The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1923

THE LIGHTNING AGE

In other times we took a car
Drawn by horses, if going far,
And felt that we were blest.
Now the conductor takes the fare,
And sticks a broomstick in the air,
And lightning does the rest.

In other days along the street
A glimmering lantern led our feet
When on a midnight stroll;
But now we catch, when night is nigh,
A piece of lightning from the sky
And stick it on a pole.

Time was when one must hold his ear
Close to a whispering voice to hear,
Like deaf men—nigh and higher;
But now from town to town he talks,
And puts his nose into a box
And whispers through a wire.
—Science and Industry.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, February 27, 1902

The ice harvest continues, more farmers are putting in ice than usual.

The Post Office has put on its spring dress of paint and paper, and looks much improved.

The roads at present are in a bad condition. Neither wheels nor runners can be used with comfort.

Mr. Thomas Ebbage had his right foot badly bruised by a heavy pump log falling on it one day last week.

The isolation hospital tents have been taken down and stored in a shed on the Beardmore farm. The mattresses, etc., were burned.

A bachelor of this town has been trying for the past twenty years to photograph his girl on his heart, and all he has ever gotten of her is a negative.

It is desirable that the ice be cleared off the pavement as soon as possible, but the use of axes for this purpose is very injurious. The pavements in several places in town have been damaged by this means.

Mr. R. J. Gurney who recently accepted a position with the T. Eaton Co., Toronto, was home over Sunday.

An enthusiastic crowd of hockey players and their admirers, numbering 132, went to Georgetown for the game on Friday night. Acton won again, two goals to none, in spite of the fact that they were in a strange rink and up against a club that frequently mistook the Acton boys for the puck. Acton plays Glenwilliams one the Georgetown rink Friday evening of this week, and the Clarks of Georgetown, a week later. The Acton club is making arrangements to have a special car run from Georgetown to Acton after the coming games are over, on which all can return home the same night.

The teams lined up as follows: Acton—Goal, R. Smith; point, J. Smith; cover point, F. Ryder; rover, F. McIntosh; forwards, E. Ryder, Arthurs, J. Boyd. Georgetown—Goal, Toast; point, McDonald; cover point, Bradley; rover, Warren; forwards, Cooper, Ramshaw, Cooper. Referee—R. Forsayth, Georgetown.

Acton's municipal officers are not overpaid; Brampton, with a population about double that of Acton, pays three times as much. The salaries are: R. D. Graham, assessor, collector, roadmaster, caretaker of all municipal and school property, etc., $450; T. T. Moore, Clerk and Treasurer, $150; J. Lawson, constable, $20.

A very enjoyable social was held at the residence of the Misses Nelson, Mill Street, on Tuesday evening, under the auspices of the Epworth League of the Methodist Church. The evening was spent in numerous games, followed by a well-rendered programme of eleven numbers, after which refreshments were served.

HIS BAD BARGAIN

A colored man, after three weeks of married life, made his way to a lawyer's office and complained that his wife had been throwing things at him and bullying him.

"Can't stand it no longer, boss," he said.

"That's all right, Sam," said the lawyer. "Things will improve. Besides, remember you took her for better or for worse."

"Boss," answered Sam, "believe me, dat woman is a whole lot wuss don I took her for."

If one be troubled with corns, he will find in Holloway's Corn Remover an application that will entirely relieve suffering.

BRAIN WORK

Two strange ministers were dining at Freddie's home. Mother glanced from one to the other, not knowing which to invite to say grace. Freddie, divining her perplexity, shot out an index finger, saying, "Eenie, meenie, minie, mo, you're it," as the finger halted before one of the visitors.

Muscular Rheumatism Subdued.—When one is a sufferer from muscular rheumatism he cannot do better than to have the region rubbed with Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil. Let the rubbing be brisk and continue until ease is secured. There is more virtue in a bottle of it than can be fully estimated.

WHO WAS SAM BROWNE?

