

STARVING AND PENNILESS.

He Died and His Attempt at a Hand-spring Proved It.

Six or seven actors were sitting in a London bar, when a wan, haggard individual, with a ragged coat, shuffled up to the table.

"Pardon my appearance," said the man with the ragged coat. "I was not aware what I am; but to make it short I am in straitened circumstances just now. I am not a beggar, gentlemen, but—(his voice faltered, and he turned aside to wipe away a tear)—but I am starving. I have not eaten anything for three days, and I am on the brink of the suicide's grave. I hesitated while crossing Waterloo bridge just now, thinking whether I would throw myself over and convert misery into eternity, or whether I would make one effort to get a few pence for a meal that would save my poor soul." (Here the man broke down and wept.)

"A good actor," remarked the barmaid.

"We're all actors in this world," sighed one of the opulent thespians, as he thrust his hand into his pocket in search of loose change.

"I know you are all actors," continued the man with the ragged coat. "I was an actor, but that which is sold across the bar there brought me to what I am. (Turns aside and weeps.) Excuse me, gentlemen, but drink did I. I am hungry now, with not a penny or a friend in the world. Yes, I was drunk when I climbed the trapeze amid the roars of applause and the hand-clapping of a mighty audience. I was ready for my flying leap. The applause died away, and the audience waited breathlessly for my next move. I jumped, and being drunk, tumbled on the stage, a distance of sixty-five feet, a wrecked mass of broken bones. The next chapter in my story the hospital—and the last chapter, the street. I'm here, gentlemen, injured so that I cannot work, and am starving."

"Are you still able to do a hand-spring?" one asked.

"I am," replied the man with the ragged coat, "and to convince you that I am truthful, I'll do a hand-spring here in the bar."

The actors cleared a space and the man in the ragged coat drew himself to his full height with his hands a'ole his head.

"I would not do this hand-spring now," he said, "only I am starving and penniless."

He did the hand-spring. And as he reached the inverted position a half-crown, two shillings and a handful of coppers dropped from his pocket jingling on the mosaic floor.

SMUGGLERS' CAVES.

They May Still Be Seen Along the English Coast.

A very curious feature of the coasts of England, where rocky or wild, is the trench and banked-up paths from the caves along the coast. These are noticeable in Devon and Cornwall and along the Bristol Channel. That terrible sea-front consists of precipitous walls of rock, with only here and there a dip, where a brawling stream has seen its course down to the sea, and here there is, perhaps, a sandy shore of diminutive proportions, and the rocks around are pierced in all directions with caverns.

The smugglers formerly ran their goods into these caves, when the weather permitted, or the preventive men were not on the lookout. They stowed away their goods in the caves and gave notice to the farmers and gentry of the neighborhood all of whom were provided with numerous donkeys, which were henceforth sent down to the caves and the kegs and bales were removed under cover of the night or of storm.

As an excuse for keeping droves of donkeys, it was pretended that the sea sand and the kelp served as admirable dressing for the land; and no doubt so they did; the trains of asses sometimes came up laden with sacks of sand, but not infrequently with kegs of brandy.

Now a wary preventive man might watch too narrowly the proceedings of these trains of asses. Accordingly squires, yeomen, and farmers alike set to work to cut deep ways in the face of the Downs, along the slopes of the hills and bank them up, so that the whole caravans of laden beasts might travel up and down unscathed from the sea and greatly screened from the land side. Undoubtedly the sunken ways and high banks are a great protection against the weather. So they were represented to be—and no doubt greatly were the good folks commended for their consideration for the beasts and their drivers, in thus at great cost shutting them off from the violence of the gale. Nevertheless, it can hardly be doubted that concealment from the eyes of the coast-guard was sought by this means quite as much, if not more, than the sheltering the beasts of burden from the weather.

ANOTHER RELIC OF POMPEII.

Another Roman villa has been dug up at Boscoreale, on the slopes of Vesuvius, near Pompeii, where its great find of silver ornaments was made two years ago. The walls are covered with beautiful frescoes, chiefly landscapes and marines. One represents a bridge over a river, with an angler fishing with a line. Four wine jars were in the cellar and seven skeletons have been found in the excavation.

LARGEST WAVES.

