"My husband," said a physician's wife not long ago, "chanced to see one day, standing on a shelf outside our kitchen window, some moulds of jelly cooling for the night's dinner. They were uncovered, as they were out of reach of cats, and in full view of cook's watchful eye, but he questioned me about them, and asked if it was our usual custom to leave jelly thus unprotected I was obliged to reply that so far as I know, it was "Then," he said "don't you know that when we medical men want to secure minute organisms for investigation, we expose gelatine to the air or to places where we have confined malignant germs? The gelatine speedily attracts and holds them I'm afraid your flavored gelatine does the same Cool the jelly if you must, but cover it with a piece of close muslin" And we have always done that since then"

It is to be feared that kitchen processes are sources of illness more often than is imagined In many city houses the little annex where stands the refrigerator, and where various eatables are kept, is directly against a drain Yet here stand daily uncovered milk, butter, open custards and puddings, and various other absorbents. The average cook is absolutely ignorant of sanitary cause and effect, and the eternal vigilance of the house mother is the family's chief safeguard *Boston Journal of Commerce.*

A GOOD JOKE

A Chicago paper says that a joke recently induced the owner of a goat to take the animal to the hall in which a lodge was in session He told the man that the lodge goat was dead, and that a new one was needed for immediate service The goat was a very troublesome one, one of the "Billy" persuasion, and its owner was glad to get rid of him, so he promptly haltered him, and after an exciting trip through the streets and a fatiguing journey up two flights of stairs, the other door was reached, the man being tired with his exertion, and the goat mad at being hauled so far above *terra firma* against his will. Just then a young man who was to be initiated that night came up the stairs, and the goat catching sight of him broke away from his owner, and with a hair raising, blood curdling bawl lowered his horns and went for the new comer like a yearling lamb One glimpse of his wild, wierd looking assailant was sufficient and the frightened candidate, with an ear splitting yell of dismay, went down stairs, six steps at a jump, and made for the woods at a 2.10 gait. His initiation has been indefinitely postponed until he can be found and the lodge has placed advertisements in the newspapers asking intelligence as to his whereabouts.

TIED TO A TRUNK

It is sometimes better to permit public servants to have their own way than to go through life with a theory that every such person is a public enemy The Chicago *News* tells a story of a young woman who entered a railway train with a poodle clasped tenderly in her arms

"Madam" said the conductor as he punched her ticket, "I am very sorry, but you can't have your dog in this car It's against the rules"

"I shall hold him in my lap all the way" she replied, "and he will not disturb any one

"That makes no difference" said the conductor "I couldn't allow my own dog here Dogs must ride in the baggage car I'll fasten him all right for you"

"Don't you touch my dog, sir" said the young woman excitedly I will trust him to no one!" And with indignant tread, she marched to the baggage car, tied her dog, and returned About fifty miles further on, when the conductor came along again, she asked him "Will you tell me if my dog is all right?"

"I am very sorry" said the conductor politely, "but you did leave it a trunk, and he was thrown off with it at the last station"

COMMENDABLE INDEPENDENCE

A few years ago, a poor carman in Boston met with a very serious misfortune when plying his vocation at the docks there He had occasion to back his horse against the edge of the wharf, and in doing so, the vehicle accidently received a backward momentum, by which cart and horse were precipitated into the water, the horse drowned and the cart damaged. The sympathy of some charitable persons immediately set on foot a subscription to repair the poor man's loss, and when a very handsome sum was offered him, he respectfully but firmly rejected it, saying:

"I'm not denying that I am poor enough, but I have always had foresight to lay by something for a rainy day, and I'll take care that no one shall look at my new cart and horse, and say, "I gave him a dollar to get it."

This is an instance of independence and foresight in humble life which we think might be acted on with advantage by many in higher station.

During the most peaceful years the world has 3,000,000 soldiers, who are withdrawn from productive occupations to pose as soldiers. The pay, equipments, food, and clothing of these men cost the world's taxpayers nearly $80,000,000 a year.

Hood's Sarsaparilla gives great bodily, nerve, mental and digestive strength, simply because it purifies, vitalizes and enriches the blood.