The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1920

LITTLE BOY BLUE

The little toy dog is covered with dust,
But sturdy and staunch he stands;
The little tin soldier is red with rust,
And his musket moulds in his hands.
Time was when the little toy dog was new,
And the soldier was passing fair,
And that was the time that our Little Boy Blue
Kissed them and put them there.

"Now, don't you go, till I come," he said,
"And don't you make any noise."
And toddling off to his trundle bed,
He dreamed of his pretty toys.
And as he was dreaming, an angel song
Awakened our Little Boy Blue;
Oh, the years are many and the years are long,
But the little toy friends are true.

Ay, faithful to Little Boy Blue, they stand,
Each in the same old place,
Awaiting the touch of a vanished hand,
And the smile of a little face.
And they wonder, as waiting the long years thro',
In the dust of that little chair,
What has become of our Little Boy Blue
Since he kissed them and put them there.

—Eugene Field.

VALUE OF EGG LAYING CONTEST

There is at the present time a great wave of interest and enthusiasm in poultry production sweeping over practically the whole world, and particularly the English-speaking world. Undoubtedly the necessity for increased production of all foods has been a great factor in this awakened interest, but before this necessity arose the wave had begun, so that it but increased rather than started it.

While there are a great many factors more or less responsible for the awakened interest, the greatest of all has undoubtedly been laying contests. The primary value of laying contests undoubtedly was the advertising and stimulus they gave to the breeders who entered their flocks, but the greatest value to the poultry industry was and is the public attention that they have attracted to the production end of the poultry keeping and the establishing of confidence in records made under public supervision.

The shows and exhibitions that had been held in the past attracted attention and stirred interest from the love of beauty of form and feather, but with the coming of the laying contests the general public—the keen business man and the dissatisfied city worker—realized that here was a business capable of returning a good profit on investment or a good independent living.

The man of means invests in a farm, employs an experienced poultry man and goes into the business. The city worker has not sufficient capital for this, so he starts a small back-yard flock, learns how to handle it with profit, gradually expands, looking forward to the time when he can stop his city work and depend entirely on poultry for a living.

It is this awakening of public interest in poultry production that has so far been of first importance, but while this, no doubt, will continue, ultimately the greatest value will come from the establishing of records of performance that will be above reproach.

In the past, records have been published that were made solely under the supervision of the owner. Many of these needed to be taken with a grain of salt, but when records are made in public contests, government supervision creates a confidence that is not felt in home records.

With the establishing of an official record of performance the door to breeding for greater egg production will be opened in a way that has never been possible before.

With a view to stimulating interest in production, the Dominion Experimental Farms have established egg laying contests throughout Canada. The first of these was started at Charlottetown, P. E. I., on November 1, 1918, and created so much interest in that province that on the following November 1, six other contests were started as follows:

The Canadian Egg Laying Contest at Ottawa with fifty pens competing. Federal contests of twenty pens each at Nappan, N. S., Cap Rouge, Que., Brandon, Man., Indian Head, Sask., and Lethbridge, Alta.

These latter, while not strictly confined to the provinces in which they are held, are intended to be more or less of a provincial nature, while the contest at Ottawa is international in scope.

It is expected that next year not only will the capacity of the present contests be increased, but that new contests will be established in other districts throughout Canada.—George Robertson, Poultry Division, Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

IT IS SO EASY!

Boston is famous for its beans, but those who "know beans" will tell you that none are so delicious as those beans baked in the ground according to the manner of the guides and lumbermen of the Maine Woods. Not long ago a man from the Middle West took a hunting trip through the Pine Tree State. He hired a camp, and his cook was a Frenchman, long experienced in the art of cooking. The man was delighted with the beans, and ate them three times a day.

When he went out, he asked the Frenchman if he would give him his formula for cooking beans.

