

NOTES AND COMMENTS

To a certain extent all the 5,000 argonauts who have flocked to Alaska this season belong to the tenderfoot family. A rush to the Arctic regions is a new thing with the Anglo-Saxon race. The Norsemen traveled south for their promised land, and the setting of the current in the opposite direction can not be gauged in the light of history. Herefore the tenderfoot has tackled many difficulties, but never found them piled as high or as forbidding as in a journey to the Klondike. Yet the tenderfoot, with his heavy burden of supplies plods on over glaciers and narrow mountain paths, wading through rapid torrents, clambering around bowlders, toiling through swampy ground, shooting rapids not too dangerous, and making a packhorse of himself around water too rough for a raft with any cargo. If he is exhausted or sick the only remedy at hand is the rest cure and the friendly interest of his fellow-adventurers. He has cut loose from comfort and safety, but all he asks is a chance to struggle, on. About the worst punishment for the burdened procession of pilgrims would be to compel them to turn back.

The Alaska tenderfoot, in spite of his disposition to be too venturesome, deserves the sympathetic attention of his countrymen. He is the first to open up a great territory in the far North, and he represents civilization in his march. He is necessarily a builder of roads and towns, and every squad of men who reach the diggings make the conditions better for those who follow. A year from now the routes to the Upper Yukon will be comparatively easy. The thousands who have gone there will use all possible energy to open lines of travel. They want regular mail service and personal access to the outside world. Already the large number of miners who are assembled near Chilkoot but will not be able to cross this fall, have founded a town, and their first business will be road and trail improvement. The long polar night will not repress their energy.

Britain rejoices in prosperity, but not in peace. At the present moment the British are concerned in a multitude of more or less extensive military operations, including three separate campaigns in India, besides the campaign in the Soudan, the occupation of the Island of Crete, and the suppression of the revolts in Matabeleland, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, and in the Niger district. Probably the majority of her people at home do not trouble themselves much about these wars, as they are so far away from the sea-girt little island which forms the heart of the empire. Possibly, too, Sir Lepel Griffin is not alone in his opinion as to the necessity of occasional wars. Speaking of India, he said not long ago: "The local irritation owing to the distasteful but imperative sanitary measures against the plague, will soon be allayed, and frontier troubles will be adjusted in the usual manner by the arbitration of the sword. It must be remembered that frontier wars and expeditions are a wholesome and necessary exercise for our Indian army, and if they did not arise naturally we should have to create them in order to maintain our troops in full efficiency." It looks as though the exercise, necessary or otherwise, would be forthcoming without goading any foes into active opposition. But what an awful doctrine is this that we must keep up an army in order to insure peace, and yet must have war in order to maintain that army's efficiency.

THE RETIRED BURGLAR.

A Lively Experience That Was All Over in About a Minute. "I never actually slid down a toboggan slide," said the retired burglar. "But I think I can form a pretty fair idea of what it's like from an experience that I had once. I was poking around in a house that I was in and I had just come out of a room on the second floor where there was a man asleep that struck me somehow, as being pretty restless, and I hadn't more'n got through the door into the hall when I heard this man holler: "'Here he is Jim!' and saw him jump out of bed and come b'lin' after me, and at the same minute I saw a man come rippin' and ramm'p' out of a door down by the other end of the hall."

SOME ROYAL TITLES.

The Kings and Queens of England were not always styled "His" or "Her Majesty," or after the pattern of that bestowed upon Victoria—"Her Most Gracious Majesty." Henry IV. was styled "His Grace;" Henry VI., "His Most Excellent Grace;" Edward IV., "High and Mighty Prince;" Henry VII., "His Grace and His Majesty;" Henry VIII., "His Highness," and afterward "His Majesty." Subsequently, the English Kings were styled "His Sacred Majesty." While on the subject, it may not be uninteresting to thus:—King means father; Kaiser and Czar, Caesar, or autocrat; a contraction of Samoderobata. Duke means leader; Emperor, commander; Monarch, master of the house; Khan, provincial chief; Landgrave, land reeve; Margrave, border reeve; Nizam, ruler;

THE CONTRIBUTION BOX. HOUSEHOLD.

THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN COUNTERFEIT COIN PUT IN.

Or Else the Churches Get More Than Their Fair Share - A Comical Collection Joke.

We were all sitting on the steps the other evening after church and talking over those varied subjects that come customarily into the conversation of a group of persons thus gathered together, writes a correspondent. A neighbor's wife came over and sat down to enjoy the gossip and Jim asked her why she didn't bring her husband with her. "Oh, he's not yet home from church," was the reply. "You know (which we didn't), he's been elevated to the dignity of passing the plate for the nickels and counting up the results after every church service now, and I don't wait for him. He'll come over when he gets home."