Military men recently got word from Washington that the Sam Browne belt, which hitherto only army officers serving overseas had been permitted to wear, was to be a part of the regular uniform. The announcement was received with pleasure, for the belt, neat and comfortable and attractive, is very popular with all army officers.

"Same Browne," the British officer whose name the belt bears, was Gen. Sir Samuel Browne, V. C., K. C. B., who died in 1901. During his active service he designed a waist belt of leather that has a strap passing over one shoulder so as to help support the sword. A number of eyelets in the lower edge of the waist belt, from which articles of equipment can conveniently be suspended, make the belt still more serviceable. It was not until after General Browne had died that his name became widely associated with the belt.

He was born in India in 1824, and after receiving his education in England returned to a commission in the 46th Bengal Infantry. He received his baptism of fire in the second Sikh war and was given command of the Second Punjabis; he saw considerable active service in the Peshawar Valley. In the Sepoy Rebellion he marched his command nine hundred miles in forty-two days to join Sir Colin Campbell at Lucknow. In that war he lost an arm and almost lost a leg. After forty years of service in India he returned to England a lieutenant general. In 1878 he served as commander of the Khyber Division in the Afghan War. At the close of the war he retired to private life. He was a capable and gallant officer who during his long service in India won both the respect and the affection of his men.

A Prime Dressing for Wounds.—In some factories and workshops carbolic acid is kept for use in cauterising wounds and cuts sustained by the workmen. Far better to keep on hand a bottle of Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil. It is just as quick in action and does not scar the skin or burn the flesh.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

ELISHA'S HEAVENLY DEFENDERS—2 Kings 6: 8-17.

Golden Text.—"The angel of Jehovah encampeth round about them that fear him, And delivereth them"—Ps. 34: 7.

Historical Setting

Time.—About 894 B. C.

Place.—Dothan.

Lesson Comments

Verse 8.—Neighboring kingdoms were seldom friendly for any great length of time. There had been partial peace since the days of Ahab, but now war was on again. His servants here referred to were military men.

Verse 9.—Elisha, here referred to as the man of God, warned the king each time concerning the plans of the Syrians.

Verse 10.—While the king of Israel was little more friendly towards the man of God than his father Ahab had been toward Elijah, he acted upon the prophet's warnings, and saved himself several times.

Verse 11.—The king of Syria could find but one explanation to the failure of his moves. There must be a traitor in the camp. No wonder he was troubled.

Verse 12.—This explanation was from one who had heard of the powers of Elisha. It is more than likely that the one who said this had actually heard of some of Elisha's warnings.

Verse 13.—The king's cocksureness about fetching a man who he believed knew beforehand the secret plans of the Syrians is to be noted. If his informant about Elisha's powers were right, the latter was even now aware of the king's scheme. Those who train with the wrong side are seldom logical. Dothan, the city where Elisha was stopping, was about fourteen miles from Samaria.

Verse 14.—The horses and chariots and the great host that were sent down to take the Israelitish prophet, who seems never to have had any following he could command, give us an idea of how the undertaking looked in the eyes of the Syrians. The city itself was to be taken by surprise, being surrounded under the cover of darkness.

Verse 15.—The servant here spoken of was probably not a servant in the ordinary sense, but one of the sons of the prophets, such as usually accompanied the men of God. The servant saw what was in itself terrifying enough. To see only the besieging army was to despair.

Verse 16.—This assurance to the frightened young man has been the heritage of the faithful through the ages.

Verse 17.—Elisha did not pray for forces to be rushed to their defense. His chief concern was for the young man. The Syrian army was still there, to be sure, but there was the inner circle—the horses and chariots of the Lord God.

Illustrated Truth

With the Christian, courage is a matter of vision (v. 17).

