The Acton Bree Press Branch Company of the Acton Branch

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1925

PLUCK

Don't doubt yourself! Be sure there is mede of honesty and strength Enough within you for the journey's

Don't lay It down-That pack that seems so heavy! For, gripping it, all fear It's fust a bit of work. A hero dare not shirk.

in triumph, then, you'll smile! You're not the only one upon life's Who craves for hollday;

Then turn your way Of seeming drudgery into a spring-Of courage flowers! In colored flags! Until folks under-

THE TRANSFORMATION OF

Yusef was a Syrian, who had made years of sacrifice and poverty at home taking turns in carrying. -was shattered. Homesick and heartsick, he lay on his bunk, or wandered, dison asked me, as we came up be-

clothes in rags. served its purpose in the pulpit, and to invite them to ride; and so we afterwards in the various humbler pulled up and asked them to get in stages of pastoral experience, and at with us. last, too threadbare for the least of Although they seemed a little surthese offices, it had made its way to prised, they accepted the invitation; ridiculous enough upon Yusef, but in gether; they showed us their biggest his imagination there clung to it the fish, and we began to talk a little. odor of sanctity, and in it, one Sunday As we drove along we passed Elder afternoon after his recovery, he ap- Witham's little place, where he and

minister recognized it as a former in his garden, beyond his green sage Olive's out in the other com; they possession of his own, and for a mo- plum trees, looking at his big squash. ment had much to do to restrain his Everybody in town knew about the mirth as he saw himself translated elder's squashes. They had been the into Syriah in the person of Yusef. pride of his heart for six seasons. He Not that Yusef sat near the pulpit. He made the ground for them very rich with the elder. They had heard what was in the farthermost seat under he with all sorts of fertilizers, and thus Alfred and Newman had said, and gallery in the extreme rear. But the urged them forward to tremendous always watching for people who sat fairs. He allowed but a single squash far back. Some of the most interest- to ripen on one vine; and during July, ing men who ever came to the temple August and the early part of Septemof God are those who approach re- ber it was his daily practise to "water" motely. Even so the publican stood the different sets of rootlets along the afar off, and "would not lift up-so whole length of the vine with new After the service Yusef was making plant-food.

the minister said. "Where were you heavier. "In Nazareth," answered Yusef. lived in Nazareth, and was poor. Then began a friendship between this lone. Syrian and the minister, a friendship that grow, and with mutual profit. Its first result, so far as Yusef "Marbleheads." The -elder got the was concerned, was helping him to seeds from a brother of his out in

· Yusef then came to church in a cel- break all local records in the size of luloid collar, brilliant and conspicu- his squashes.

strong and intelligent, and he ad- they were watery, coarse-grained, and vanced in his position. And with each of not much use for the table. But improvement in his appearance—the the elder had the squash craze. On blackening of his shoes, the better fit very hot days in August he shaded of his clothes, his more fluent com- the vines carefully; and after frosts mand of English,-he moved a little began to come in September, he made farther out from under the gallery, till a tent over them at night with bed- Theodora also preferred to remain at at last he established himself in a quilts. modest seat on the side, half-way

and stripped himself of coat, vest, is going to pick it to-day to take to shirt and from a money-belt produced the fair." bills and gold to the amount of five

to Nazareth. One Sunday, about a month later, morrow." provided against their arrival. Then the minister remembered how

he had first seen Yusef, and the appearance of his old coat, and the successive stages of the transformation.

TO CHOOSE A WIFE

Young man, you will get married some day, or else you are not like claimed Alfred, taughing. other mortals of your sex. Let us help you with some good advice, amount- the elder have a fit!" ing almost to wisdom. If you are not already dead stuck on some girl before one to try to lug it off," said I. "It sizing up her best qualities, you man- is more than a man could lift." ago to go with her to millinery or is one of the kind that gets her de- with a queer look, and said: tails all jumpled up while making a) selection of goods. If she does not, What do you suppose the elder would but can tell in a jiffy just what she say if somebody were to put a charge wants, and promptly selects it, and of powder into that big squash and tells the salesman to wrap it up while touched it off?" she hurries off to make other purchases, set it down that she is the and I for one had no thought that he girl you want. She is the one who will really meant to do such a thing. It and also in another part a piece of have your meals ready when you come was merely one of those mischievous the side of the vial, to which was home hungry and tired. She is the ideas which sometimes pop into our one who will tend the chickens and nip minds. the gads in the bud, and bring more eggs to town than a half dozen of the namby-pamby kind. She is the one who will atick closer to you than twin brothers and make your home a joy and that evening Addison drove to the mill give you a high opinion of this world, again for our grist. He went alone, the meshes of the other kind, there o'clock. is no hope for you. You are a goner. Love is blind, but after you get married your sight will be restored and with our herd and our loads of exin time you will find how you missed it. All you can do, is to endure your misery and 'prepare for a happy life we began to hear rumors that somein the great hereafter. There will be thing mysterious had happened overno enjoyment for you here. Remem- night to Elder Witham's big squash! ber the time and place-some beauti- It had exploded because it was so big ful Saturday afternoon and a dry and overgrown, some said. goods or millinery store.-Winchester

