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Thornhill
Mr. John Thompson, the veteran bus owner and driver, intends selling off his horses, etc., soon after Christmas. The people from Elgin Mills to the city have always found him very obliging, and regret that he is giving up the business. As a quick witted Irishman once said to a Puritan who was declaring his disbelief in Purgatory, "They may go further and fare worse."

A short time ago two accomplished organists (musical friends of Miss Houghton) gave a brief semi-private rehearsal on the organ in Trinity Church; and those present were quite charmed with the exquisite manner in which the selections were rendered. Last Friday evening the rector of the parish gave the tenth of his course of lectures on Language, in which he discussed the sources and character of the Pleasures of the Imagination. Next Friday the lectures will be brought to a close until after the holidays.

"Oh! bring me a garland of holly,
Rosemary, ivy, and bay;
For schooling is nothing but folly
Till after the Christmas days."

Another of those pleasant social reunions was held at the Mineral Springs last week, the usual amusements on such occasions being provided—music, cards, dancing, etc. A matronly lady who was present at this and the previous assembly spoke in very high terms of the true politeness of the young men, almost all of whom are farmers' sons; and said that their simple, unsophisticated manners were preferable to those of young men from town, even those who had the privilege of an academic training. She certainly is quite capable of forming an opinion on the matter, no less than three of her own sons having completed a course of study at one of the Toronto colleges.

Mr. and Mrs. Britnell, accompanied by several friends from Richmond Hill, paid a visit at the Rectory on Monday evening. Next day they left for their new home in Toronto, followed by prayers and good wishes for their prosperity.

It is on dit here that a fashionable wedding is to be celebrated in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Richmond Hill, on the Festival of the Circumcision.

In the last notes from this place "disinterested people" should have been "discontented people." Better still had it been "disaffected people." But your compiler does remarkably well considering your correspondent's almost indecipherable hieroglyphics.

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Ancient History.

To the Editor of THE LIBERAL:
SIR,—One of the most important considerations of the government of any village, town or city, is a well equipped fire engine worked by an efficient and well trained brigade. It is a comfortable satisfaction to know that we have such an organization in this village, which for its efficiency is not behind that of any other village of its size in the Province of Ontario. However near to perfection our present company may be, it arose from small beginnings.

Councillor Sanderson, in THE LIBERAL of two weeks ago, gave us a resurrected report from the York Herald of thirty years ago of the formation of the first Fire Engine Co. in our village.

As a former member of that ancient organization I recollect something of its history. Thirty years ago our village consisted of a couple of rows of wooden structures, many of them the worse for many years of history, and all as dry as matchwood. Brick buildings then with us were "an unknown quantity," and insurance scarcely ever thought of. The only apparatus in the shape of fire extinguishers were the citizens' water pail brigade and a small but useful hand engine belonging to the people of Elgin Mills, then an enterprising village with its extensive tannery, large hotel, lofty flour mill in full blast, with its scores of employes under the supervision of that man of energy and push—the late Geo. P. Dickson, Esq., the Laird of Elgin Mills.

We began to arise to a sense of our insecurity in 1865. Warnings from fire swept villages and towns around us created feelings of alarm. Owners of property and others interested began the agitation for better protection, and numerous meetings were held, but all proved a failure because not seconded by the people, many preferring to risk \$500 worth of property rather than give \$5 toward preventing a catastrophe. So difficult it is to run such matters without municipal control. The second effort in 1866 was about equally slow, but on Sunday, April 12th, when nearly all the men of the village were attending the funeral of a much esteemed citizen—Mr. John Linfoot—a \$15,000 fire, which swept away the business places of Messrs. Crosby, Coulter and Jenkins, warmed us up to greater activity. Canvassers were sent out and a subscription list fairly well signed. At a meeting held at Dolmage's hotel, then known as the White Hart Inn, on the site of the present Grand Central, Mr. Amos Wright, M. P. P., occupied the chair, and Mr. Geo. A. Barnard, merchant, acted as secretary. The following gentlemen were appointed as a committee on the purchase of a suitable fire engine: Amos Wright, M. P. P., David Boyle, Esq., Messrs. Wm. Trench and A. McBeth. At a subsequent meeting the treasurer, Wm. Harrison, reported the receipts of subscription money to the amount of \$300. Mr. James Newton and Mr. Wm. Trench were instructed to purchase the engine, and Messrs. R. Hewison, A. Law, J. P., and W. Warren, J. P., were to superintend the putting down of the necessary tanks. As stated in THE LIBERAL previously, the first Engine Co. was organized in August, 1866. The engine, though second hand, cost considerably more than the amount subscribed. The debt upon it hindered the purchase of proper hose and other requirements, and engine and company were fast becoming dilapidated, when in 1873 we as a village set up municipal housekeeping for ourselves. We gathered in about \$3000, our share of the Clergy Reserve and the Municipal Loan Funds, and found ourselves in comfortable circumstances and able to provide the necessary furniture. The incumbrance was paid off and part of the amount invested in a new engine, and all the concomitants that go to make up an efficient and well equipped Fire Brigade, one of the most important essentials for the protection of every centre "where people most do congregate."

