

QUESTIONS AT BEDTIME

MR. PEAKER ON ILL-JUDGED THIRST

What makes the wind blow?
Why don't the stars fall?
What makes the sun rise?
What makes 'em be so small?
What makes the clock tick?
What makes the water roll?
What makes the blankets thick?
What makes me have 'em?
What makes the pretty moon?
Where is the other place?
What makes me grow big?
What makes a monkey sneeze?
Want you sing little oldies?
Who I can go to sleep?

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the Issue of The Free Press of Thursday, July 7, 1919.

A good rain is much desired. The dry weather shortened the straw-berry crop considerably.

New potatoes and green peas are now on the family bill of fare.

Haying has been started at the Parkes, Acton Fire Brigade and Acton Citizens' Band attended the Firemen's Demonstration at Georgetown on Dominion Day.

Mr. Peter McNab is making considerable improvements to his residence on Main Street. The house has been resheathed with metal; roof-fascia details and a new veranda of modern pattern has replaced the old one.

The mercury descended thirty degrees in two hours on Sunday evening, after a sweltering fortnight.

Mr. and Mrs. John Murchison came to Acton with their family last week and are now settled in their summer residence at the Murch Ponds.

They recently arrived home from a tour of the Baptist Church mission fields and travelled about 40,000 miles.

MARSHAL
MARSHAL-HAUS—At the hand of the town's beauties, Brook Street, Acton, on Thursday, June 30, 1919, by Rev. J. Cooper, Minister, Dr. Arthur A. Morrison, Trustee to Christiana, daughter of Adam Haus.

HOLMES-GILLES—At the home of the bride's parents, London, Ontario, on Saturday, June 29, 1919, by Rev. Dr. Holmes, Dr. Royden E. Holmes, Acton, to Anna, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Gilles.

BEDDINGHAM—At St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, on Monday, July 4, 1919, Clifford, eldest son of Alex. Hamill, of Guelph, in his 21st year.

GUTHRIE-MILLAN—At Toronto, on Friday, June 29, 1919, Rev. Alexander Guthrie, 32, Superintendent of Foreign Missions, of the Methodist Church, in his 71st year.

WILKINSON—Suddenly, at Alymer, on Wednesday, June 26, 1919, Louisa Mutter, wife of Rev. Thomas L. Wilkinson, founder of the famous Zanes Adams one of the founders of Acton, in her 73rd year.

PEAS

In the village post office a little group of people were waiting for their mail. Over in one corner some of the older men were discussing the pros and cons of the proposed World Peace, and voicing loud opinions upon it. One well-known farmer's voice rose high above the rest. He was very decided and emphatic in his views, and he didn't care who heard him. "He" audience quite agreed that war was a miserable failure, and that it really settled nothing permanently, for all its ghastly waste of life and energy. Every one wanted a lasting peace, and World Peace would doubtless prove an estimable boon and blessing to mankind.

But what struck us all more forcibly is the fact that the man who so loudly advocated a peaceful settlement amongst the nations of the world, was the very man who could not live, even for a month, on good terms with his neighbors. If he was not quarrelling about stray dogs or cattle, he was likely to be ditched or fence-sitters. And what, after all, is war, but the same thing on a larger, deadlier scale?

A man who would compel his good lifetime neighbor, under dire threats of "the law," to move eighty rods or more of his dividing fence, because it encroached perhaps a foot upon his land, could yet not understand why countries quarrelled about their far-dung boundaries; and why, widely separated as they are by tremendously vital differences in language, creeds and customs, it is not an easy matter to settle all national disputes with adequate dispatch.

These troubles really begin with individuals. It is not easy for us to remember that peace, like charity, begins at home. To live peacefully with all men is a Christian obligation, and one that no few followers of the meek and lowly Jesus ever attempted to fulfil. But have they anything at all like it, within themselves? Our religion rests upon a foundation of brotherly love and kindness, and a patient forbearance with the foibles of mankind. Surely then, the church is the one, in a wise-born world, where one might truly look for perfect peace, and hope to find it. But a warring and divided church, preaching peace to others, is something in the nature of a joke; yet it is a pitiful joke, and a sad and pathetic state of affairs.

It is not enough to expect good will from the other fellow. It is equally necessary to be found in the same frame of mind ourselves. My loud-voiced friend of fine-depot fame, who ailed his peaceful principles, was merely demanding protection for himself. He did not intend to return it in kind. And that is just the sort of thing in a larger sense, that spoils the best-intended plottings and schemes of wiser men.

Gross selfishness is at the bottom of most quarrels; greed, and an unworthy desire to beat the other. Yellow! Could we but see the need for equal rights for justice, and the daily practice of the Golden Rule, what a vastly different place this earth would speedily become! For if every home were peaceful, and every person charitable and serene, how long could dissensions linger in this world? Gloria!

"An Off for All Men"—The sailor, the soldier, the fisherman, the lumberman, the gun-dowser and all who are exposed to injury, and the elements will find in Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil a true and faithful friend. To ease pain, relieve colds, dress wounds, subdue lumbago and overcome rheumatism, it is excellent. Therefore, it should have a place in all home medicines and be amongst those taken on a journey.