THE COW

with an alto voice and a countenance in which there is no guile," is the definition supplied by the Baltimore Sun. the production of a liquid called milk, provides the filler for the hash, and is skinned by those she has benefited, as mortals commonly are. The young the manufacture of chicken salad. The cow's tail is mounted aft, and has a niversal joint, The tassel on the end not help thinking that. Addison had cut a little hole through the seed cavhas unique educational values. Per- had a chance to do the deed the even- ity, and for that they had brough sons who milk cows and come often ing before, when he went for our one of these apple-knives. The outer in contact with the tassel' have you grist.

The Free Press' Short Story

Elder Witham's Big Squash

BY 'C. A. SHEPHENS

hibits ready to send to the fair the next morning. Among other things to be done that afternoon, Addison and I had to go to the mill, three miles from the old farm;

with a grist of corn for the herd, pigs, colts and poultry during the fair. We found six or eight grists ahead of us at the mill, however, and the miller told us that he could not get ours out for us before nine o'clock that evening. So rather than wait, we concluded to drive home and come back for it later.

On the way we overtook Alfred Batchelder and Newman Darnley, two his way to a New England factory young neighors of about our own age, town. Life went hard with him. He with whom we were not on the best of was sick, discouraged, and resentful terms. They had been fishing for truth about this," said he. "Did you His dream of prosperity in the New pickerel over. in the mill-pond, and destroy Elder Witham's squash?" World-a dream cherished through had a string of fish which they were "Is it best to take them in?" Ad-

unwashed and unshaven, about his hind them-for there had been a very poor quarters, his eyes sunken and his serious difficulty between us at school the previous winter. The first step in his transformation As we were driving with an empty was the gift of a clerical coat. It had wagon, I thought it would look better

the box of cast-off clothing. It looked we "passed the time of day" to-

his sister. Aunt Olive Witham, lived: Dilapidated as was the garment, the and we caught sight of the elder out minister's eyes were good (and he was size for exhibition at county and state

for the door. He did not walk; he He raised the largest squashes ever Haven't you any heart in your bosom? slunk. There is a stage of human produced in Maine. One which he their feet with confidence and set them actually tipped the scales at a hundred down with decision. Yusef was slink- and seventy-four pounds. And it was ing toward the door, when the minister thought that the one to which he was stopped him. "I am glad to see you," now giving his attention was even

They were elongated, or pear-shaped, "In Nazareth!" How this poor, for- rather than flat, like some squashes lorn man took the imagination back and pumpkins which we see at fairs; across the centuries, to Another Who yet they could be stood up on end, and were actually as tall as a barrel of

What the variety was I do not know; they were not "Hubbards" or find a situation; and soon as he had Pennsylvania; and if he knew the this he bought himself a new suit of variety, he did not see fit to tell his

ous the length of the church; and he . He had increased the size each year by saving the seeds of the largest and In time he bought a linen collar and making his garden richer. This garshirt, and had them laundered by a den, in fact, was a paradise for all Chinaman; and in the confidence of sorts of vegetables, plums, cherries his fine linen, he moved up a few seats and small fruits. There was little real advantage in Yusef began to prosper. He was producing such mammoth squashes:

"There's the old elder out there looking at his big squashes," Newman One day he came to the parsonage said, as we drove past. "I guess he

"No, he isn't," Alfred said, "for he's hundred and twenty-five dollars. And got his milk-pitcher in his hand. He all of this, in one lump sum, he sent is giving that squash another drink of milk; he won't pick it until to-

Yusef had company in his seat. A The elder heard us passing, and we dark but comely woman sat beside fancied that he scowled. He was not him, with eyes like those of a Madon- much in sympathy with boys. We conna, and slanting down from her side sidered him austered, not to say that toward the farther end of the seat he was harsh; but he was a man of big squash. was a row of little Natareens, array- high moral character, upright and coned in new clothing, which Yusef had scientious, He was also an ardent pro-

'Like some other very strict moralists, he waxed impatient of the weak-A good thing had come out of Nazar- nesses of youth as he grew older. His their cottage a hundred yards away heart seemed to harden toward the young; and in his sermons on Sunday he was often very severe on the faults heard a strange, dull noise late in of boys and girls.