The largest waves are seen off Cape Horn, rising to 46 feet in height and 765 feet long from crest to crest. Waves in the North Atlantic have been observed to rise 43 feet in height. In the German Ocean their height does not exceed 13 feet, and in the Mediterranean 14-15 feet.

HOW DIFFERENT NATIONS EAT.

The Numerous Idiosyncrasies of Various Peoples Whittled at the Table.

The English are admitted by all unprejudiced foreigners to be the most well-to-do eaters in the world. To see a well-to-do Englishman go through the various stages of his dinner is to have a lesson in the art of graceful eating. Very different is the behavior of the Russian, who does not disdain to use nature's weapons when he considers the latter more convenient than knife and fork.

The Frenchman will use a piece of bread in nearly all cases where he should use a knife. The German on the other hand, plunges his knife into his mouth in a way that is terrifying.

The Swede cuts up all his food into tiny pieces first of all and then he begins to eat. The Italian uses a spoon quite as often as a fork. He will employ the former for vegetables, and sometimes even for fish. The latter, use of the spoon is somewhat curious.

The Japanese diner uses chop-sticks, a form of implement somewhat difficult to manipulate without considerable practise, while the Chinaman tucks his food into his mouth in a manner thoroughly repulsive.

The Greek swallows his meat in huge mouthfuls, and would probably devour a steak weighing half a pound in half a minute. Taking a very sharp knife, he divides the meat into four or five great sections, each of which he flings into his mouth in rapid succession. It is not to be wondered at that the Greeks suffer much from indigestion.

When all is said and done, the English eat the other nations in the art of refined eating.

The Golden Klondike.

AN ENORMOUS RUSH OF GOLD SEEKERS GOING IN.

Some sound advice from One Who Has Made the Trip and Knows Something of the Hardships the Gold Seekers Must Endure.

In the rush towards the golden fields of the Klondike there are thousands who are ill-fitted to stand the strain of hardship and exposure, which are inseparable from that trip. Illness, disease and death is almost certain to claim many of the ill-prepared adventurers. The following letter from one who has undergone the hardships of the trip, will prove interesting to those who intend going into the desolate but gold laden north.

Skagway, Dec. 12th, 1897.

Dear Sirs—My object in writing this letter is to give a word of advice to those who contemplate going to the Yukon gold fields. For ten years I have followed the occupation of prospecting, timber estimating and mining, and the hardships and privations which one has to undergo, are enough to wreck the strongest constitution. In the spring of 1897 I was stricken with pleurisy as the result of exposure. I recovered from this, but I left behind the seeds of disease which manifested themselves in the form of heart and kidney troubles. I managed to reach Vancouver, but did not have much hope of recovering. I was advised, however, to give Dr. Williams' Pink Pills a trial and after first purchasing but two boxes, before these were gone I found beyond a doubt that they were helping me, and their continued use "put me on my feet again," to use a common expression. I then engaged to go to the Yukon country and only those who have made the trip to Dawson City can form even the faintest conception of the hardships that have to be borne in making the trip. Before starting I added to my outfit two dozen boxes of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and I can honestly say no part of my outfit proved of such invaluable service to me, and I would strongly urge every man who goes in to take a supply with him, as he will find the need of such a tonic and upbuilder of the system on many occasions. I went in and returned to this place by the Dalton trail, which consists of 350 miles of old Indian trail, starting at Pyramid Harbor. In going over the trail one has at times to wade through mud more than a foot deep, and ford streams waist deep in ice cold waters. When I started for the Yukon my weight was only 149 pounds, and I now weigh 169 pounds, thanks to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

I am soon starting for another trip to Dawson by the same route. This time, however, the travelling will be on snow-shoes and you may depend upon it Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will again form part of my outfit.

I write this letter for the twofold purpose of letting you know what your medicine has done for me and urging those who go in to take a supply with them. Every man, whether he is sick or well, who undertakes the trip to the Yukon will require something to brace him and keep his constitution sound in that country. I may say that my home is at Copper Cliff, Ont., where my wife now resides.

Yours very truly,  
John Piche.

WHAT BOARDERS PAY.

Gentleman—Madam, at the price you charge for board I could rent a fine house and hire half a dozen servants.

Mrs. Highprice—True, but you'd have to do the fighting with the servants yourself. I save you that trouble, and it's worth the money.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED.

