

THE OLD MAN OF THE BIG CLOCK TOWER



THE MEN OF OLD

I know not that the men of old
Were better than men now,
Of heart more kind, of hand more bold,
Of more ingenious brow;
I need not those who pine for force
A ghost of time to raise,
As if they thus could check the course
Of these appointed days.

Still is it true, and over-true,
That I delight to close
The book of life, self-wisdom and now,
And let my thoughts repose
On all that humble happiness
The world of time to raise—
The daylight of contentedness,
That on those faces shone!

With rights, though not too closely scanned,
Enjoyed, as far as known—
With will, by no reverse unmaned—
With pulse of even tone—
They from to-day and from to-night
Expected nothing more
Than yesterday and yesterday
Had proffered them before.

A man's best things are nearest him,
Lie close about his feet,
It is the distant and the dim
That we are sick to greet;
For flowers that grow our hands be-
neath
We struggle and aspire—
Our hearts must die, except they breathe
The air of fresh desire.

—R. M. Milne.

THE JOHNSTONS AND THE LESLIES
The removal by death of Mrs. Robert Johnston at the first of the month left this community the poorer, for Mrs. Johnston was for a life-time an esteemed member of the pioneer folk of this section, and a warm friend to all who had the good fortune to know her.

The passing of Mrs. Johnston took me back over the generations of Johnstons and Leslies who have been residents of Erin and Esqueping, Glenwilliams and Acton. Those of us who have passed the allotted span of life, can readily recall personalities of note and events of interest in which members of these two families were active participants. And the coming to the community of these industrious pioneers soon widened the relationships to the Snyders, the Swackhamers, the Staffords and the later generations to still further families, who are proud and happy to be numbered with them as members of the expanding circle.

Back in the sixties and the seventies "Dr." Johnston was a character of the countryside. No college parchment ever graced his family room; yet he was in demand for the ailments of man and beast, near and far. He could diagnose the derangements of the troubled frames of old folks, young folks and children, and of horses and cattle suffering from the colic or other complaints. He was singularly successful in his diagnosis and treatment. These were often crude and homely, yet they relieved pain in man and beast, and oftentimes when the treatment of professional men and veterinarians failed. Dr. Johnston retained this good reputation until death completed his activities, and he was laid away in the little cemetery at Swackhamer's Hill.

The Leslies settled in this community upwards of seventy years ago. The men became successful farmers, and the women married good husbands. The Leslie farms, cleared and worked by George and Joel Leslie, were always regarded as model places. They had good houses and well-built barns, and fruitful fields, splendid orchards, pure bred and well fed stock, and the air of prosperity prevailed.

Leslie's School has always been a familiar place. The children of the Leslie homes and of the homes of the neighborhood attended there. Good teachers were engaged. Some of the early ones were Mr. McPherson, father of the late Hugh A. McPherson, for a dozen years the minister of our own Knox Church, Acton, was one of the early ones. Then there were Bella Gordon, and T. James Moore, and Miss McDonald, and others of merit.

Robert Johnston and Lydia Martha Yeall attended this school together, and I trow that the boy and girl affections formed there, ripened into the later love

which brought them eventually into the holy bonds of wedlock, and a happy married life together for well on to half a century. And the family they raised about them—five sons and six daughters—all of them a credit to their progenitors, and honored in their neighborhood.

I noted above that the early generation of the Leslies and Johnstons were associated with the Swackhamer and the Snyder families of the Hill. What stalwart characters these early settlers were. They stood for right living; they appreciated educational advantages. They were all interested in either or both the Brick Church, on the second line, and the Congregational Church, on the third line, just seven-eighths of a mile apart. Could any of your old folks who read this think of the Hill Church without a Swackhamer, or the Brick Methodist Church without a Leslie or a Johnston in those early days? Their descendants still talk of Uncle Hiram Denny and Rev. Joseph Unsworth as reverend ministers of the one, and of Rev. George Abbs, Rev. William Pirlette, Father Lynch, and others. What an influence these early preachers had on their congregations and on the community.

And then, of course, we recall the social functions of these two churches—the annual dinners. What events they were—the only social events of the year. And everybody and their aunts and uncles attended. The big wholesome supper, and the humorous speeches afterward by the preachers of the neighborhood, and the special anthems by the church choirs. Those were the times, especially when they were held on frosty nights, with good sleighing and merry sleigh bells. Acton always sent a large quota of citizens to these tea-meetings, and the town folks always seemed to be hungry—hungry for the good things the Hill folks and the folks at The Brick always provided.

Coming back to the Johnston family, which was rich in sons and daughters, I recall that one of the Doctor's sons—Daniel—became a Methodist preacher, and for years has been regarded as an eminent divine in several churches of he has been the minister in the Western States. And Milly, one of the daughters, married a Methodist preacher—the late Dr. Scanlon. She has always been proficient in music, and has occupied the position of soloist in Toronto churches.

The Leslie and Johnston, the Snyder and Swackhamer families have been leaders in their respective communities for well on to an hundred years and they and their descendants have been useful members of society.

Ell Snyder built the Brick Church, which stood for between sixty and seventy years at the corner of the second line and the Erin-Esqueping townline. I know he did for I saw him at work on the sacred edifice in 1864.

It has been a pleasure to me always to have a close acquaintanceship, yes a close friendship, with the Leslie, the Johnston, the Swackhamer, the Snyder and the Stafford families, and we still continue to be friends.

The Old Man

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Subscriptions for All Magazines
Taken at The Free Press Office

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the Issue of The Free Press of Thursday, October 20, 1910

The morning service of electric light was resumed on Monday.

Turkeys are coming in freely. The price is ten cents per bushel this week. There is a wood famine here just now. Hard wood is especially scarce.