"Wish somebody would carry off that big squash of his to-night!" ex-"So do I!" cried Newman, "Wouldn't

"Well, I wouldn't want to be the Thereupon I remember that Addidry good store. Notice whether she son, who was driving, glanced back

> "You might blow it up, Newman. But he laughed when he said it

Afterwards Alfred and Newman exchanged glances, but said nothing. At the post-office they left us; we went on home to the farm, and late

Of course; if you have been caught in and did not get back till after ien The next morning we were all astir early, and by eight o'clock set off hibits for the fair-grounds.

But even while we were on the way

Everybody for miles round was expecting to see that big squash at the fair, and before noon hundreds of the people were inquiring about it. To ward noon, too, the elder himself appeared at the fair-grounds, his jaw hard set and wrath in his eye. "Some son of Bellal has destroyed my squash with gunpowder," he replied, sternly, to all questions. "The finest squash ever raised in New England, too!" What's this generation coming to? Will you answer me that?"

Addison and I felt queer about it from the first, owing to what had it off with a bit of fuse. passed the day before, but we said nothing. For my own part, too, I could

cabularies of peculiar and impressive, Newman Darnley and Alfred Batch- proved so hard and thick, however, that

very busy getting our farm ex- and me declare that we were going to what was left of it. blow up the elder's squash. characters at the fair. We could see and went to a cupboard to get the Our girls here have been doing depeople looking hard at us, some grinning, others with looks of reprobation and dislike. We drove home that ovening in anything but comfortable

> Nor was home a sanctuary. The old squire had hear the rumors going, and so had Theodora and Ellen. After supper the old gentleman rose and started for the sitting room. He said, "Boys, I want to speak with you." Addison and I followed him, knowing very well what was coming. The old aquire shut the door. "I want the

"No, sir," we both said. "Were you with others who d'd? ie demanded

"Do you know anything about it Theroupon Addison told him who had been said on our way home from The old squire sat regarding closely. "And after that you went back past there alone late last even-

The old squire took a turn across the sitting room. "Things look black against you," he said. "But you have never told me a falsehood yet, and I Elder Witham's for at talk with him, their feet, pushing through the crowd

heard Elder Witham's voice and Aunt had just driven over, and were not pride with Aunt Olive as they were their minds were made up.

own up! You're cornered. Now what blowing up the squash. None the less milk, which he believed to be the best a noble squash like that, after we had tended it and cared for it all summer!

> yourself?" the elder repeated. 'Remember, I can make you smart for it. It's jall for you if I say so." "And serve you good and right," Aunt Olive threw in. "For of all the mean, low-down tricks I ever heard

"But I didn't do it," Addison managed to say. "O-r-r-rh!" exclaimed the elder, incredulously. "None of your wrong stories. It will be safer for you to own right up. Better and safer, too!" The case was prejudged; and the old squire sent us out of the room to do the evening chores at the stable He then attempted to go over the matter more carefully with our aggricved callers-without much success. They were both convinced that Addison was guilty, and soon set off for home. Addison and I heard what was said as they drave away. "Now, mind you, squire, unless that grandson of yours owns up, I'll have him arrested!" the

elder exclaimed. "A boy mustn't be allowed to do a thing like that and not "Such a mean, cowardly thing, too! ful squash, all smashed to pieces."-The next day Addison and I stayed

at home and dug pototoes. Ellen and

home. The scandal and notoriety were too much for them to face. 'It was at this bad pass of our affairs that these good girl cousins of tion. Aunt Olive liked them; they had often visited her, and the following afternoon, while Addison and I were out in the field, they conferred together and went over to see her. At first Aunt Olive was very stiff. with them and inclined to be im-

placable; but at last she invited them

out into the gardens to get some gage plums, and to see the "ruins" of the No great amount of powder had been used; the squash, which was fulhibitionist, strongly opposed to the use ly as large as a sugar barrel, had of intexicants in any form, or for any burst in three pieces only, which lay close together. The explosion, indeed, had been so light that the elder and Aunt. Olive had scarcely noticed it at with the door shut, although they remembered afterwards that they had

the evening. Cousin Ellen was a keen-eyed girl, While looking about, she caught sight of a little glitter of glass amidst the deep green of a bed of carrots a few feet away from the squash vine. She went to see what it was, and found just the neck and shoulders of a little glass vial-an ounce vial. In the neck was a small wooden plug, and in a crease of this plug a bit of burned fuse, such as is used in blasting rocks. She picked it up and showed it to

Theodora. Thereupon they both began looking about more attentively, and examined the broken parts of the big squash again, with the result that in the soft inside portion of it they still sticking a red label with the printed word "Polson," and the very familiar druggist sign of a skull and

On the discolored label, too, was : part of the word "Belladonna," and beneath it another word, "Crane's," all of which made it ovident that the vial of belladonna had come from Crane's drug store in the village.

