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LOCAL HISTORY.

An interesting bit of local history
has recently come to light through a
conversation between the writer and
the narrator, Rev. Peter Cober at present
residing in New Gormley.

Sometime about the year 1780 a
young man named Holm left Copen-
hagen, Denmark, to seek his fortune,
sailing the high seas. In time we find
him on one of the sailing vessels of that
day, plying between Liverpool and
New York. The life of a sailor in those
days was a hard rough experience. In-
deed, coarse food, rough uncomfortable
quarters, constant exposure, and long
weary voyages made it anything but
"A Grand Sweet Song", our hero was
getting heartily sick of the whole busi-
ness, and resolved to make his escape
at the earliest opportunity. The laws
in those days in the case of deserting
sailors were cruelly severe and were
rigidly enforced. No pains were spared
to capture the fugitives, and if suc-
cessful, woe to the poor runaway, for
his masters "Tender Mercies" were
cruel. While waiting at the port of
New York before starting on the re-
turn voyage, young Holm saw what
he felt to be the chance of his life be-
fore him. It was the custom of the
sea captains at that time to anchor out
from the dock at night a number of
feet to prevent sailors from getting
ashore, and also to prevent people com-
ing on board. One night when it was
Holm's turn on the night watch he re-
solved to put into execution a precon-
ceived plan that was daring in the ex-
treme. Climbing to the top mast he
fastened a long rope reaching from
there to the upper deck, grasping it
firmly with both hands he swung him-
self like a pendulum back and forth
with ever increasing momentum to
and from the direction of the dock.
At last the supreme moment arrived,
and as the rope swung its extreme
length landward, he let go and fell in
an unconscious condition on shore.
How long he remained in that condi-
tion he never knew, but as soon as he
regained consciousness he struck for
liberty. Leaving the town behind he
got into the sparsely settled country,
where in the shelter of the forests he
spent his days, and travelled by night.
On what Holmes subsisted on these
marches to the interior of New York
state is not on record. Feeling more
safe now from his pursuers he applied
for shelter at farm houses and after
the manner of pioneer days, was hos-
pitably received. One evening a social
party gathered at the hotel where he
lodged to have a country dance. Un-
fortunately while they had a fiddle
there was no fiddler. In some way
they elicited the information from the
young Dane that he was a violinist,
but he utterly refused to play. Final-
ly a man in the crowd said, "If you
play for us to-night, I will give you
a deed for 200 acres of land in Upper
Canada", of course that decided it, and
the music was well supplied. After
the deed was transferred, Holm in
course of time resolved to tramp to
Canada and view his possessions. He
found it to be Lot 30, Con. 3., Mark-
ham, now owned by Mr. Wm. Geo.
Denne. It was covered with solid pine
and hardwood bush, and the sturdy
Dane set out to chop out a home for
himself. With determined vigor he
succeeded, and the log house which he
built was taken down about ten years
ago. The Holms moved many years
ago to the County of Waterloo, then a
new settlement, where many of the
third generation still reside. Rev. P.
Cober above noted was a grandson of
Mr. Holm on his mother's side. How
little the present generation realize as
they enjoy the fruits of those pioneer
labors, what strange bits of history are
connected with the homes in which
they dwell and the fertile fields that
were once unbroken forest.

F. ELLIOTT.

Maple.

The monthly meeting of the
Women's Institute was held on Wed-
nesday at the home of Mrs. Hiram
Keffer. The programme consisted of
a paper on "Home Discipline" by Mrs.
J. Manning and a reading by Mrs. R.
Thomas.

Mr. C. and Miss Oster of Toronto
visited over Sunday at the home of
Mr. H. Keffer.

Mr. Edwin Godden of Tapscot, Alta.
is visiting his sister Mrs. D. Brown.

A meeting was held last week to
consider the opening of a skating rink.
It is to be hoped that this amusement
will be provided for the young people
for the winter.

Mr. F. Frame of Toronto is spending
his holidays with friends in the village.

Willowdale.