And sure enough he did. His advent was the signal for a little chaff from the group upon his newly acquired dignities in connection with the church, coupled with remarks about its being an endorsement of the congregation's faith in his staunch adherence to the tenets of Presbyterianism.

Thus the talk turned upon the collection and eventually upon church collections in general. The newly appointed guardian of the church funds volunteered some information based on his experiences and the company found it not uninteresting.

"I was amazed," said he, "to note the base duplicity that exists among those who contribute to the church's funds. Our collection every Sunday amounts to at least one hundred dollars, and sometimes it even goes as high as twenty-five dollars higher than the hundred mark. Every Sunday there is from a dollar to two or three dollars of counterfeit coin on the plate. I have seen a prominent member of the church, who is one of the leaders in Sunday school and class work, put a counterfeit quarter on the plate and smile a placid and self-satisfied smile as he observed his neighbor contribute a genuine ten-cent piece."

"What do you do with all this 'queer' coin?" I asked. "Oh, I have enough of it stored up at home to warrant my arrest upon a charge of dealing in it," responded the church official.

"Of course it is all destroyed?" ventured another of the group. But to this no answer was forthcoming from the canny Scot. "How does this coin all get into circulation?" was the next question. "It is floated mostly by itinerant peddlers. They hand over change and are gone in a moment. It is not like buying in a store, where coins are usually tossed on the counter and counterfeiters would not dare to do so. I don't suppose the Presbyterian church gets any more of it than any other church, and I don't suppose that the particular congregation to which I belong handles any more of it than any other. Just make a little calculation. There are 188 churches in Toronto. Some are bigger and some are smaller than the one I attend, which is just about an average size. That would mean an average total of probably \$225 every Sunday in counterfeit coin. In one year this sum would amount to \$11,700. If we estimate that even so large a proportion as one-tenth of the whole amount in circulation falls into the way of the churches, we have the remarkable proportion that each Sunday there is floating about the city no less than \$117,000 or a trifle over half a dollar for each of our citizens."

And the church treasurer stopped short and wiped his brow as church humble servant re-lit his pipe which he had allowed to go out, so absorbed the man of figures.

A CURIOUS COLLECTION.

The silence was broken by the theological student who leaned back into the shadow and crossed his legs before he began: "Some six or eight years ago I was in attendance at Victoria College, at that time in Cobourg, and the stronghold of Methodist education in this province. There were about 150 boys in attendance and the jokes they used to play were many and various. Even the young ministers were not beyond playing a joke, and, in fact, some of the very spiciest of the jokes were said to have originated among the young gentlemen of the cloth. Talking about collections put me in mind of a joke that was conceived and carried out by the ringleaders among the clerical clique.

"The north gallery of the big Methodist church at the corner of Chapel and Division streets was given over to the students, and the duty of passing the collection plate amongst them was delegated to a funny little old Englishman, whose native land was the Island of Jersey. The boys noticed that it took him rather longer to pass the plate than it took the sidesman in the opposite gallery, and finally concocted a scheme for the old gentleman's discomfiture. Nearly every man in the college took a hand in and provided himself with as many copper one cent pieces as he could conveniently get.

"On the next Sunday night the old gentleman toddled down the aisle and began. The first student shelled out a dozen of the brown coppers, and when the crowd followed suit the old gentleman opened his eyes. To make a long story short, the load of coppers was so great that it required three trips with the plate, and the ire of the sidesman caused a great amount of fun for the boys and their friends in the congregation.

SELFISH.

Why do prosperous men always say that the ladder of success is made up of broken rounds? Well—they do it so that other fellows won't try to crawl up after them.

SOME HOUSEHOLD HELPS.

There are any number of dish washers advertised, every one of which is pronounced the very best, but there is still another of which but little has been said, and that is a whisk broom. A certain housekeeper keeps two hanging over her sink, one for plates and pottery and the other for metal dishes. They are easily kept clean by merely dipping in water and an occasional dipping in hot water to which a little washing soda has been added keeps them sweet.

The woman who has a winter window garden is often puzzled to know what causes her plants to droop, when she gives them all the care possible. Frequently it is due to the little white worms that infest the earth about the plant. Take a little powdered santaloin, about a quarter of a teaspoonful. Dissolve in hot water and when cold pour over the earth in the pots. This will kill the worms.

An infallible destroyer of all vermin is alum. It will destroy red and black ants, cockroaches, spiders and all crawling pests which infest our houses.

Two pounds of alum dissolved in four quarts of boiling water, and placed on the stove until the alum seems to be dissolved is the recipe. While hot apply with a large brush to every joint and crevice infested, be it bedroom, pantry or closet. Add plenty of alum to the lime when making whitewash and it will keep vermin at a distance; also wash the paint with alum water and you will have no further trouble.