What is that old saying about proclaiming the truth from the house-tops?

Don't know, exactly, but it would be a poor method in these days of sky scrapers.

CATARRH CANNOT BE CURED

with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure acts internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Cure is not a quick medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best medicines combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrh. Send for testimonials, free of charge. F. J. DUNN & CO., Proprietors, Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists. Price 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Canada's Greatest Medicine.

Greatest, Because in cases of Dyspepsia it has a touch like magic, which just hits the spot, brings relief to the sufferer, and gives tone and strength to the stomach as no other medicine does.

Could Not Eat Without Pain.

"For many years I have been a sufferer from a severe case of Dyspepsia. I could not eat without great pain in my stomach and would be sick and vomit up what I did eat. One day I read of a cure by Hood's Sarsaparilla. I told my husband I believed this medicine would help me. He went right away and got a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla. I took four bottles and I was cured." Mrs. Allen Stivers, Makanda, Illinois.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is Canada's Greatest Medicine. 50c; six for \$3. Sold by all Druggists. Get only Hood's.

Hood's Pills

are the best after-dinner pills, aid digestion, 25c.

WEIGHTED SILK.

To show the manner in which silk is adulterated, an English chemist recently analyzed a piece of silk with the following results: Real silk, 28; water, 11; ash, mostly tin oxide and silica, 13.30; organic matter, not silk, 46. Such "silk" becomes shabby in a few weeks, but so rapid are the change of fashion that it is said to be preferred by many purchasers.

SAILING VS. DRIVING.

Yachtsmen—In ordinary summer weather sailing is just as safe as carriage riding in fact safer; yet somehow the landmen don't seem to care for it.

Landmen—In sailing a boat you have to use both hands, don't you?

British American Assurance Company.

SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the British American Assurance Company was held in the company's offices, Nos. 18, 20 and 22 Front Street East, Toronto, on Friday, the 18th February.

The President, Hon. Geo. A. Cox, occupied the chair.

Mr. P. S. Sims was appointed to act as Secretary, and read the following report, which, on motion, was adopted: ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting the Sixty-Fourth Annual Financial Statement of the Company the Directors have pleasure in calling attention to the following results of the year's business.

The balance of income over expenditure, as shown by the Revenue Account, is \$1,018,274.

There has been a net appreciation in the market value of Securities of \$1,147,931.

The Reserve Fund has been increased from \$5,883,914 to \$6,941,351, after providing \$52,500 for two half-yearly dividends, at the rate of seven per cent. per annum.

The estimated liability on current policies is \$311,982,801, an amount more than ample according to the Company's past experience, to run off all existing risks, and after providing for this there is a net surplus over capital and all liabilities of \$79,381,455.

In all departments a decrease is shown in loss ratios as compared with those of the previous year.

The Directors express their appreciation of the efficient services of the Officers, Special Agents and Representatives of the Company during the past year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Total cash income: \$1,470,339 40. Total expenditure, including appropriation for losses under adjustment: 1,369,566 65. Balance: 100,832 74. Dividends declared: 52,500 00. Total assets: 1,510,827 88. Total liabilities: 169,461 57. Surplus to policyholders: \$1,341,361 51.

The following gentlemen were elected to serve as Directors for the ensuing year: Hon. George A. Cox, J. M. Kenny, Hon. S. C. Wood, S. F. McKinnon, Thomas Long, John Hoskin, J. C. L.L.D., H. M. Pellatt, R. Jaffray, A. Myers.

At a meeting held subsequently Hon. George A. Cox was elected President and Mr. J. J. Kenny, Vice-President.

THE LIMIT.

Impassioned Lover—Tell me, my angel, what to do to prove my love. Oh, that I might, like some knight of old, battle for you, suffer for you, die for you.

Sweet Girl—I wish you would give up smoking.

Impassioned Lover—Oh, come, now, that's asking too much.

SHE KNEW BETTER.

He, sentimentally—At a great bargain, pause awhile, my dear. She—And let another woman get it? I guess not!

A PATIENT ENCOURAGED.

Hawkins—So you sent for a doctor. Does he think you will be out soon? Robbins—I imagine so. He said he wished I had sent for him sooner.

SPARING HIS FEELINGS.