Mrs. J. E. Gamble carried off four prizes for cut flowers at the Township Fall Fair.

Mr. C. W. Kelly, of Guelph, has opened a branch music store in Secord's Block, Mill Street.

Dr. R. E. Holmes has removed his office and residence to the house opposite Reeve Hyatt's store on Mill Street.

A good sized audience assembled in the Town Hall last Wednesday evening to be entertained by Jennie Alexander, of Toronto; Miss Grace Haynes, Guelph; Miss Bertha Smith, Acton's sweet singer, and Miss Margaret Thompson, Acton, accompanist. The concert was under the auspices of the Victoria Mission Band of Knox Church.

It is estimated that 8,000 persons passed through the terminals at Erin Fair grounds during Fair Day last Friday. Every available rig in Acton was put into commission for the fair.

In the removal to Guelph this week of Mr. and Mrs. George Stovel, Acton has lost two esteemed citizens. Mr. Stovel was in the shoe business here for thirteen years. Mr. Stovel has excellent prospects in Guelph.

DIED
WATSON—In Esqueping, on Thursday, October 13, 1910, John Watson, lot 3, concession 5, aged 63 years.

ORPHANS—At 19 Beaudreux Crescent, Acton, on Saturday, October 15, Hannah Catharine, wife of Albert Crabtree, aged 43 years.

MIGHT MARK 'EM DOWN TO 12 CENTS

A man who had been waiting patiently in the post office could not attract the attention of either of the girls behind the counter.

"The evening cloak," explained one of the girls to her companion, "was a redingote design in gorgeous brocade, with fox fur and wide pagoda-sleeves."

At this point the long-suffering customer broke in with: "I wonder if you could provide me with a neat red stamp with a dinky perforated hem, the tout ensemble delicately treated on the reverse with gum arabic? Something about two cents."

Perdan Balm—the one toilet requisite for the dainty woman. Delightful to use. Leaves no stickiness. Swiftly absorbed by the tissues. Delicately fragrant. Imparts a velvety loveliness to the complexion. Tones up the skin. Soothes and banishes all unpleasant roughness or chafing caused by wind and other weather conditions. Makes hands soft and white. Creates an elusive, essentially feminine charm. Persian Balm is indispensable to women of refinement.

TROUBLE HUNTER
The owner of a cheap watch brought it into the jeweller's shop to see what could be done for it. "The mistake I made of course," he admitted, "was in dropping it."

"Well, I don't suppose you could help that," the jeweller remarked. "The mistake you made was picking it up."

Tea must be fresh—SALADA is guaranteed to be fresh

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FIRE seldom visits houses having Gyproc Wallboard ceilings, partitions, walls and sheathing. On the contrary Gyproc has saved many homes.

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TIME TABLES AT ACTON

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS	
Going East	
No. 26—Daily, except Sunday...	7:02 a.m.
No. 30—Daily, except Sunday...	11:43 a.m.
No. 36—Daily, except Sunday...	6:16 p.m.
No. 38—Daily, except Sunday...	8:47 p.m.
No. 24—Sunday only	7:12 p.m.
Going West	
No. 31—Daily, except Sunday...	7:34 a.m.
No. 29—Daily, except Sunday...	9:10 a.m.
No. 33—Daily, except Sunday...	2:29 p.m.
No. 189—Daily, except Sunday...	6:16 p.m.
No. 37—Daily, except Sunday...	7:34 p.m.
No. 39—Daily, except Sunday...	10:21 p.m.
No. 25—Sunday only	10:23 a.m.
No. 29 will stop only on signal.	
No. 39 will stop only to discharge passengers from Toronto and east.	

CANADIAN NATIONAL ELECTRIC RAILWAYS	
Westbound	
Daily—except Sunday	8:16 a.m.
Daily	10:16 a.m.
Daily	1:10 p.m.
Daily	3:16 p.m.
Daily	6:56 p.m.
Daily	9:16 p.m.
Daily	12:16 a.m.
Eastbound	
Daily—except Sunday	7:33 a.m.
Daily	9:39 a.m.
Daily	12:33 p.m.
Daily	2:33 p.m.
Daily	5:33 p.m.
Daily	8:33 p.m.
Daily	11:33 p.m.

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TRAVEL BY BUS

Westbound	
Daily	8:25 a.m.
Daily	1:05 p.m.
Daily	4:05 p.m.
Daily	6:35 p.m.
Daily except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays	10:05 p.m.
Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays	12:05 a.m.
Eastbound	
Sundays and Holidays	9:35 a.m.
Daily, except Saturdays and Holidays	9:05 a.m.
Daily	11:20 a.m.
Daily	2:55 p.m.
Daily	5:55 p.m.
Daily	8:55 p.m.



Debts Collected

Yes, Collections are slow this year, but note this—We have collected more money in 1930 than in any one of our forty years' experience.

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Mrs. Oakley
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A VISIT WITH HIS DADDY

Evening rates on "Anyone" (Automatic) calls now begin at 7 p.m. Night rates begin at 8:30 p.m. Just give "Long Distance" the number you want—it speeds up the service. If you don't know the distant number, "Information" will look it up for you.

Twice a week Jimmy stays up until eight-thirty, Daddy is on the road but he doesn't want to become a stranger to his son. And so, every Monday and Thursday evening, he pays a visit by telephone.

It doesn't cost much because he waits until eight-thirty when the lowest night rates begin. It amounts to about the price of a movie for a call and in return he gets something beyond money—the voices of his wife and his little boy—a touch of home—moments of affection for them all, to remember and look forward to.

Many people away from home are using the telephone these days to have regular visits with their families. Out-of-town calls are so simple to make and they are quick and inexpensive. They are the next best thing to being really home.