"Sure," said Joe. "She's jes' so easy as nottin'. 'F you lak for cook de bean in bean hole, so dg whole bean is goin' been whole w'en you tak heem out de bean hole, you fire make de bean hole, and w'en you got make de bean hole, you tak de whole bean, and put de whole in de bean hole, and cove up de whole of de bean hole, and in de mornin' wo'en you tak de whole out de bean hole, you goin' find de whole of de bean, w'at you took in de bean hole, is goin' been whole."

Freedom From Asthma. Asthma is one of the most distressing troubles, sudden in its attacks and prolonged in its agonies. Frequently many things are tried, but nothing seems to give hope of relief. Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Asthma Remedy is the one help which can be depended upon. If you have tried other remedies without success, do not fail to get at once a package of this uniformly successful preparation.

WHY HE HURRIED

An Irishman was painting his barn and was hurrying his work with all his strength and speed. "What are you in such a hurry for, Murphy?" asked a spectator.

"Shure, I want to get through before me paint runs out," replied Murphy.

Nearly all children are subject to worms, and many are born with them. Spare them suffering by using Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator, the best remedy of the kind that can be had.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, February 8, 1910

About ten inches of snow fell here on Saturday.

There was more snow shovelled on Sunday and Monday than altogether before this winter.

Mr. James Matthews is putting his new patented horse-tail rein protector on the market.

Quite a number of local skaters attended the carnival in Georgetown rink on Monday evening.

Mr. George Hovey is arranging to enlarge his shelving, etc., and put in a larger stock of boots and shoes.

A parlor social will be held this evening at the home of Mr. T. Hatham, Church Street, in aid of St. Alban's Church.

The School Room of Knox Church in its new dress was much admired by the delegates to the Sunday School Convention. The ten new tables for the classes were also considered a good idea.

The transport with "D" Battery in which the Acton boys are sailing passed Cape Verde Islands last Tuesday, January 30, making the trip to that point in three days less time than the Sardinian.

The annual tea-meeting will be held next Tuesday at Churchill. Addresses will be given by a number of ministers from Acton and vicinity and the Georgetown choir will take a prominent part.

Business is opening up with very satisfactory volume in the Acton branch of the Merchants Bank.

Twenty-five ladies met in the Baptist Church last Wednesday afternoon for the organization of a branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The meeting was addressed by Mrs. J. Parsons Smith, organizer, from Hamilton. A union was formed and officers elected as follows: Vice-President, Mrs. James Moore; Secretary, Mrs. Josie Oram; Treasurer, Mrs. H. P. Moore.

The forty-third annual convention of Halton Sunday School Association was held in Knox Church last Thursday and Friday with 150 workers in attendance.

Dr. W. T. Harrison, of Keene, President of the Provincial Association, and Mr. Alfred Day, the General Secretary, were present and very much appreciated.

Major Grant, of Georgetown, the President, appreciated being in the chair in Acton, where in his boyhood he attended the Presbyterian and Methodist Sunday Schools. The new President elected is Mr. John Marshall, of Nassagaweya, Superintendent of the Ebenezer School. The Convention was one of interest and inspiration throughout.

DIED

SNYDER—Killed on the G. T. R. at Toronto, on Sunday, February 4, John Wesley Snyder, son of Isaac Snyder, Esquesing, near Acton, in his thirty-fourth year.

JUST AS EASY

It is just as easy to smile and say a good word as it is to get out of patience and storm about like a lake lashed by the winter's wind. An old man I used to know had served as Justice of the peace for more than forty years. He did more to settle strife in the neighborhood where he lived that he ever did in court, simply by taking the parties to the proposed litigation away by themselves and urging them not to take their difference to law, but to get together and go home peaceably. Everywhere he was known by the smile on his face and the kindly words he spoke. No one but loved "the Squire." He was worthy to be loved.

Bitter words hurt. We all know that. They sting. They leave a sore place in the memory. We never see the one who "gives us a piece of his mind" that we do not feel a chill settling down upon our hearts. And there is something about giving way to this kind of passion which hurts the one who thus yields fully as much as it does him who is lashed by his tongue.