After the young composer had played his piece twice he dried the perspiration off his brow and expectantly looked toward Rossini, awaiting his comment. Rossini stepped over to the piano and asked:

Are you through? Yes, replied the young musician. What was that you have just played?

It was a funeral march which I composed after Meyerbeer's death. How does it please you? Well, replied Rossini, it will do, but I can assure you of one thing—it would have been far better had you died and Meyerbeer composed the music.

The Probabilities.

Are, that your temper will improve, and you will enjoy walking and skating in real earnest once that sore corn is removed. Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor never fails, gives no pain and will relieve you in twenty-four hours. Give Putnam's Corn Extractor a trial and be happy.

A REGENERATION.

It seemed very strange and curious to Bennie that his little sister was born without front teeth. A few days after the baby's birth the cook was called to go to the dentist to have her teeth extracted. Oh my! exclaimed Bennie on her return, what do you think? Cook's been to the dentist to get re-toothed.

WHAT IS YOUR TRACE?

Each Trade or Occupation Has Its Special Disease.

It is well known among medical men that certain diseases are more rapidly developed in certain occupations than in others. That each occupation has its attendant physical weakness. Engineers, railroad men, and similar occupations suffer mostly from kidney troubles, and men who are often exposed to the weather suffer from rheumatism, while clerks and professional men, in fact, the people whose business keeps them indoors are oftentimes great sufferers from piles and constipation. In this connection the following letter is of interest to those whose occupations will not allow sufficient outdoor exercise.

A prominent Grand Trunk railroad man says—"Having suffered intensely for years with piles (not being able to sleep for nights), and having tried different ointments with only temporary relief, I was advised to give Trask's Magnetic Ointment a trial, which I did, and feel thankful. After using three bottles, I feel that I am completely cured. I consider its astonishing efficacy truly marvellous. Whenever I have recommended this ointment, the results proved as satisfactory as in my case. Any sufferer should give this wonderful remedy a trial, and I feel certain they will say as I do, that it cannot be spoken of too highly."—J. C. Fraser, Toronto.

Trask's Magnetic Ointment is not only the safest and surest remedy for piles, but it is the best known and most popular. Every physician and druggist in the country know it, and what it will do.

Sold by all druggists at 25 and 40c per box. Francis U. Kahle, 127 Bay Street, Toronto.

Croup, Coughs, and Colds cured by Ransom's Hlive Syrup and Tolu. 25c all druggists.

HENS HATCH FISH EGGS.

In China hens are employed to hatch fish eggs. These are sealed in an eggshell and placed under the unsuspecting hen for a few days until the spawn is hatched into life. The contents of the shell are then emptied into a shallow pool, where they can bask in the sunshine until the minnows are strong enough to be turned into a lake or river.

GIRLS AND BOYS.

Old Friend—I s'pose girls are a good deal more expensive to rear than boys, ain't they?

Old Family Man—Wall, they is fer a while, but mo' generally so soon as a girl marries the expense is through with; but just as quick as a son gets married he wants to borrow all you've got.

A Corn Photographed by X Rays

Shows a small hard kernel, covered by layers of hard skin. This tiny corn causes keen pain. The only sure means of extracting it, without pain, in a day, is Putnam's Painless Corn Cure. Sure! Yes. Painless? Yes. Cheap? Yes, indeed! Try it.

PROBABLY.

Hargreaves—What are you looking so absent about? Perry—I was trying to collect my thoughts. Find that sort of collection pretty dull don't you?

Nothing equals "Quickcure" as a dressing for Burns, Scalds, Cuts or Wounds.

My snowshoe strings cut right into the flesh across my toes, and I was quite lame, until I used "Quickcure," which removed the pain at once, and healed the sore completely, in two days.

W. H. PETRY,  
Quebec Bank.

NATURAL GAS IN ENGLAND.

A natural gas well has been bored in Sussex County, England. It is being driven for water. The odor of gas was noticed during the sinking operations by the workmen, but no attention was paid to it until the gas was lighted. It has burned for a long time. It is a decided novelty in England.

Indigestion

CURED BY WOODWARD'S GELERY KING. Strengthens the stomach; aids digestion; acts pleasantly on the bowels. Price 25c. Sold by all druggists, or WOODWARD MEDICINE CO., TORONTO, CANADA.

A CASUAL GLANCE.