Illustration.—Young Tom, who had lately been taken into the firm, was discovered studying a chart setting forth the firm's liabilities. "Dad," he said huskily, "the old craft isn't going to be able to weather the storm, is she? This new demand, you know—surely we are up against it," he added, looking with surprise at his father's untroubled countenance. "That is one side," returned the latter, "but there are certain resources, son, that you haven't considered. Cast your eye over there," he continued, taking a sheaf of papers from the safe.

Topics for Research and Discussion

I. A King's Problem (vs. 8-11). 1.—What is to be said of the relations between Israel and Syria? 2.—What service had Elisha rendered the king of Israel? 3.—What explanation suggested itself to the king of Syria?

II. Locating the Trouble-maker (vs. 12, 13). 4.—What was the king told about Elisha? 5.—What was the king's order? 6.—Why was such a force sent to take one man?

III. Faith and Fear. 7.—What reason had the servant for being frightened? 8.—Do Elisha's words apply beyond the situation described? 9.—To what does the average Christian need to have his eyes opened?

Daily Readings for Next Week

Monday, February 27.—Resisting God's Call (Jonah 1: 1-10).

Tuesday, February 28.—Facing the Issue (Jonah 2: 1-9).

Wednesday, March 1. — Jehovah's Mercy to Nineveh (Jonah 3: 1-10).

Thursday, March 2.—A Greater than Jonah (Matt. 12: 38-45).

Friday, March 3.—Praise to the King (Ps. 96: 1-13).

Saturday, March 4.—Jehovah's Mercy to All (Ps. 145: 8-19).

Sunday, March 5.—The Gracious Call (Isa. 55: 1-9).

YOUR NEIGHBOR

Neighborliness is a world need today. We would be better off as families, communities and nations if we encouraged the get-together spirit. The evil eye is largely responsible for the mischief that separates people and breeds strife. Get the idea that your neighbor is as good as yourself and the social, business and spiritual problems of the world will be more than half solved. "Devise not evil against thy neighbor, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee." Instead of putting up six-foot fences, keep-off-the-grass notices and passing him by with your nose in the air, try what a genial good morning over the fence will produce or cleaning a foot or two of his snow, instead of drawing a straight edge between your properties with your shovel. Trouble usually begins with some little meanness to a neighbor that stirs up the goat that slumbers in all of us. It is only a small part of our mental equipment, but it can do a tremendous amount of bone-headed damage when it rises on its hind legs. A good neighbor may be a great blessing. At any rate, the man who sets about making enemies of those about him, whether at home, in business or anywhere else, is kicking out the underpinning of his own foundation. "Devise not evil against thy neighbor." The fellow who takes mean advantage of those who have to live with him or near him is a moral out-throat.—Shoe & Leather Journal.

GEMS OF THOUGHT

Good resolutions are a pleasant crop to sow. The seed springs up so readily and the blossoms open so soon with such a brave show, especially at first. But when the time of flowers has passed, what as to the fruit.—L. Mulet.

It is impossible that an ill-natured man can have a public spirit; for how should he love ten thousand men who has never loved one.—Pope.

Our life is like alpine countries where winter is found by the side of summer, and where it is but a step from a garden to a glacier.—Richter.

Good intentions are very mortal and perishable things; like very mellow and choice fruit they are difficult to keep.—C. Simmons.

To cultivate kindness is a valuable part of the business of life.—Johnson.

Envy has no other quality but that of detracting from virtue.—Livy.