Kerosene is death to mosquitoes. It is well known that the pests breed in stagnant water, rain water barrels and any receptacle that has water left in it undisturbed for a week or two. Pour kerosene in the water, wherever it may be found, and let it form a thin film over the surface. Eggs, larvae, pupae and full grown mosquitoes will all be killed.

Some housekeepers always make their baking powder at home and find it cheaper and much more satisfactory than that put up in cans for sale. To make it procure six ounces of cream of tartar, bicarbonate soda two and three-quarter ounces; flour four and one-half ounces. Mix this thoroughly by sifting over and over again. This is an excellent baking powder.

A bottle of good glue should be found in every house, for the thousand and one things for which it is necessary. And when it is needed it is generally dissolved in water. To make an excellent glue dissolve eight ounces of the best glue in half a pint of water by putting these ingredients together in a wide-mouthed bottle. Then set the bottle in a vessel of hot water on the stove until the glue is dissolved. Then stir in slowly one ounce nitric acid. Keep this well worked and will always be ready for use. Speaking of glue, it may be of value to someone to learn of a good cement which is easily made. Take two parts by weight of common pitch and one of gutta percha, melted together in an iron vessel. This makes a cement that holds together with wonderful tenacity, wood, stone, ivory, leather, porcelain, silk, woolen or cotton. Another way of making cement is as follows: Take four parts of pitch, four parts of powdered brick dust or chalk, and one part of beeswax. Melt and mix together. This will harden so it is necessary to melt it before using.

To keep leather soft and pliable it needs an occasional oiling. Castor oil has been recommended as excellent for that purpose, whether it is for shoes or harness. Leather which becomes wet often is apt to crack, and this is especially true of shoes which must be worn out in all kinds of weather. To make a pair of shoes durable apply to the soles four or five successive coats of good varnish, allowing each application to dry before putting on another. Make a mixture of four parts of lard to one of varnish and apply to the uppers, allowing the leather to absorb as much as it will. Hang the shoes in a warm place while this is drying as it may take several days before they are ready for use. To keep the shoes water proof and make them last a long time beeswax and sweet oil has been recommended. Dissolve the beeswax and add a little sweet oil to thin it. Before the shoes are worn warm them over the fire and pour on the mixture, adding more as the leather absorbs it. The soles will take in a quantity of it.

SOME GOOD CAKES.

Angel Cake.—The whites of nine large or ten small fresh eggs, one and one-fourth cups of granulated sugar, measured after sifting, one cup of flour, measured after sifting four or five times, one-half teaspoonful of cream tartar, a pinch of salt added to the eggs before beating. Beat the whites of the eggs about half enough, then add the cream tartar and beat until very lightly and flavor to taste. Put the cake in an angel cake pan and set in a moderate oven at once; bake 35 minutes.

Chocolate Cake.—One half cup of butter creamed with one cup of sugar, two cups of flour, and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Grate one-fourth cake of chocolate, add one-half cup of milk, the yolk of one egg, one cup of sugar and one teaspoonful of vanilla; boil and add to the first mixture. After the cake is baked cover with a boiled icing.

Cocoanut Cake.—One cup of sugar, scant half cup of butter, creamed together. Mix the yolks of three eggs with sugar and butter, putting a little in at a time. Beat the whites of two eggs, add one cup of cocoanut soaked in milk and put into this a large quar-

ter teaspoonful of soda. Add last one cup of flour in which is stirred one-half teaspoonful of cream tartar, and sift three times. Mix all together. Chocolate Cake.—One cup of sugar, one-half cup of butter, one-half cup of milk, one square of chocolate, one and one-half cup of flour, one teaspoonful of cream tartar, one-half teaspoonful of soda and two eggs. Cream the butter and add the sugar gradually, melt the chocolate and add it to the sugar and butter. Add the milk and mix the baking powder with the flour and add a little at a time. When thoroughly beaten add the eggs and place in the oven as soon as possible. Bake 30 minutes.

Fruit Cake.—One-half pound each of butter, brown sugar and flour, three eggs, one-half pound of citron, one pound of currants, raisins, one teaspoonful of cinnamon, one-half teaspoonful each of mace and cloves one-half a nutmeg, one-fourth cup of molasses, one teaspoonful of soda, one-fourth cup of milk, one-fourth wine glass of wine.

Cocoanut Snow Cake.—Three-fourths cup of butter, two cups of sugar, one-half cup of milk, two and a half cups of flour, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one and one-half teaspoonfuls of cream tartar, whites of eight eggs, one teaspoonful of almond extract. Frost with the white of one egg beaten to a stiff froth and add ten tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar and at the last one-half teaspoonful of lemon extract. Put it on the hot cake and set in the oven to dry.

POLISH AND STAINS.