Mrs. Hymen—Did you notice the gentleman that just got off the car? Miss Anshus—The brunette man in the brown suit and derby, wearing a polka-dot scarf and opal pin, chrysanthemum patent leathers, tan gloves and smoking a cigarette? I didn't observe him closely. Did he speak to us?

ANOTHER VICTORY

WON IN GREY COUNTY BY DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS.

Mrs. Thomas Hughes Tells Her Story, N. Leflar, J. P., Corroborates It—Dodd's Kidney Pills, and They Alone, Cure All Kidney Diseases.

Morley, Ont.—This little town is excited over an occurrence that would, in early days, have been looked upon as a manifestation of magic. The circumstances are clearly detailed in the following letter sent by Mrs. Thomas Hughes of this place to The Dodds Medicine Co., Limited, Toronto:—

"I cheerfully testify to the wonderful work done by Dodd's Kidney Pills, believing that too much praise cannot be given them. I was for four years a great sufferer from pains in my back, along my spine, in my head, especially in my right side, and occasionally in my left, and occasionally in my right side.

"Five doctors treated me, and I also had the care and advice of an American specialist. All failed to help me. I tried nearly all the patent medicines I could get, but none of them did me any good.

"For two and three nights at a time I could not close my eyes in sleep. I was bloated so terribly that I could neither sit nor walk. My agony was simply indescribable. For nearly three years I was bed-ridden.

"Finally I tried Dodd's Kidney Pills. From the first dose I began to mend. I have used fourteen boxes, and am completely cured, and as strong as I ever was, and can do a big day's work, thanks to Dodd's Kidney Pills."—Mrs. Thomas Hughes.

"I have known Mrs. T. Hughes for a number of years, and I can truthfully state, that the foregoing statements are strictly true."—N. Leflar, J.P.

Dodd's Kidney Pills, the only cure on earth for Bright's Disease, Diabetes, Rheumatism, Lumago, Diseases of Women, and all other Kidney Diseases, are sold by all druggists, at fifty cents a box, six boxes, \$2.50, or will be sent on receipt of price by The Dodds Medicine Co., Limited, Toronto.

ROUGH ON AUNT'E.

Tommy—That church is over 200 years old. Gracie—My auntie says it's only 100. Tommy—Oh, well, I s'pose that's as far back as she can remember.

THEIR OWN TAILORS.

Dorothy (noticing the brass knobs on the horns of grandpa's oxen)—I dress the oxen for my own sewin' by the looks of their thimbles.

W P C 909

What and Why?

It is WHAT THE Goodrich Res-Flex SINGLE TUBE TIRE IS THAT GIVES THE REASON WHY IT IS THE BEST. THE WAY IT IS MADE, the material used, the tests it is subjected to, the personal inspection, its scientific exactness, and being as true inside as outside.

DON'T FACTS LIKE THESE CONVINCE YOU? Our catalogue is full of interesting, sound for catalogue "T" Dealers Quoted.

AMERICAN TIRE CO., Limited,

164 and 166 King St. W., Toronto

LAW

Mills, Mills & Mates, Barristers, etc., removed to Wesley Bldg., Richmond St. W., Toronto.

Toronto Cutting School. YOUNG MEN, Learn to Cut. No better trade or profession. Write for particulars, 112 Yonge St., Toronto.

SHIP YOUR PRODUCE,

Butter, Eggs, Apples, Fruit, &c., to THE DAWSON COMMISSION CO., Limited, Cor. of West Market and Colborne Sts., TORONTO.

WOOD PHOTO ENGRAVING

117 BAY ST. TORONTO

SEEDS 12 Varieties 25c

For

This is a BONA FIDE offer made to introduce our Vegetable and Flower seeds to new customers and which we guarantee to please you or the amount paid refunded and the seeds given as a present.

At these prices we can ONLY offer the varieties named below. Order by number. Buy what you want. They are sent by mail post paid, select from the following list:

- VEGETABLES. (Order by Number) 1. Beet, 2. Broccoli, 3. Cabbage, 4. Cauliflower, 5. Carrot, 6. Corn, 7. Cucumber, 8. Eggplant, 9. Lettuce, 10. Melon, 11. Peas, 12. Pumpkin, 13. Radish, 14. Spinach, 15. Tomato, 16. Turnip, 17. Watermelon, 18. Zucchini.