THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

EVERY THURSDAY MORNING AT THE CHRONICLE PRINTING HOUSE, SARAFRAXA STA DURHAM, ONT.

SUBSCRIPTION THE CHRONICLE will be sent to: RATES year, payable in advance—\$1.50 be charged if not so paid. The date to which subscription is paid is denoted by the number of address label. No paper discontinued untit all and are paid, except at the option of the proprietor.

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Feb y. 5-3m.

MISS MARGARET GUN, Teacher M. M. M.

cious governor here and have him die on your hands?"

"No. Let us see what the governor has to say." It was a solemn crowd that marched in two columns, with Denton between,

Neslerov lay. "Why do you bring him here?" asked the priest. "Heard you not what his

excellency said?" "Hold your peace. Wait till you hear them speak together," was the reply.

Neslerov looked up at his conqueror, and an expression of hatred came into his eyes. Denton made no show of sentiment or compassion.

"I understand you commanded these villagers to kill me," he said, standing at the side of the bed and looking coldly and sternly at his victim. "I just wanted to say before they kill mewhich they certainly will do if you insist-that in that case you would probably die here for lack of proper care."

"You cannot help me - you would not," answered Neslerov.

"That is for you to say. I am not a murderer. I had no desire to kill you. You attacked me, and I defended myself. I am going back to Tomsk, provided your savage villagers don't kill me, and I merely came to ask if you would be pleased to go."

"How?" he asked. "In the same car you came thus far

"But how? There is no train due for days." "I will take you to Tomsk if you

promise never again to molest Mr. Gordon or his daughter." "I promise," said Neslerov. "I will

AFFICE AND RESIDENCE A order the villagers to permit you to

Denton then wentsto the car and examined it. He discovered where a flaw in the iron had weakened the couplings.

He was followed at a short distance by several young men, among whom was the boy who had run to tell him that a woman was being roughly handled by Neslerov, and who had taken his horse to shelter. He ordered the boy to bring the horse. Mounting, he was soon out of sight. He did not go far, however. He rode along the track until he reached a siding a short distance from the bridge, where there was an old construction engine.

Denton examined the old hulk. It was fit only for drawing one or two cars. Denton carried water from the river and filled the boiler and built a fire of wood. Soon after the villagers were sur-

prised to see a wheezy, rickety old engine oming slowly, with a prodigious noise, into view. Denton's horse had no difficulty in keeping up with it.

The old engine was coupled to the car, and then Denton went for Frances.

"The train is ready," he said.

"The train! What train?" "The train that is to carry you to the Obi, where you will join your father." "But there is no train!"

"There is a train, and as the steam is up and the track clear I suggest haste. Your father is probably anx-

She went with him. At the sight of one too!" they said. the engine she understood.

"You are a wonderful-you are doing | said Neslerov weakly. this for me!" she said.

"Yes, but Neslerov will be a passen-

"And you?"

"Engineer, conductor, guard-all." comfortable.

the villagers. The backs of two seats Denton. "You first said tell the truth, Kepler, Copernicus and others in their were turned down, a bed was made for | then you yourself told the first deliberhim, and he lay there quiet and seemingly content.

"Of course, I know that you are seriously wounded," said Denton to him, "and the possibility of your doing any mischief is small, but I want to tell you before we start that if I catch you a dog."

Neslerov nodded, and Denton went it pass." on the engine.

It was an exciting start, though the audience was small. The villagers stared, then laughed as the little old engine puffed and screeched and scraped as it got under way.

But it had a man in charge of it who home." was accustomed to overcoming difficulties. And the way he made it groan and work would have made glad the heart of the man who had abandoned it on the siding six months before.

In the car was silence. Neslerov was too weak to talk; Frances would not talk to him if he wished. She remained at her end of the car, save to go in mercy to him and offer him water at intervals. At such times he would look up at her with an earnest, inscrutable expression on his face. She

would not speak, nor he. Suddenly at a siding toward which he had been aiming Denton turned the engine to the right and brought the little train to a standstill. They had been on the road sixteen hours and had traveled 210 miles.

Frances and Neslerov both looked up as the train stopped and saw the grimy engineer enter the car.

"There is a village near here," he said, "and just beyond this siding there is a small signal box. I have just visited it, and there is a train coming this way from Tomsk. Undoubtedly, as there is no regular train due, this is a searching party out after Frances Gordon. Now, I have no wish to start an international controversy. What story shall we tell?"

"Tell the truth," said Frances. "It does not, as a rule, harm any person who is innocent."

"No," said Neslerov; "not as a rule. But we are in a part of the world where customs are different from yours. If you tell the truth, you will never make the world believe you. But you will not understand; I cannot tell you."

"I know what you mean," said Frances scornfully. "You mean that your

reputation 's so bad that if it were known that you had that car left behind to compel me to marry you everybody will be sure I am your wife. Is that it?"