MR. PEAKER ON ILL-JUDGED THIRST

Globe Peacock who was helping Deacon Hynes through a hurried week of belated haymaking, stood on the barn floor, testing the strength of a fork handle.

"I ain't any good for strength these days, Hynes," he submitted, "but I don't believe that handle's fit to stand the load I am hit; looks to me 't was bout ready to crack down there next to the socket. Ain't you got another one I can use?"

The deacon gave the fork a casual glance.

"There's plenty more forks standin' outside the waggoned door," he inquired. "I guess likely that handle's strained a mite; but I was callatin' to use it as long as it need. I like to get the last wear out of a thing."

"I no 'so,'" Odear agreed. "But I c'm to mind time when we're reakin' too much to a broken tool led to infarcture—not the time when Ben Atcott figgered—like the time when Ben Atcott figgered a cracked pole you was all right to use a splint longer."

"Ben had a pair of young horses, and one of 'em he'd bought of me; and when I sold 'em to Ben he warmed him."

"That horse is all-right," I says; "if you don't bear him and don't work him in a good harness. If his harness breaks," I says, "there's n' stellin' what'll 'n' do."

"This time I'm tellin' you about was when folks from the city that began to come out into the country and shop round in attics and sheds huntin' up old curios and chits of drawers that they called "antiques." And Ben, havin' a sharp nose for dollar, took a hunk of gom' round on his own hook and hollered up what he'd git cheap, and then, when the city folks come, he'd have a plenty all ready for 'em—and at a good advance in price!"

"Well, one day Ben asked me if I'd go with him the next day after a load or stuff'd dictored for. So over I went to his place, next mornin', and there just as he was hookin' up the horses. When he picked up the pole to hook the pole yoke to the collar I noticed a big crack in the yoke.

"You ain't plannin' to use a cracked yoke like that, be ye?" I says, "with a young horse?"

"Ben looked at me 's if I was kind of nothin'. 'Why not?' he says. 'That little crack don't hurt nothing; I c'n git quite a little wear out of that yoke yet,' he says. 'Well,' I thinks to myself, 'it ain't any of my business'; so I got up onto the seat with him, and we started over to 'tis the north ridge of the town.

"Well, we started pickin' up the load, a bairn here and a spindle-back chair there, and before long we had a load that stood for chandlery money, even at the prices then had paid for it. And then we were to the last place—old-mud brewhouse's place, just before you come to that long hill, comin' in this way. Out in the harv-a-har-a big-chet of drawers they'd weigh in the neighborhood of four hundred pounds and stood five or six foot high—a dreifal awkward thing to slow on the wagon, too.

"Well, we got it loaded at last, and then picked up the webbin's and started the horses, we walkin' alongside and me behind, to lighten the load; and when we got to the top of the hill we lagged back on the reins to make the horses ease the load down. Well, then horses come back in the collars quick and sharp, and I heard somethin' crack and splinter. Then I could see the pole yoke swingin' in two halves at the end of the pole almost on the ground; and the next minute the load surged down onto the horses' heads, and they started to run. The first jump they made fell shadow from Ben, and down that hill they went 'till they was crasy."

"Just before you come to the foot of the hill there was a 'hump' in the road that the muckers had made to turn out the horses to the dish, and it was all of five inches high. When the horses met this, the end of the pole hitched—and you couldn't have stopped the whole team if they'd hit a brick wall.

The end of the pole nosed into the ground like a plow, and that chet of drawers kept right on goin' forward, through the spindle-backs and tables and the rest of the load—and the next jump the horses tore themselves clear of the wagon and didn't quit runnin' till they got to the barn!

"For a minute Ben just stood and looked at the wreck; and then he spoke. 'I'm goin' to own up,' he says, "that 'tis a bairn's fault; I've sinned; I ain't got no followers of the meek and lowly Jesus ever attempt to fulfil. They chucked me for you, of course. But have they anything at all like it, within themselves? Our religion rests upon a foundation of brotherly love and kindness, and a patient forbearance with the foibles of mankind. Surely then, the church is the one, in a wise-born world, where one might truly

look for perfect peace, and hope to find it. But a warring and divided church, preaching peace to others, is something in the nature of a joke; yet it is a pitiful joke, and a sad and pathetic state of affairs."

THE LAST OF THE WOODEN NUTMEGS

Whatever truth there is in the tradition which Connecticut gained the name of the "Nutmeg State," it is partially true, nevertheless, that some nutmegs were made in New Haven in 1773 by a poor turner named Abram, his employer being as a guest, an English nobleman, a certain Lord Bexham. Just before departing the Englishman was anxious to get some wooden nutmegs as a souvenir, and the host, said he, "We're hard-logged, but he would try." He asked his best wood worker, Amos, to make a few.

The job took him nearly two days. He turned a dozen of the "nuts," some large and some small, carved the outside to resemble nutmegs and soaked them in strong oil of nutmeg. While they were still wet he rubbed whitening into them.

Mr. West took them to Lord Bexham, who remarked, "They look like nutmegs! They smell like nutmegs! You are playing a joke on me!"

"Out one open," suggested Mr. West quietly.

Lord Bexham did so, and they proved to be genuine wood. He was delighted. "I'll have lots of fun showing them at home," he said.

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