A good programme will be given at
the Willowdale Methodist Church on
Monday, Dec. 23, the occasion being
the annual Christmas entertainment.
There will be dialogues, choruses, and
a sacred Cantata. On Sunday, 22nd
inst, the pastor, Rev. E. Baker, will
give an address to the S. S. at 11 a.m.
Everybody welcome.

**RE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND
DISPLAYS.**

The following letter has been received
by the Chief of the Fire Department:
Dear Sir,—Following our usual cus-
tom at this season of the year I beg to
call your attention to the dangers to
life and property from Christmas deco-
rations, displays, etc., which are fre-
quently made at this time of the year.
The use of Christmas greens, harvest
specimens and other inflammable ma-
terials such as draperies, scenery, cot-
ton to represent snow, and the like,
(especially in connection with electric
and other lighting systems) is decided-
ly an increase of hazard, it being im-
possible to make displays of that nature
perfectly safe.

The Statutory Conditions of your In-
surance Policy read in part as follows:—
"Any change material to the risk,
but within the control or knowl-
edge of the assured, shall avoid the
policy, as to the part affected there-
by, unless the change is promptly
notified in writing to the Com-
pany or its local agent."

In addition to the danger to prop-
erty from the displays referred to, the
danger to life in crowded stores or
places of meeting, by reason of a panic
occasioned by fire, even though it be
small and easily controlled, is so great
that the Underwriters, who have made
a study of such hazards, would fail in
their duty should they not give this
warning.

By order,

JOHN A. ROBERTSON,
Secretary.

A FLAT DENIAL

Last week's Aurora Banner contain-
ed the following:—

A certain party who is very energetic
in behalf of the liquor interests in
town has circulated the report that
the ministers of Thornhill are opposed
to Local Option. The following speaks
for itself:

Thornhill, Dec. 3, 1912.

We the ministers of Thornhill and
vicinity hereby certify that we are
unanimously in favor of Local Option
and do hereby emphatically deny any
reports to the contrary.

J. H. OAKE,
Methodist Minister
E. C. CURRIE
Presbyterian Minister
S. A. LAWRENCE
Church of England Minister

Concord

On Saturday morning of last week,
Jesse, dearly-beloved and second son
of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bowes of this
place, passed away in his twenty-first
year. Last April he was taken ill and
in spite of everything that loving
friends could do, he gradually failed,
but it was not anticipated that he
would be taken away so soon. He
was of a gentle and loving disposition,
and was beloved by all who knew him.
With his school mates at Richmond
Hill, where he attended High School
for a number of years, he was a gen-
eral favorite, and his early death is
deeply regretted. The funeral on
Monday was attended by a large num-
ber of people, and there were many
beautiful floral tributes. Everyone
feels the deepest sympathy for the
sorrowing parents and the three
brothers, in their sad bereavement
and loneliness. Jesse is gone but he
still lives in the hearts of those who
knew and loved him.

DEATHS

BOWES—At the residence of his father,
Concord, on December 7, 1912,
Jesse B. Bowes, in his 21st year.
Interment in Thornhill Cemetery,
Monday, 9th inst.

DICKSON—At the residence of her
grandson, Alexander D. Bruce,
Carrick Mills, Markham, on Monday
the 9th of December, Elizabeth, re-
lict of the late John Dickson of
Markham, in her 97th year.
Funeral on Wednesday at 2 p.m., to
Melville Church Cemetery.

A SPLENDID ADDRESS.

The illustrated talk given in the
Methodist Church Monday evening by
Rev. Wesley Dean was one of the best
heard here in a long time. That Mr.
Dean and his associates in the Fred
Victor Mission are accomplishing
much in their endeavors to build up
and perpetuate true manhood and
womanhood no person can doubt after
listening to the address. His caution
to mothers in advising and warning
their daughters against dangers should
not go unheeded, and he expressed his
opinion that in many places mothers
of children might often better employ
their time in caring for the needy
than by spending their afternoons at
bridge parties and pink teas. At the
close the pastor, Rev. Dr. Smith,
thanked Mr. Dean on behalf of the
League, for his helpful address.

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**White Pine and Tar
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for that cough.

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for biliousness, headache,
torpid Liver.

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the best.

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