

AT NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

As soon as Miss Kilkame has finished lessons for the day. She packs her shiny leather bag and hurries quick away. We used to wonder why she rushed, and where her home could be— But now we know, because last week she asked us home to tea.

THE OLD MAN OF THE BIG CLOCK TOWER



IN SCHOOL DAYS

Still sits the school-house by the road. A tangled begonia running. And blackberry vines are running. Within the master's desk is seen Deep scars by raps official; The warning floor, the battered seats, The Jack-knife's initials.

Long years ago a winter sun Shone over it at setting. Lit up its western window pane, And low eve's lay fretting. It touched the tangled, golden curls, And brown eyes full of grieving, Of one who still her steps delayed When all the school were leaving.

For near her stood the little boy Her childish favor angled; His cap pulled low upon a face Where pride and shame were mingled. Pushing with restless feet the snow To right and left, he lingered— As restlessly her tiny hands The blue checked apron fingered.

He saw her lift her eyes; he felt The soft hand's light caressing; And heard the trembling of her voice As if a fault confessing.

"I'm sorry that I spell the word; I hate to go above you, Because—" he brows lower fell—"Because, you see, I love you!"

Still memory to a gray-haired man That sweet child-to be showing. Dear girl!—the grazes on her grave Have forty years been growing!

He lives to learn in life's hard school, How few who pass above him; Lament their triumph and his loss, Like her—because they love him. —J. G. Whittier.

For many years a little store and dwelling stood on the north corner of the Dominion Hotel property. The first storekeeper I can recall there was Francis Slingerland. He had a diminutive grocery with a candy section which was very popular with the kiddies. But, law me, kiddies! No one would have known what was meant if children had been called kids or kiddies in those days. Kids were then the progeny of goats. Well, the boys and girls of the sixties liked to go to Slingerland's because a copper would always buy more there than at Mr. Hill's, or Mrs. Seard's or at Midgley's. A little chap was as likely to get a quarter of a pound of bull's eyes or sugar sticks for a copper as not, especially if Mrs. Slingerland was behind the counter, and sugar was a York shilling a pound back in those days, eight pounds for a dollar. Gin-powder tea a dollar a pound. Talk about the H. C. L. now. And a laboring man's wage was seven to nine York shillings. Well, the Slingerland's mercantile experience in Acton was of brief duration. They had never studied costs accounting, nor had they preserved any record of the dates when the wholesaler's accounts came due. The result was disastrous to the permanency of the thriving business. The next merchant to occupy this little store was Richard Burrows. He was a very religious little man, but he had an ungovernable temper to combat. Bill Jones, a husky big fellow had an argument with Mr. Burrows one afternoon and Bill retired much the worse for it. He carried a deep chisel as long as he lived. But Mr. Burrows' heart was in the right place, if he did sometimes let his angry passions rise. He would often come out to the street when the children were coming home from school, and sitting on a packing box, would read to them favorite selections from the scriptures. In the course of time Richard passed away. His widow and their daughter, Miss Hannah, lived for years afterward in the cottage on Church Street, opposite St. Joseph's Church, now occupied by Mr. Huard and family.

After Mr. Burrows, Jake Dempsey had

a harness shop in this store. Jake made harness and talked baseball with the boys. I think Charlie Dean and Bob Creech also worked at the harness business here. It was here they talked over the big game with the Maple Leafs, of Guelph, and worked up the game which eventually gave the Guelph professionals a hard run for their money.

John McArthur, the tailor, was for a long time an occupant of these premises. Many a wedding suit he constructed here for the young men of his acquaintance, especially those from the Erin vicinity of his boyhood's home. It was here John made his own wedding suit for his marriage with Mattie Wilson, an expert tailor, who had worked for him for some time.

Various other tenants occupied that little store and dwelling. Its central situation some way made it popular. One of the last to occupy it for mercantile purposes was Jack Agnew, the eldest son of the late Robert Agnew, of the Dominion Hotel. He and Mrs. Agnew conducted a popular ice cream parlor and candy store there about thirty-five years ago. Mrs. Agnew and Marnie were most attentive to customers during the day, and Jack gave his services during the evening and Robin ran errands when school was out.

It was here that the late Dr. Coxie had his office at the inception of his career as a veterinary surgeon in Acton. But finally the little store and house were torn down or moved away, and the lot now stands vacant. The lot was owned for a number of years by the late H. A. Swackhamer.

The next property has seen many changes. Away back sixty years ago it belonged to the late Thomas Perryman, plasterer. He came to Acton from Markham and always had kind things to say of the first place which was his home when he came to Canada from England. The house stood back from the street. There was a big elm tree on the street line and to this the garden gate was hung. For some time Mr. Perryman had the contract for carrying the mail from Acton Post Office to the Grand Trunk Railway station. This work principally fell upon the two boys, William and Thomas. Over and over again I have heard the father call, "William! It's high time to take the mail to the train. The Queen's mail must not be late; we're under bonds you know." I never knew the Perryman boys to miss a mail during the whole tenure of their contract.

After Mr. Perryman moved to his farm, on the sixth concession, on the Acton crossroad I think William lived there for a number of years. There was a good orchard on the lot and Tom Nicholson nearly always took apples to school throughout the fall and winter. Tom was generous in his distribution of the luscious fruit, and consequently was one of the most popular boys of the school. His generosity got his friends frequently into trouble, however, when Mr. Little caught them eating apples in school. Many still remember the unerring flight of his black laws to the scholars guilty of this infraction of the rules. My, how those old laws did sting! The Nicholson family became declined. The father and the mother passed away, and John, the eldest son, and Tom, his brother, went to Sanilac County, Michigan, and took up land, which had been opened for settlement, at Marlette. Both of them prospered. Tom died several years ago, leaving his family well provided for. John was one of the most prosperous and best known farmers in the State.