Ellen wrapped the fragments of the glass up in her handkerchief and put them. in her pocket. Meanwhile Theodora had espied something else of interest-about an inch and a half of the end of a thin, silm knife-blade, lying in the earth,

close by the squash, along with two or three burned matches. In that vicinity the farmers aut and dried a great many apples in the fall of the year, and for alking the apples a thin-bladed knife was used, called the "silcer." This bit of blade was plainly broken from one of these knives.

Theodora also pocketed that. They brought their trophies home, and at the supper-table that night we all put our heads together over them. It was not difficult to understand what had occurred. Whoever blew up the elder's squash had put the powder in that ounce vial, to keep it dry, in the moist inside of the squash, and had touched

rind and meat of the big squash had

piece off the knife-blade, which they have Alfred and Nowman come with not find in the dark. With these bits of vial and the knife blade, we now set our wits to work. Not to show ourselves too much public, Addison and I remained at ome and dug potatoes, while Ellen piloceeded to make certain innocent

scoming inquiries among our neigh-

little belladonna at every house, but from the mill. learned that no one thereabouts had, or had had, any belladonna, except the and "confessed" what he had said to Wilburs. Mrs. Wilbur had bought Newman and Alfred about putting some in an ounce vial at Crane's drug charge of powder in the squash. T was Monday afternoon of the that they were telling every one they store a year before, but she told Ellen county fair week, and we were knew that they had heard Addison that she had let Mrs. Batchelder have When Ellen called there to ask for it. Before night Ad, and I were marked Mrs. Batchelder said that she had it.

> it anywhere! The belladonna vial was thus traced to the Batchelder's cupboard-whence Newman and Alfred, who were sitting t was now unexepctedly missing! Two days later Theodora took up the quest. She went to six places, the son went on. "Any one can see them Darnley's among the rest, estensibly to who wants to." And he laid out the borrow a slicer apple-knife-in face, bits of vial and the knife with the she called at Mrs. Darnloy's, the lat-

much surprised to find the blade was I don't see how my kulfe got broken!" Mrs. Darnley exclaimed. "I was using it only a few days ago. It was not broken then. "Well, you can take it," she added "Perhaps you can use it, even if the end of the blade is gone."

to get it from the pantry, but was

Theodora brought it home, and we fitted the bit of broken blade to it. It fitted perfectly and had beyond a pantry and put it back there afterdoubt been broken-from it. better dig potatoes another day and rogues are caught. There they sit."

and then all about our neighbors and to get out of the schoolhouse. find out the facts. So let's get to- stay right here till you own tup t gether at the schoolhouse this evening this!" and try to learn the truth.

"My two grandsons had something to do with it," said the old gentleman, grace. They were chaffed and derided that last remark of the old squire's was a bit of strategy. We wanted to

the others, and we know that if they Altogether, it was an adroit bit of heard that Addison was going to make mischief, and from the first we had no a "confession," they would think it was and an Armenian on a street in Condoubt whatever, as to who had done it, safe for them to put in an appearance, stantinople the other day, says the More than two hundred people were Chicago, Record, Ted to an angusing gathered at the schoolhouse that evening, Alfred and Newman with the rest. The old squire called the mostlers to order, stated the object of it bgain and described the outrage committed in the Armenian claimed the box as his own. elder's garden. He then bade Addison

At first she attempted to borrow a Monday afternoon on the way home were coming to blows when a police-Thereupon Addison took the floor There was an uneasy stir of disappointment in the throng. 'Who did It then?" some one exclaimed. "Well," replied Addison, smiling,

"girls sometimes make good detectives; vial, but to her surprise, could not find tective work for us-and they have the dispute by giving him the box. . There was another stir, and we say together, glance at each other.

