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Richmond Hill and Vicinity
No. 33.
The Young Man's Choice.

To the Editor of THE LIBERAL
Forty years ago there stood at the
south end of our village, just north of the
Duncumb estate, a painted building
known as the old red store.
In this building, long before Yonge St.
was macadamized, Mr. John Brunskill—
who afterwards went to Thornhill—com-
menced and did a large business, keeping
several clerks. Among these clerks was
an English lad, seventeen years of age,
one of seven sons of a father who subse-
quently became a millionaire of Toronto.
This lad, with money more than sufficient
supplied by his indulgent parents, with a
lively and energetic temperament, was to
be found wherever life and excitement
could be enjoyed. Having a pleasant
manner, well known and popular among
the villagers, the boy was welcome in all
sorts of company, and went from
Grave to gay
From lively to severe.

Previous to the erection of our first
Methodist church, the members of the
Methodist body held their services in the
old log school house that stood behind
the site of the Herald office, and in private
houses wherever there was an open
door. The Rev. John Hunt, who was
sent out as a missionary under the aus-
pices of the British Methodists, attended
to the spiritual interests of our village.
Revival services were then as now backed
up with a lot of boys and young men,
drawn by curiosity or mischief, who occu-
pied the back seats and vacant corners.
Among these was Mr. Brunskill's clerk.
In those days the rough and ready
"Experiences," as they were called, at the
fellowship meetings, often came from
men and women who were graced with
more religion than with "polished man-
ners or fine sense," and seeds of truth
sometimes lodged in very unlikely places.
Words dropped from the lips of some
faithful servant of God fell upon the
young man's heart—caused him to think
and to decide on a change of life. He
united with the Methodists. It was not
long before the news of the lad's strange
conduct reached his parents' home in the
city, who belonged to a church not pre-
disposed towards Methodism, and drew
from the father an indignant protest and
a threat of disinheritance unless he at
once retracted. The young man carefully
considered his position, tried to take in
the whole situation, and returned for an
answer, "that having given his heart to
the service of Christ, he had given his
hand to the Methodist people, and had
chosen their God to be his God." The
result was that as far as his family were
concerned his financial prospects were
blasted.

From Richmond Hill he went to a city
in the United States, and was told to call
upon a certain merchant. He did so, and
requested a position as clerk. The first
thing he was asked for was a "character."
Pulling a Bible out of his pocket and
handing it to the merchant, he said he
thought his character might be found in
that—he was trying to be like the Lord
Jesus. The merchant accepted the rec-
ommendation with a quizzical glance at
the young man's face, which seemed to
show honesty of purpose, gave him the
situation, and soon found that he had se-
cured the services of a valuable assistant.
Some time after sickness laid its hand
on the young man and brought him near
the gates of death. In his delirium he
raved about his parents and his child-
hood's home. His father was sent for in
haste if he desired to see his boy before
he died. His arrival secured the best
medical skill that money could obtain,
and with careful nursing recovery was the
result. The merchant's unstinted praise
of the young clerk's excellent conduct and
efficiency, softened the father's heart, a
reconciliation took place, and the young
man returned home.

Amid the temptations of wealthy sur-
roundings—the ridicule of youthful asso-
ciates, and sometimes the opposition of
those in his own home—he remained faith-
ful to his convictions, and at the same
time gave himself to the most assiduous
study of every branch of knowledge that
would help him to be useful in the church
of his choice. He became a very accept-
able local preacher, and many of us have
heard him from the pulpit of the old
church. His sermons were carefully pre-
pared and well arranged and his minis-
trations spiritually profitable.
In 1848, on a vote of the officers of the
West Toronto Quarterly Board, he was
recommended to and readily accepted by
the Conference for the itinerant work, at
the age of 21 years.
This, however, was not to be his line
of usefulness. Instead of being a circuit-
rider he became a man of business. Of
sterling integrity, he soon became prom-
inent, and filled many honorable positions
in the church and in business circles.
At the celebration of the opening of a
new railroad, the official members of the
company took their first ride over the

new line. "Some one blundered." An
accident occurred, and an unfortunate
victim of the catastrophe was our young
man—Mr. James Gooderham, the Pres-
ident of the Credit Valley Railway Com-
pany.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)
I have been suffering with a bad stom-
ach for a number of years and neglect-
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Drug Store, 170 King St. East, Toronto.

Bond's Lake Races.
The Annual Winter Races were held
on the ice, Bond's Lake, on Friday last.
As on former occasions there was a good
attendance, and everything passed off
smoothly, though the ice, owing to the
warmth of the sun, was rather soft in
places. Every class was well filled, and
some good trotting was done. The
judges were, R. Lemon, Davisville; M.
O'Halleran, Deer Park, and W. Meuk,
Victoria Square. Their decisions were
final, and in all cases satisfactory. The
trotting was generally square, but in the
fifth heat in the gentleman's race, Moss
Rose and Toboggan were set back for
running and the heat given to John L.
Sullivan.
In the named race the horses and their
positions were as follows:—
J. Wait's, Fisher..... 1 2 1 1
J. Palmer's, Grey John..... 3 1 2 2
W. Vince's, Livery Girl..... 2 3 3 3
A. J. Collin's, Hopful..... 4 3 4 4
W. V. Palmer's, Black Bird..... 5 4 5 4
C. Palmer's, Sally..... 6 6 6 4

The second race was for gentlemen's
road horses, that had never beaten 2.40.
In this there were seven entries. The
race proved very interesting, Moss Rose
carrying off first honors. Their places at
the close were as follows:—
J. Lawrie's, Moss Rose..... 3 2 1 1 4 1
Owen's Toboggan..... 1 1 3 3 5 2
Ed. Gailanough's, J.L. Sullivan..... 4 4 4 1 3
S. J. Dixon's, Little Hero..... 2 3 2 2 4 r
J. Dixon's, Jimmy D..... 5 5 5 3 4 r
H. G. Charlesworth's, Luttie..... 6 6 6 6 4 r
J. Palmer's, Black Mare..... 7 7 r

The third and last race was for 2-year-
old colts, in which much interest was
also centred. Mr N. Playter's black colt
was an easy winner, and showed some
wonderful bursts of speed. This young
trotter is bred by Oriole, and in all pro-
bability will show a good record in future
races. The colts' race was best two in
three, the result being as follows:—
N. Playter's, Black Colt..... 1 1 1
W. Munshaw's, Imperial Queen..... 2 2 2
Jackson's, Bay Colt..... 4 3 3
J. Thompson's, Frank Hough..... 3 4 4

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wants. The best and purest drugs in the
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