"Yes: something like that." "But, then, there is my word," said to the hut of the village priest, where

> Denton. "Your story will be believed by your people, my story by mine, said Neslerov. "Let us each tell what we please. I do not care

Denton to the great want back to his engine that he dad not start. The

whistle of a speeding locomotive was borne to him by the breeze. It cameone engine and a car, the same as that he was on, but a modern locomotive of American make. Gordon was in the car with some officials from Tomsk. "Hey! That you, Denton?" he gasp-

ed as the grimy bridgebuilder stepped into the car, which was stopped at the side of the construction engine. "My girl and the governor of Tomsk got left behind in a car. Seen"-

"I'm all right," said Frances as she emerged from her car and flew to her father's arms.

"Did Denton save you? What was it? Where is Neslerov?" asked Gordon. "Oh, he is in there," said Frances coolly. "We've had a lively experience. I thought at one time we'd be killed by some savages. But Mr. Denton and the prince-oh, let's get on; I'm tired out and hungry."

Denton heard and wondered. In every new experience he had had with Frances Gordon he had been made more and more astonished by the uncertain mods, the whims, the strange turns her caprice would take. "Hitch on to this train and haul her

back to the Obi," said Denton. "If the road doesn't want this engine, I can use it at the Obi bridge."

This attachment was soon made, and Mr. Gordon, after visiting the prince and congratulating him upon his escape from the savages, assisted in



At the sight of the engine she understood. transferring to him some of the comforts to be found in the other car. The Russian officials swarmed around him and praised his courage.

"And that American! He is a brave

"Yes; he is brave-braver than I,"

The train started back toward Tomsk. It had about ninety miles to go to reach the Obi. During the journey Denton and Frances found themselves side by side in the rear car, He took her to the car and made her | with no one near enough to hear their low spoken tones.

Neslerov was carried to the car by "I cannot understand you," said

ate lie. Why?" Frances looked at him coolly.

"Because I thought it over. There was a good deal in what Neslerov said. Then, again, you and my father have work to do, a career to make, money to earn, and with the enmity of Neat any tricks I will kill you as I would slerov you would be ruined. I studied it well. It is better as I said it. Let

"Here we are at Vashlov," he said. "For the time being you are home

"Yes," she replied, with the slightest tremor in her voice. "Thanks to you, I am home again-in my temporary

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

CHINESE FESTIVALS.

Six Curious Feast Days That Usher

In the New Year.

The first day of the Chinese New Year's feasts is called Bird's day (Kay-Yat) and is supposed to bring to mind the utility of the feathered tribes as food. On this day all orthodox Chinese abstain from eating flesh, and they sometimes observe it as a day of fasting. The second day is Dog's day (Ku-Yat). This day is especially held sacred to the canine hosts of the Flowery Kingdom. The Chinese, notwithstanding the fact that they eat the fiesh of the dog and esteem it a great delicacy. honor their dogs more highly and take better care of them than any other race of people. In every large Chinese city there is a workman whose sole trade is that of making coffins for departed

The third day, Hog's day (Chen-Yat), is celebrated in honor of a hog that once drew a valuable manuscript out of a bonfire of trash. The fourth feast, Sheep's day (Yaong-Yat), is honored in memory of Pun Koon Venga, a shepherd who clothed himself in leaves, FREE TRIAL TREATMENT grass and bark of trees, refusing to make use of any part of the sheep, either for food or clothing. The fifth day is Cow's day (New-Yat). This day is consecrated to the cow that suckled the

WEEDS

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Strengthen the lungs as you would weak land and the weeds will disappear.

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No Time to Read. "Pause, O youth or maiden," wrote Andrew Lang in the Windsor Magazine, "before you accustom your lips to this fatal formula, 'I have no time to read!' You have all the time which for you exists, and it is abundant. What are you doing with it-with your leisure? Mainly, gossiping. Our modern malady is gregariousness. We

must be in company chattering. "To be always with others, always gregarious, always chattering, like monkeys in treetops, is our ruling vice, and this is the reason why we have no time to read and why you see so many people pass their leisure when alone in whistling or whittling. They have time to whittle."

Leonardo da Vinci.

Leonardo da Vinci, the celebrated Italian painter, sculptor and architect, died in 1519. He was born in 1452 and became well versed in all the sciences and arts of his time. His most famous picture is "The Last Supper," painted on the wall of a convent at Milan. He is said to have anticipated Galilei, astronomical theories and also some of the discoveries of recent geologists, though his views are expressed in somewhat vague language.

A Successful Test. At a small town in Kent a gentleman employed a carpenter to put up a partition and had it filled with sawdust to deaden the sound. When it was completed, the gentleman called from one side to the carpenter on the other:

"Smith, can you hear me?" Smith immediately answered, "No,

Happy.

Mrs. Nextdoor-I suppose your daugh-

ter is happily married. Mrs. Naggsby-Indeed she To Why, her husband is actually afraid to open his mouth in her presence.

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orphan who afterward became rich and built the celebrated Temple of Cows.

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