In "looking backward" I find that of all the parties concerned in the origin, but few are left. Messrs. Jas. Newton, John Coulter, David Boyle, Wm. Myers, of Barrie, and the writer. Of the ladies who took part in the first concert in aid of the fund, Miss C. Campbell, Miss I. Campbell, Miss E. Dickson, Mrs. Harrington, Miss C. Playter, Miss B. Barnard, Miss A. Williamson, all but two of whom have changed their names, are all still living.

WM. HARRISON.
Richmond Hill, Dec. 16, 1896.

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Hymeneal.

The Sun last week gave the following account of the marriage of two of Markham's esteemed citizens. The groom is the son of Mr. Wallace Michael, of this place.—

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Megill was the scene of a very pretty wedding on Wednesday, Dec. 2nd, when Miss Ollie, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Megill, was joined in the holy bonds of matrimony to Mr. Wm. Michael. Rev. Mr. Thymne officiated, the ceremony taking place at 5 o'clock in the afternoon before relatives and closest friends only. Miss Ella McPhaden, niece of the bride, made a beautiful bridesmaid, while the position of groomsmen was well filled by Master James Anthony. The happy couple are both popular, and on every hand is heard wishes for their future prosperity.

Those present were: Messrs. Robert and John Michael, and Misses Jennie and Emma Michael, of Richmond Hill; Mr. and Miss McPhaden, and Misses Emma and Ella McPhaden. Mr. A. Comisky, Miss E. A. Wood, of Toronto;

Mr. M. Chapman and Miss Lottie Jones, Goodwood; Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Wales, Miss Nettie Wales, Master Charles Weddle, Mr. and Mrs. James McGill, Mrs. M. Speight, Miss Nellie Speight, and Mr. and Mrs. R. Anthony.

The presents are exceedingly handsome and are as follows: Handsome Family Bible, Mr. and Mrs. Michael, sr.; pie tray, Miss J. Michael; pin cushion, Miss E. Michael; marble clock, Mr. R. Michael; berry dish, Mr. J. Michael; a dozen fruit knives, Mr. A. E. McGill; fruit dish, Mrs. M. Chapman; pudding dish, Miss Lottie Jones; lamp, Mr. and Mrs. A. Comisky; manicure box, Mr. and Mrs. W. McGill, Aurora; breakfast cruet, Mr. W. Ziller; pair lace curtains, Mr. and Miss McPhaden; set table mats, Mrs. and Miss N. Speight; set salt cups, Miss Jessie Hopkirk, Cobourg; sugar tongs, Mr. W. W. Walter, Leavenworth, Kas.; handsome rocker, Miss N. Wales and Mr. C. G. Pringle; oak rocker, Miss E. A. Wood; hanging lamp and carving set, Mr. H. J. Lord; watch box, Mr. C. Weddle; bread knife and pair of blankets, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Wales; silk handkerchief, Mrs. E. D. Milne; bouquet of chrysanthemums, Mr. Chas. Gregory.

The bride's brother, Mr. A. E. Megill, of Leavenworth, Kansas, presented the trousseau and wedding.

The happy couple spent the week with Toronto friends, and are now with Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Megill.

The Sun wishes them long happiness and prosperity.

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Carrville

We are glad to say the attendance at the church last Sabbath was very good, considering the state of the roads. The Rev. Mr. Bedford preached a sermon from James 1:27, which seemed to arouse the whole congregation for when the subscription list was passed for the Superannuation Fund the people responded with such a willing heart that the amount wanted was raised and more, which caused the minister and officials great joy. We trust the sermon will do much good.

Mrs. Wm. Hopkins and her eldest son, Maurice, from Pickering, have been visiting friends in this place for a few days.

We were glad to see Mr. Oscar Appleton at Sabbath school and church on Sunday. He arrived home from British Columbia last week; he intends going back in the spring. Oscar looks well.

Some of our sportsmen went to hunt a few days ago. We think there was not much game bagged for they keep very quiet about it.

Mr. A. Kaffer says there are many pigs dying with a sore throat around here. I suppose it is not necessary to send for a Government Inspector for the most of the swine breed die with that disorder.

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