During the busy business days of the late John Kennedy, plasterer, he came into possession of this property. A new two-story double brick dwelling house was built on the street line and the big elm tree and the old house were torn down. Mr. Kennedy and family occupied one apartment for a number of years, and Mr. Daniel Smith the other. Miss Cameron, sister of the late Rev. D. B. Cameron, made her home in this house for a number of years. It belonged to Mr. R. G. Brown for a number of years and he and Mrs. Brown and Miss Clara lived there until the death of Mr. and Mrs. Brown. The property is now owned by Mr. George Denton, Sr., and is occupied by Mrs. Gertrude and her son, Aubrey, and Mr. and Mrs. George Chapman and Miss Madge.

The Old Man

CANADA'S INDIANS

There is no foundation for the common belief that the Indians of Canada are a vanishing race. A census which is taken at five-year intervals has shown a substantial increase in each of such periods during the past fifteen years at least. According to the last census there were in Canada 122,911 Indians—62,943 males and 59,968 females. About 112,540 live on the reservations. The system of reserves, whereby particular areas of land have been set apart for the use of the Indians, has been established in Canada from the earliest times. It was designed to protect the Indians from encroachment, and provide a sanctuary where they could develop unmolested until advancing civilization had made possible their absorption into the general body of the citizens. Indians in Canada are minors under the law, and are the wards of the Department of Indian Affairs. The activities of the Department as guardians of the Indians include the control of Indian education, health, etc., the development of agriculture and other pursuits among them, the administration of their funds and legal transactions, and the general supervision of their welfare.

LOOKS LIKE BIG YEAR AT WESTERN FAIR

Last-minute reports from W. D. Jackson, Secretary of Western Fair, London, Ontario, indicate that this year at Western Ontario's own exhibition is going to set some new records.

Mr. Jackson states that all space in the Confederation Building was sold out six weeks ago and that there are only eight or ten booths left in the big Manufacturers Building, also, that live stock entries are coming in rapidly. Despite the fact that on account of the new automobile models not being released until October, the manufacturers in that industry are unable to exhibit, space has been snapped up quickly and there is more room available for agricultural exhibits which, after all, are of greater interest to rural people.

The Night Horse Show, as usual, will be held on the first four nights of the Fair, starting with Monday, September 14th. This fair, shown in the new Ontario Arena, has proved to be one of the most popular events introduced, and "Standing Room Only" is usually the order of the evening.

The Grandstand show this year will be of a high order, featuring world-famous acts, such as: "The Revue of Revues", described as the most colossal production ever staged under the open sky; "The Arleys", gymnasts extraordinary; "Laddie Lamont", the funniest Scot on earth; "The Helen Reynolds Skating Champions", an act of rare beauty and marvelous ability; "Will Morris and Bobby", a comedy act, packed with laughs from start to finish; "Les Kimira", sensational midget act on the Aeroplans Tourbillon; "Christiansen's Great Danes", a clever canine act, filled with surprises. Lighting, music and scenic effects for these acts are described as most beautiful.

On the ever-popular Midway will be found the world-famous carnival shows, operated by Rubin & Cherry, whose name is a guarantee of the best in night variety amusement.

With six days Harness Horse Racing, and with many attractive agricultural and industrial exhibits in addition to the hundreds of other spots of interest about the spacious grounds, this year's Western Fair will be well worth a day or two of anyone's time. It is fully expected that the great crowds of last season, numbering a total of 150,000 paid admissions, will be exceeded in this, the Recovery Year.

AN UNDERSTANDING LIFE

There are some things that we had better not experience. The price is too great, the results too disastrous. If we wish to understand life we should avoid the ways that lead to the destruction of health, happiness and inner peace, which make life worth while. What is the good of an understanding of life that cuts under the very foundations of life itself?

LOWER RATES ON LONG-HAUL TELEPHONE CALLS Effective from September 1st. Again rates for long distance telephone service have been revised. Reductions on calls to points over 130 air-line miles distant became effective from September 1st. This is the sixth long distance rate revision in the past seven years. It will mean substantial savings for users of the service. And remember, low night rates on both Station-to-Station and Person-to-Person calls, now apply every evening after 7 o'clock, and all day Sunday.

FACTOGRAPHS. There is a clock in Litchfield, England, that strikes 12 times at gravings and printing, in Washington, D.C. Brazil was discovered in 1500 by Pedro Alvarez Cabral, who named it Land of the Holy Cross. Bunker Hill monument is 221 feet high. The first transcontinental telephone line in the United States was completed in 1915. It connected New York, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Omaha, Denver, Salt Lake City and San Francisco. The Massachusetts Nautical School, a state training school for American merchant marine officers, was established in 1897. The New York State College of Agriculture estimates that a full-grown apple tree has 50,000 leaves.

Canada's Newest Trains. Keeping thoroughly abreast of the times, the Canadian Pacific Railway is putting into commission four semi-streamline, lightweight trains which will operate on the day runs between Montreal and Quebec, Toronto and Detroit, and Edmonton and Calgary. At present these deluxe trains are on tour for public inspection in Ontario, Quebec and Western Canada, where they will be seen by many thousands of residents. Economical in operation, and approximately only half the weight of a regular standard train of the same equipment, the trains, which consist of the latest 4-4-1 type locomotive (2000 class) and express car, baggage and buffet car, and two first-class coaches, mark a distinct forward movement in modern transportation in Canada. Thoroughly air-conditioned the cars at all times are supplied with clean fresh air and will be found comfortably warm in winter, and pleasantly cool in summer. In the pictures above are shown the new train and parts of the first class coach, buffet car, baggage and two first-class coaches, mark a distinct forward movement in modern transportation in Canada.

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