But stop a minute and think now that it costs far less to be kind and true under every provocation than it does to be harsh and passionate. When the temptation comes to say bitter words, just stop and think: "If the words I want to say would make me sorry when spoken to me, surely they will hurt my friend if I speak them to him." And quickly you will add: "I never will do it. I will say the thing that will win him back to me. I will be just as true to him as if he had never tried me so." And the moment you do it your battle is won. How warm the glow that comes into your heart when perhaps with a tear in his eye your friend grasps your hand and tells you: "This is more than I expected. Thank you again and again. God bless you for it; and if he will help me, I never will tempt you so again."

A kindly word is like a wide-topped tree in the middle of a burning waste of sand under a midsummer sky. Cost to speak it? Ah, no! The costliest thing is not to speak it. And remember that in everything of this kind God himself is the paymaster and the pay is sure.—E. L. Vincent, in Associate Reformed Presbyterian.

"Pills That Have Benefitted Thousands.—Known far and near as a sure remedy in the treatment of indigestion and all derangements of the stomach, liver and kidneys, Parmelee's Vegetable Pills have brought relief to thousands when other specifics have failed. Innumerable testimonials can be produced to establish the truth of this assertion. Once tried they will be found superior to all other pills in the treatment of the ailments for which they are prescribed.

TRUE FRIENDS

Recently Jack had a motor car accident at a lonely spot on the road where he found it impossible to reach a telephone to notify his wife.

Now, it happened that he was happily married, very domesticated, and not accustomed to staying out at night. So at midnight his wife became very nervous, and dispatched the following telegram to five of her husband's best friends:

"Jack hasn't come home. Am worried. Is he spending the night with you?"

Imagine her surprise when the boy brought in five answers to her telegrams, all worded thus:

"Yes, Jack spending the night here."

When a mother detects from the writhings and fretting of a child that worms are troubling it, she can procure no better remedy than Miller's Worm Powders, which are guaranteed to totally expel worms from the system. They may cause vomiting, but this need cause no anxiety, because it is but a manifestation of their thorough work. No worms can long exist where these powders are used.

BREAKING OF SCRUPLES

The breaking of a scruple is dangerous, not so much for what the breaking of a scruple will do for us, but because in breaking one we are apt to put a question mark against scruples. The man who begins by yielding, to one evil may soon find himself without conscience in regard to a hundred evil things. The way to avoid evil is to cultivate the appetite for goodness and to fear the appearance of evil.—Protestant.

MUSICAL TALKS

By Prof. G. C. Laugher, Mus. Bac., Bowmanville.

No. VII—The Opera

The opera is a dramatic entertainment of which music forms an essential, and not merely an accessory part. Music and acting have been associated from the very early savage days when the music was only the beating of the Tom-Tom, and the acting was the wild movement of the war dance. We now regard opera as a great display of action, beautiful scenic effect, a big orchestra and fine singing. The aim of the opera is to interpret the drama, yet there is little speaking and much singing. There are various forms of opera and will mention just the most important, opera buffa—comic or low comedy; opera dramatic—romantic; grand opera—all singing, full orchestra, high musical character.

Away back in the 16th century in a beautiful city of Italy called Florence, a few gentlemen gathered together to discuss how to discover or recover the music of the ancient Greek drama, which had been lost for many centuries. The names of these gentlemen were Galileo, father of the astronomer, Caccini, Peri, Strozzi, Renuccini and some others. They met at the palace of Giovanni Bardi, and they called themselves "La Camerata." They talked of the ancient Greeks and of the Romans who sang their tragedies throughout on the stage, accompanied by an orchestra of lyres and flutes. This group of men thought it would be a great thing and worth the effort to revive that same kind of stately entertainment.