> beside him. "Here is the broken belladonna vial they put the powder in, to blow up the squash. Alfred Batchelder knows where the vial came from. It is the only belladonna bottle in all the neighborhood. He took it that evening the sign under his arm. from his mother's -cupboard. "And here is the apple-knife with which they tried to cut a hole in the

big squash, to put in the vial of powder," Addison continued, triumphantly." "They broke the knife-blade. The knife in wonder at the man's stupidity. came from Newman Darnley's house, wards. But the piece of broken blade Addison and I were now jubilant, was found in Elder Witham's garden. But the old squire said. "Keep quiet close beside the big squash. It fits exa bit. Don't crow too loud yet. We actly, as you can all see for yourselves. want to trap them. You two boys had It was a pretty mean trick. But the Alfred and Newman, however, were The way the old squire took a hand no longer sitting there. Before Addiwas by hitching up and driving first to son had finished speaking they were on

But the old squire had had his eye want to go to the bottom of it and laughing grimly. "You are going to though they did it with a very bad

The elder and Aunt Olive afterware apologized, to Addison, but I always

TURKISH POLICE JUSTICE

A triffing dispute between a Kurd instance of justice as it dispensed by the Turkish police: A tobacco-box was found on the nidewalk, as alloged, by a Kurd, An

Neither would give in, and the disrelate what had occurred the previous pute waxed warm. From words they man came up; but he could not decide the question of ownership. At last the Armenian suggested that the policeman ask what was in the box. "Tobacco and elgarette' paper,"

sald the Kurd, promptly. "The box contains nothing but a twenty-five cent piece," said the Ar-The officer opened the box, and finding the Armenian was right, settled "The Armenian is the owner of the

box," he said. "The Kurd is a llar." Here he smote the Kurd over the head. "Allah be praised!' For my trouble in deciding this complicated affair, I will keep the twenty-five cests."

ONE THE SPOT

A city publisher directed one of his clerks to hang out a sign, "Boy wanted." Five minutes later, says a writer in the New York Sun, a red-headed little "tad" appeared in the office wit: "Say, mister," he demanded, "d you hang out this sign?" -"I did," replied the publisher, sterply

Why, dld you tear it down?" linck of his freckles the her gazed "Why," he replied, 'I'm de boy," ENLIGHTENING THE URBANITE

City Boarder-"I suppose you hatch Farmer-"No. We keep hens for

hat purpose."



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Send your solution of the puzzle today. Don't delay, for in case

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Rules of the Contest

Only one member of a family should enter.

Employees of newspapers carrying this advertisement should not enter. Should the contestant selected by the judges for first prize already own a

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Contestants agree to abide by the decision of the judges, from which there

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A handsome, new instrument of beautiful tone in walnut

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Answers may be submitted on this or a separate sheet of paper, or any other material. There is no limit to the size of the solution. Somebody is going to win the prizes, and every one of them is Absolutely Free. Prizes will be awarded to the best, neatest, most original, correct answers.

Read the Rules of the contest again. Send in your answer now-Today. Send your answer to

32 Water Street South

Lucky Horseshoe Puzzle-1st Prize-Alderic Larin, Point St. Charles, Que. 2nd Prize-G. W. Heinbuch, 87 Home St., Stratford, 2nd Prize-Archie J. Hayward, 543 8th St. E.

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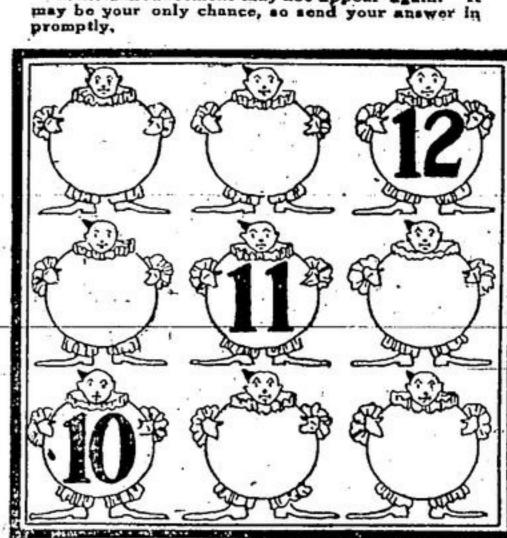
3rd Prize-J. B. Robinson, 363 St. James St., 3rd Prize-Mrs. E. Phillips, 115 Marchmont Rd., Lendon, Ont. Winners of the "Missing Numbers" Puzzle will be announced in the next contest



Place any number from 1 to 15 in the blank spaces on the design below, without using the same number twice, in such a manner that when added horizontally, vertically or diagonally the When you have solved the problem send your answer to the Canadian Selling Agents at the

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