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No 5



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## The Great Fire At Richmond Hill

Watchman, what of the night?  
Calm and clear—and all's well!

So. The night was calm and clear—  
not a doubt of it.

A brilliant moon threw her silvery  
beams around with a lavish hand,  
gilding everything she touched with a  
dazzling sheen.

The stars were blinking out their  
dot and dash alphabet too rapid for  
me to read, or else they were sending  
their message in code, for I failed to  
grasp it.

Suddenly on the still air rang out a  
metallic clang. Yes: it was the fire  
bell. Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang,  
the sound vibrations echoing and re-  
echoing down the silent and deserted  
streets awakened the sleepers. Those  
who failed to be aroused by the strident  
note of the fire bell have yet to be  
heard from. Yes—the warning was  
efficient. The message that a fire had  
started within the village was faith-  
fully delivered to all and sundry by the  
clanging note of the bell.

Those members of the fire brigade  
who lived near to where the bell hung  
were the first to put in an appearance.  
Some were already dressed, others  
were buttoning up their attire as they  
arrived.

One and all asked the burning  
question "Where's the fire. In the  
glasshouse the bellman answered, so  
while some rushed to the engine house,  
others hastened to the glass house.

Now be it understood that the house  
referred to is not a house of glass,  
but a combined house and store  
occupied by Glass the butcher.

Those that went to the house found  
Glass in anything but a crystal con-  
dition. He was full to the brim with  
excitement, he was violently effervescent.

Just then the engine, dragged by a  
score of lusty fellows, came to a stop  
in front of the house, and while some  
got the hose, others busied themselves  
around the engine.

The chief walked into the store  
asking "Where's the fire?" In the  
refrigerator, someone said.

After the chief had recovered from  
effects of this astounding statement,  
he walked over to the refrigerator and  
opened the door and a strange  
sight he saw. There were pigs  
trotters rushing around in all  
directions seeking means of escape.

On the opening of the door, they  
rushed out to the sidewalk where  
they fell exhausted, turning their toes  
skywards.

It is supposed by the more intel-  
ligent members of the fire brigade  
that the trotters were in convention.  
If this was so, it was impossible to  
recognize the leaders, they all looked  
alike, and all were in a state of  
somnolence, so no knowledge could be  
gathered as to why the convention  
was held. There were rumours, as  
there always are, that it had to do  
with a proposition for the intro-  
duction of a more humane method of  
removing toe nails. May be so.

But its getting chilly—lets get  
back to the fire.

After the exodus of the trotters,  
things began to straighten out a bit.  
Some of the firemen were busy  
fixing the hose and getting it in the  
direction of the store. Others were  
attending to the intake pipe, which,  
after the strainer was fixed, was  
lowered into a hole in the ground  
close to the station.

Everything was now ready to cope  
with the fire, and it was near time,  
if anything at all was to be done.

Hearts hanging on the wall were  
palpitating with the heat.

Sausages in the window were  
having a warm time of it. It appears  
that they had attempted to escape,  
as they had evidently wriggled quite a  
distance, but not being skansorial,  
they failed.

There was a block in their scheme  
to scale the counter.

As one of the sausages remarked—  
we are getting a grilling. It will  
be a change to go west in this  
manner another said, we've been  
hung and then frozen alternately  
since I can remember.

Ah: shut up, said a stolid bologna.  
"What's eating you?" There's  
nothing in you of any account.

Well, said one of the sausages, if  
there's nothing in us of any account,  
there's the same in you, only more so.

A piece of pressed beef which stood  
near by cried segragate me quickly for  
I feel I want to diffuse.

Quit your beefing said the head of  
an old Ewe, you are not mutton Jeff,  
so don't be funny. Grin and bear it.

Something the colour of chocolate,  
reposing on a dish in the corner  
was heard to say "I never thought I  
should kick off like this." I always  
had an idea though that I should not  
be a lung liver.

Its a pity there are no lights other-  
wise I might be able to see things a  
bit clearer.

But its getting cold, lets get back  
to the fire.

By this time the firemen had got  
everything ready, and the stentorian  
voice of the chief was heard saying  
"Let her go boys" and with a vim

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after all expenses were paid he still  
owed the Commission firm who sold  
her \$140. A lumber traveller was  
discussing that with us a few days  
ago and he told us of a British Col-  
umbia Lumber Co. that shipped a  
dealer in Ontario a car of lumber after  
the dealer had paid the freight the  
shipper still owed him \$14.65. Lots  
and lots and lots of lumber is being  
sold to day for less money than its  
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and dash worthy of such a cause, the  
lusty fellows made the handle bars of  
the engine ascend and descend in  
rapid succession, but nothing  
happened.

On investigating the chief discovered  
that the intake pipe was not function-  
ing, and asked for volunteers to go  
down the well and locate the trouble,  
but no one stepped out. They one and  
all declared that their boots weren't  
watertight. Someone suggested get-  
ting a Wellman who lived in the  
village, as he was present and heard  
the suggestion he stepped forth and  
said he was willing to go down and see  
what the trouble was, so shaking  
hands with a few who stood near, he  
pulled up his socks to keep the water  
from getting up the leg of his pants,  
and went towards the well. Some-  
one asked him if he had made his  
will. He said he had, and he'd left it  
all to himself as he felt he needed it  
most. He then descended into the  
well, and soon he called out to  
them that all was right.

(Continued next week.)

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