Renuccini

One man of this company named Renuccini, wrote a story for a drama and named it "Dafne," and produced it at the house of Count Corsi, but the score has been lost. Three years later the same man, Renuccini, wrote another poem, the story of a musician named Orpheus and the opera was named "Eurydice." Two musicians of the company, Peri and Caccini, wrote music to it, but the music of Peri was considered most appropriate. This opera "Eurydice" is considered the first opera ever written, and was presented at the festivities to celebrate the marriage of Henry IV of France to Marie di Medici. Of this opera we know very little concerning the costumes they wore or the stage setting, but we do know that the composer sang the hero's role, and back of the stage Signor Corsi presided at the harpsichord. This little gathering of men who worked out this opera intended it to be a revival of Greek musical work, but in place of that they unknowingly became the originators of opera as we have it to-day. Eurydice contains the great principle of the modern opera. Renuccini, seven years later, wrote the librettos for the operas, "Arianna" and Orfeo." The music was written by Monteverde.

Monteverde

The father of instrumentation is Monteverde. He was the first to put character to the orchestra. To the opera "Orfeo" he collected an orchestra of more than 30 instruments. Monteverde is the man that invented the tremolo and pizzicato in violin playing. His orchestra consisted of such instruments as flutes, lutes, viols, harpsichords or spinet, and the orchestra was always placed behind the scenes. So far all operas had been performed in large houses or castles and not until opera was in vogue thirty-seven years, was an opera house built. The first opera house was built in Venice and from that time on the growth of opera spread into other large cities, particularly Vienna and Paris.

Lulli

A boy named Lulli was brought from Italy, when a child and worked in Paris in the kitchen of the niece of Louis XIV, later being dismissed, his musical ability earned for him a position as violinist in the King's band. He afterwards became the greatest musician of that time. Lulli wrote 20 operas in less than that number of years, and he is regarded as the originator of the overture. He is also called the father of Grand Opera and is important as having put the French school on a firm basis.

Handel

Handel was born about one month earlier than the great J. S. Bach in the year 1685 and lived 74 years, his father was a barber, and was strong against Handel being a musician. It was his desire that young George should be a lawyer. He was not allowed to attend school because he would be taught the scale but somehow a small piano called a spinet was smuggled up into the garret and George learned to play while his father was at work. Handel was recognized as a great composer, and when I tell you that he wrote 321 musical works, it seems hardly believable and included in this was the priceless heritage "The Messiah." I trust that every music student will hear this work, it is the "King of oratorios." The former part of Handel's life was taken up in the writing of operas of which he wrote 41. Then in deep disgust at his own bankruptcy brought about by an opposing element, who pushed to the front an important musician named Bononcini, Handel gave up operas and took to writing oratorio for which we know his fame as a genius rests. Later Bononcini had to leave London, having been discovered in a dishonorable effort of claiming another's composition as his own and Handel was left master of the field.

Gluck

Another man I wish to speak of is Gluck, a great original thinker. He made some changes in opera. He was born in 1714 in Bohemia but studied opera in Italy, but the later part of his life was spent in Paris. Gluck broadened out opera, also making the overture convey the character of the play to the spectator. Against Gluck was placed another musician named Piccini. In 1776 this man and his party sought to oppose Gluck by introducing the old form of Italian opera. He aroused great sensation and considerable party feeling. The musical world was split into two powerful parties, Gluckists and Piccinists, and there was a great fight, although no record of actual spilling of blood. This is the way it was settled: Each composer to write the musical part to the opera called "Iphegenia in Tauris" and the music considered the most appropriate would be pronounced the "winner of the day." Gluck produced his opera in 1779, and proved his masterpiece. Piccini's appeared sometime later and suffered sadly by comparison.

Wagner

Opera cannot be spoken without the name of Wagner. Wagner is spoken of as the reformer of opera. He made it more real. He arranged that music be set to words and not words to music. Wagner is the most important figure in all the three hundred years of opera. He brought music to its true purpose, to support the poem to strengthen the expression and feeling. The world is willing to say that the art for which the nineteenth century will doubtless be remembered is the musical and dramatic art of Richard Wagner.