TEAM OF HUSKIES FOR QUEBEC VISITORS

One of the chief innovations at the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, in connection with the winter sports programme is the introduction of a husky dog team. In order to secure the genuine animal a representative visited the North Country to select dogs suitable for this purpose. Previous to the journey telegrams were sent to all important fur posts, north of the Great Lakes, but owing to the unusual conditions prevailing during the fall of 1921, little success was met with. A variety of replies were received—one Hudson's Bay post sent word that owing to the lateness of the "freeze up" and poor travelling conditions, Indian trappers were still far in the interior with their dogs, and were not expected out till the New Year. Another factor replied that strange sickness, the symptoms of which resembled distemper, was affecting most of the dogs in his vicinity, and that he would not advise their purchase. Another wired that fish was so scarce dogs were extremely thin and wicked, and weaker members had been sacrificed to provide food for the larger and more useful dogs. The value of husky teams in the Canadian northern expanse is very high and prices reach surprising proportions in the fall when each man sets out to secure a string for his winter's work. Due to the heavy expense incurred in equipping and maintaining a team, the purse for the race has been raised this year to attract the most exacting trailers. Last year pups were selling for $200 for a string of five, whilst animals fully grown and trained brought from $75 to $100 each.

The husky dog has been a valuable servant to the men of the Canadian north, and his part in northern development has been no small one. His services are still of inestimable worth in the transport over snow-clad areas where no other means of travel exist, where the pioneers of civilization and progress are blazing trails, and securing the first fruits of a wealth which only time and the introduction of railroads will fully reveal for exploitation. The mounted police; trappers, miners, prospectors, all sign of snow-shoe trail, gallantly pay their tributes to the part the husky dog plays in their daily work.

The district north and west of Mipigon promised success in securing huskies, as just before Christmas the Indians bring their fall catch into the posts, where they trade them for fresh supplies, beads, firearms, and other articles which they may require. The representative of the Chateau on arrival found some 15 to 20 dog teams, but they were a motley assortment, only a few running true to type.

Teams were constantly coming and going, and finally with a burst of speed, a fast young outfit approached the Hudson's Bay post, and at the command of "Ho" from the Indian driver suddenly slowed up, and came to a stop. The leader was a particularly young brown wolf-like animal, and was named "Nipmainghen," which translated means "Nipigon Wolf," and after various tests was selected as one of the proposed team. Finally the other four were purchased, as they proved to be one of the fastest teams in that part of the country. Exceptional care was exercised in the selection as they were to be used in the vicinity of the Chateau Frontenac, at Quebec, and naturally were bound to be handled and petted to a certain extent by the guests and spectators. Not having been trained together, considerable trouble was experienced at first. The Indian who assisted in breaking them in said, "Take away the harness and let them make friends." No sooner was this done than a regular pandemonium ensued, followed by a glorious rough and tumble fight, and it was with great difficulty they were separated. The Indian men grinned and said, "They are all friends now," which seemed to be the case, because after a certain amount of snifting and licking they were again tested and pulled much better. Ten to fifteen miles a day were made by the team without any individual loafing, and so fast were they that the Indian challenged a number of the other teams around to a series of races, and not once was the new team defeated. At last the animals were shipped by the Canadian Pacific to Quebec City, and arrived in excellent trim. The names of the dogs are somewhat interesting, being all Indian, and are as follows with the English translation:

Nipmainghen—Nipigon Wolf
Wabus—The Rabbit
Wabuska—Whitey
Keego—Fish
Muk—From "Nakwa" meaning bear.

At the age of nine months or one year the education of the husky begins in earnest. He is broken to harness learning, with older dogs, to pull his share of the load. At four years he has attained his full growth and strength, a stalwart wolf-build, half-wild, disdainful, powerful, perfectly proportioned, beautifully coated.

The harness is made of one long, continuous side-trace connected with a saddle, and belly-band around the middles, and to head-collars which rest on foreshoulders and receive each dog's pulling weight.

The Indians have particular cries in which to guide or incite the dog teams: "Mush, Toyfayr, Tukuk," to coax them into a gallop. Then "Ah . . . . Poosh," as some dog slackens in his traces. "Hu, Corni" (leader.) If the lead-dog is wanted to turn to the right, or "Chuc, Corni, Chuc!" if to the left.

One of the most effective vermifuges on the market is Miller's Worm Powders. They will not only clear the stomach and bowels of worms, but will prove a very serviceable medicine for children in regulating the infantile system and maintaining it in a healthy condition. There is nothing in their composition that will injure the most delicate stomach when directions are followed, and they can be given to children in the full assurance that they will utterly destroy all worms.