A simple laundry polish for shirt bosoms, collars and cuffs, consists of one ounce of white wax and two ounces of spermaceti, melted and mixed together. Use a lump of the mixture of the size of a hazelnut in the boiled starch used for a dozen shirts. Polish the linen with a polishing-iron, to bring out the gloss of the starch.

A simple, excellent polish for furniture consists of a pint of the best linseed oil, raw, a pint of alcohol and half a pint of turpentine. Mix well, and add an ounce and a quarter of spirits of ether. Use a small quantity of the polish at a time, and apply it with a cotton cloth. Polish the wood thoroughly afterward.

Mildew is one of the most indelible of stains, but we believe the following preparation will finally remove it, if patience is exercised: Dissolve thoroughly a tablespoonful of oxalic acid in one pint of rain water and add a tablespoonful of lemon juice. Moisten the stains in the solution and rub them vigorously and then rinse them thoroughly in clear water.

COULDN'T PLACE HIM.

Judge—You are charged with drunkenness—your face seems familiar to me. Prisoner, with dignity—Quite likely, Yer Honor; but I don't remember you—I can't keep track up 'alike fellers I git drunk wit'.

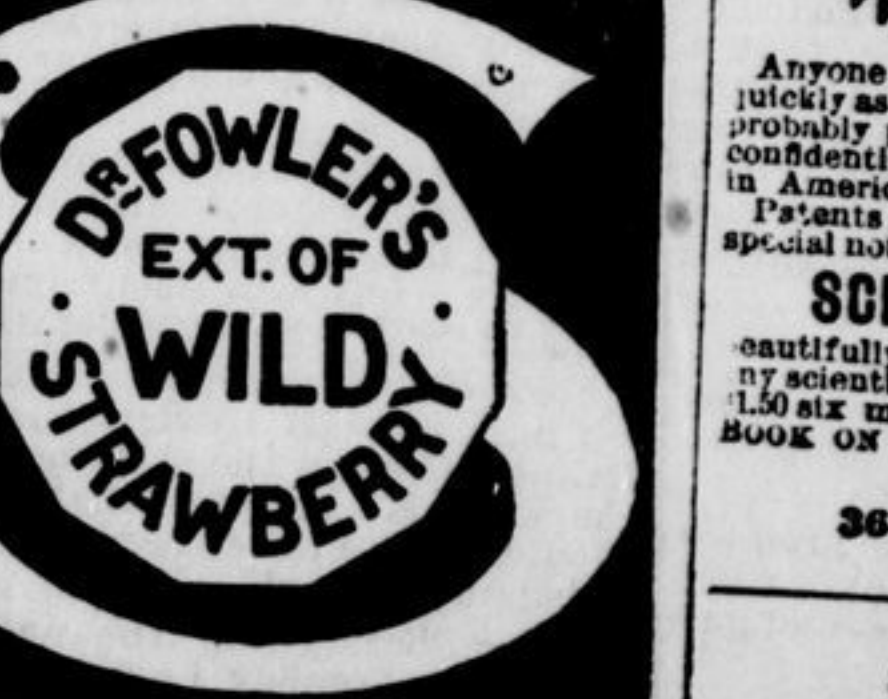
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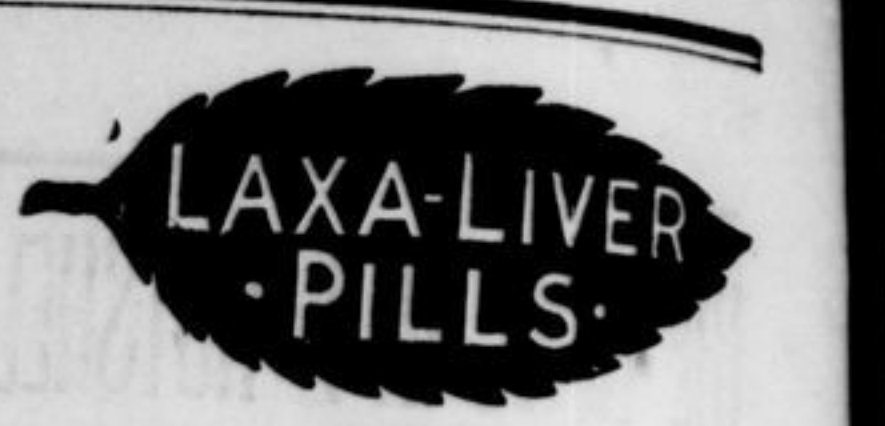
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THE HEAD MASTER GENTLEMEN,—I have found great satisfaction in the use of Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry, and consider it invaluable in all cases of diarrhoea and summer complaint. It is a pleasure to me to recommend it to the public. R. B. MASTERTON, Principal, High School, River Chario, N.B.

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