In closing, it will be seen that Italy is first responsible for opera and Italy is justly proud of the honor also that Verdi, the grand old man in opera of the nineteenth century, is an Italian. Verdi was born in 1814 and died 1901. He wrote many operas and his opera Falstaff is supposed to be his masterpiece and was written when 80 years of age.

UNCONSCIOUS INFLUENCE

We are unceasingly exerting unconscious influence upon one another. Insensibly, to ourselves, we are moulding one another's character, conduct and destiny. Without any thought or intention, or even consciousness of the fact, one man is stimulating or depressing another, and producing results of the most vital and lasting importance. How different are the effects produced by intercourse with different individuals! The very presence of some is like sunshine, brightening and cheering all who come under their influence, stimulating moral and spiritual growth; while the society of others acts like a dark cloud, intercepting light and warmth, chilling the feelings, and arresting the development of mind and heart. We feel at once at our ease in the presence of some people; we speak freely, while in the presence of others we are afraid to make utterance.

AMPLE PROOF

Prohibition has proved itself; it does diminish drunkenness; it does make workmen more efficient; it does make for happier homes, for more healthful lives and larger bank accounts. And England has acknowledged that even with her lower wage scale, she cannot compete industrially with a dry United States, unless she lets the bars go. To study the millions of dollars increase in the savings deposits in the dry districts is to be convinced that prosperity has never had a chance while the liquor traffic has flourished. —St. Catharines Standard.

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

BY E. W. THORNTON

PETER AT LYDDA AND JOPPA—Acts 9: 32-43.

Golden Text.—"The prayer of faith shall save him that is sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." (Jas. 5: 15).

Historical Setting

Time—38-40 A. D.
Place—Lydda.

Lesson Comments

Verse 32—The baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch and the conversion of Saul of Tarsus are recorded between the last lesson and this. Peter went everywhere visiting, strengthening and encouraging the new churches formed by the persecuted Christians. He kept them in touch with the apostolic church in Jerusalem. Lydda was about twenty miles toward Jerusalem from Joppa. Saints means persons set apart.

Verse 33—Aeneas was a Jew with a Greek name. Palsy is a contraction of the word "paralysis." The cure was miraculous.

Verse 34—Peter ascribed the healing to Jesus Christ, and claimed no credit to himself. It was characteristic of the apostles to magnify Christ.

Verse 35—Sharon is a part of the rich and well-watered Maritime plain between Joppa and Mt. Carmel.

Verse 36—The word "disciple," which means a learner, is the most common word applied by the New Testament to the individual follower of Christ. Dorcas abounded in Christian benevolence.

Verse 37—The detailed description in this verse is proof of the fact that she was dead.

Verse 38—"It was too late to send for a physician, but not too late to send for Peter." Having a physician after death is an absurdity. It is probable they desired the apostles sympathy. It is possible they had hope of Dorcas being restored to life.

Verse 39—The action of Dorcas' friends shows that she was a leader among them in benevolent activities.

Verse 40—Peter imitated his Lord's example in seeing that he was alone with the dead. This language is designed to describe a miracle, and can not be interpreted any other way.

Verse 41—McGarvey says "here the narration closed, as well it might, for not even Luke's graphic pen could describe the scene that followed."

Verse 42, 43—While in Joppa, Peter was in the home of Simon, a tanner. The tanner's trade was despised by the Jews. The way was being paved for the removal of Jewish prejudices and presenting the gospel to Gentiles.

Illustrated Truth

Demonstration succeeds where argument has failed (v. 35.)

Illustration—A seedman who had produced a superior strain of a certain kind of grain found himself face to face with the stubborn prejudice of the men to whom he wanted to sell the seed. He sent agents through the territory from which he drew custom, but with all of their arguments and their display of pictures of the grain as it looked when it was matured, no one seemed inclined to give it trial. Finally one of the agents said: "I may not be able to sell them this year, but I will do it next year." He rented a piece of ground in the neighborhood and sowed it with the new seed. The results were convincing. When the people saw, they believed.