A BIRD IN THE HAND, ETC.

"Who became Prime Minister of Great Britain after being a little local solicitor in Wales?" asked the inspector at the college of further instruction.

"Lloyd George," said the young student.

"Correct!" the inspector made answer. "And who became Prime Minister after he had won his first seat at East Fife?"

"H. H. Asquith," answered the student.

"Correct again!" replied the interlocutor. "And now tell me, Bertram Banks, what's to prevent you from becoming Prime Minister?"

Bertram thought for a moment, and then exclaimed:

"I've got a good job now."

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THE HARP IN CANADA

From time immemorial nature has been a source of inspiration to the poet. The majesty of the mountains, the serene beauty of the forests, the charm of rivers—all seem to have the effect of moving poetic souls. Canada, with its wealth of glorious scenery, is therefore naturally the home of poets, and, indeed, it has been said that one cannot throw a snowball without hitting one.

The Canadian School of poetry is essentially a nature school. Bliss Carman, Charles G. D. Roberts, and Archibald Lampman have set the standard, and a very high standard it is. Probably nothing in Canadian literature has been more quoted than Bliss Carman's "Low Tide on Grand Pre," a poem which breathes the spirit of nature as felt on the lovely shores of Nova Scotia. The modern Canadian are following in the footsteps of these writers, but going further afield, as the facilities for travel throughout the great Dominion are extended. Thus, for instance, in a neat volume of poems by a young Irish-Canadian poet, M. A. Hargadon, the scene changes from Ireland to Nova Scotia, Quebec, and the Canadian Rockies. Here is a charming verse from a poem about Lake Louise:

"This lake is God's best picture; that is why
He hung it on the mountains at the sky
And set it in so beautiful a frame:
Art gallaries of heaven have none the same."

This is the closing verse of a poem inspired by the majestic beauty of Banff:

"There is no lovelier place to live
And when at last I die,
I think my soul will go to Banff
Instead of to the sky;
For here there is no sorrowing,
No suffering nor care,
And, up so near to paradise,
It seems enfolded there."

The French-Canadians are described as:

"Branch of a splendid race transplanted here
Illumining life through all this lovely land."

In Nova Scotia Mr. Hargadon is inspired to write lines that are particularly happy:

"God writes His poetry to-day;
I see the flashes of His hand
On distant hills, along the bay,
All through the fair Acadian land.

"His book is every scant about,
There are a million happy lines;
The sweetest I have chiseled out
Beneath the steeples of the pines."

Many of the poems are about Ireland, a country which has given Canada many good settlers and no doubt, will give many more. Here is a verse from one:

"Young April is in Ireland now,
I wish that I were with her there,
For she is far the loveliest
Of all the Aprils anywhere!
She has the sweetest voice and face;
She has the brightest gowns to wear."

Irish and Canadian poems are illustrated with attractive photographs of scenes in Canada and Ireland. With St. Patrick's day approaching, and with Ireland now taking her place amongst the nations, the book is likely to create a wide interest at the present time, as it appears at a particularly opportune moment. It is prefaced by a sympathetic introduction by Colonel George H. Ham.

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THE AWFUL TRUTH

Mary and Bess were caught one day in a great crowd. Terrified, with their arms tight about each other, at last they managed to push through. Later, Mary, in describing it, to her mother, exclaimed: "It was awful! If there hadn't been two of us, we just couldn't have kept together."

THE BUSINESS DIDN'T STOP

Two office boys met outside the palatial offices of a firm that was reputed to be worth millions, and which employed over two thousand people.

Said the first boy: "Allo, Dick! Wotches lookin' at the office wot sacked you last week for? Are ye tryin' to get took back?"

His friend sniffed.

"No bloomin' fear!" he said. "I just dropped 'round to see if they was still in bis-ness."

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