Topics for Research and Discussion

I.—The Death of a Good Woman (vs. 32-37).—1. Name two important events occurring between the last lesson and this. 2. Why were the scattered churches kept in touch with the church of Jerusalem? 3. Why did not the apostles take advantage of the opportunity and magnify themselves? 4. What would you say to one who claimed that Dorcas was not dead? 5. What is the meaning of the word "disciple"?

II.—The Woman's Life Restored (vs. 38-43.)—6. Why did they not send for a regular physician? 7. Why did they send for the apostle Peter? 8. What does the narrative indicate as the general character of Dorcas? 9. Why did Christ and the apostles raise people from the the dead without passing that ability on to succeeding generations? 10. What is your ground for believing that miracles are impossible at the present time?—11. Where did Peter stay while in Joppa? 12. What was the trade of Simon? 13. Why was the tanner's trade so utterly despised by the Jews? 14. What was the purpose in sending Peter to such a man?

Daily Readings for Next Week

Monday, February 9.—The Vision of Cornelius (Acts 10: 1-8).

Tuesday, February 10.—The Vision of Peter (Acts 10: 9-20).

Wednesday, February 11.—Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10: 21-33.)

Thursday, February 12.—Peter's Message (Acts 10: 34-43).

Friday, February 13.—The Spirit Given to Gentiles (Acts 10: 44-48.)

Saturday, February 14.—The church and the Gentiles (Acts 11: 1-11).

Sunday, February 15.—All Peoples Praising God (Ps. 67: 1-7).

Why suffer from corns when they can be painlessly rooted out by using Holloway's Corn Cure.

LIVE THE CHEERFUL LIFE

When we are in trouble we are prone to cry out about it, complaining that we are unjustly used, that no one else has suffered as we do. When things go well with us we take it as a matter of course that so it ought to be. We are not largely given to gratitude.

We may have food enough, a comfortable shelter, be clothed comfortably, we may have health and employment in such labor as we are able and like to perform—we may have a competence which puts us above anxiety—and still we find fault and complain. Some one may have a better dress, or a handsomer car, or may entertain more elaborately, or is greater in popular favor than ourselves. There is something that does not please us. Instead of being glad that there are so many things to make us happy we complain and find fault. We let a "crumpled rose leaf" spoil our joy amidst a wealth of things that should make us glad.

Why not set the mind on the good things of life? Ignore the things that are petty and of really small consequence. Cultivate a cheerful habit of mind, looking for all that is good and appreciating the blessings that have fallen to our share.

For every one there is something to enjoy. The sun at least shines for all. When you are heavy hearted count up the good things of life that are yours to enjoy.

PLENTY OF GROUND

A couple called at the parsonage of a minister whom I know and announced their desire to be united in matrimony.

"Have you ever been married before?" the clergyman asked the bride.

"Yes, sir," she answered.

"Divorced?"

"Yes, sir."

"On what grounds were you divorced?" asked the minister.

"Texas," she answered.—A. W.

SCIENCE TALKS

A celebrated scientist referring to cod-liver oil said that Nature had given the world "almost a ready-made food".

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No. 29	8.13 a.m.
No. 31	10.34 a.m.
No. 33	2.19 p.m.
No. 35	5.09 p.m.
No. 37	8.12 p.m.

Going East

No. 24 Sunday	6.58 p.m.
No. 26	7.08 a.m.
No. 28	11.38 a.m.
No. 32	3.28 p.m.
No. 34	6.15 p.m.
No. 38	9.13 p.m.

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3.32 p. m.	Daily except Sunday
8.00 p. m.	Daily except Sunday
11.02 a. m.	Sunday only
6.32 p. m.	Sunday only
9.56 p. m.	Sunday only

Going East

7.48 a. m.	Daily except Sunday
3.02 p. m.	Daily except Sunday
6.18 p. m.	Daily except Sunday
9.58 a. m.	Sunday only
5.48 p. m.	Sunday only
8.56 p. m.	Sunday only

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