

"I WON'T."

AN OLD FASHIONED FAIRY TALE.

"Don't care,"—so they say—fell into a goosepond, and "I won't" is apt to come to a better end. At least my grandmother tells me that was how the Miller had to quit his native town, and leave the tip of his nose behind him.

It all comes of his being allowed to say "I won't" when he was quite a little boy. His mother thought he looked pretty when he was peevish, and that willfulness gave him an air which distinguished him from other people's children.

And when she found out that his lower lip was becoming so big that his willfulness gained his way twice and stood in his way eight times out of ten, it was too late to alter him.

Then she said, "Dearest Aminadab, do be more obliging, and I'll reply, as she had taught him, "I won't."

He always took what he could get, and would neither give nor give up to other people. This he thought was the way to get more out of life than his neighbors. Amongst other things, he made a point of taking the middle of the path.

"Will you allow me to pass, sir? I am in a hurry," said a voice behind him one day.

"I won't," said the miller, on which a poor washerwoman, with her basket scrambled down into the road, and Aminadab chuckled.

Next day he was walking as before.

"Will you allow me to pass you, sir? I am in a hurry," said a voice behind him.

"I won't," said the miller. On which he was knocked into the ditch, and the Baron walked on and left him to get out of the mud the best way he liked.

He quarrelled with his friends till he had none left, and with the tradesman of the town till there was only one who would serve him, and this man offended him at last.

"I'll show who is master," said the miller. "I won't pay a penny of the bill—not a penny."

"Sir," said the tradesman, "my giving you offence now is no just reason why you should refuse to pay for what you have had. I must beg you to pay for what you have had and been satisfied with. I must beg you to pay at once."

"I won't," said the miller, "and what I say I mean. I won't pay you, I won't pay you."

So the tradesman summoned him before the justice, and the justice condemned him to pay the bill and the costs of the suit.

"I won't," said the miller. But they put him in prison, and in prison he would have remained if his mother had not paid the money to obtain his release.

By and by she died and left him her blessing and some good advice, which, as is sometimes the case with bequests, would have been more useful if it had come earlier.

The miller's mother had taken a great deal of trouble off his hands which now fell into them. She took in all the small bags of grist which the country folk brought to be ground, and kept account of them, and spoke civilly to the customers, big and little.

But these small matters irritated the miller.

"I may be the slave of all the old women on the country side," said he, "but I won't—they shall see that I won't."

"But you must live somewhere," said his friends. "I won't," said the miller. He was no longer a young man, and the new tenant pitied him. "The poor fellow is out of his senses," he said, and he let him sleep in one of his barns. One of the mill cats found out that there was a new, warm bed in this barn, and she came, and lived there too, and kept away the mice. One night, however, Mrs. Pussy disturbed the miller's rest. She was in and out of the window constantly, and moved horribly into the bargain. "It seems a man can't sleep in peace," said the miller. "If this happens again you will go into the mill race to sing to the fishes."

"The next night the cat was still on the alert, and the following morning the miller tied a stone around her neck and drowned her. "Spare the poor thing, there's a good soul," said a bystander. "I won't," said the miller. "I told her what would happen."

But now the cat was away—the mice could play; and they played hide and seek over the miller's night cap.

It's got to such a pass that there was no rest in bed.

"I won't go to bed, I declare, I won't," said the miller. So he sat up all night in an armchair, and threw everything he could lay his hands on at the corners where he heard the mice shuffling, till the place was topsy turvy. Towards morning he lit a candle and dressed himself. He was in a terrible humor, and he began to shave, his hand shook and he cut himself. The draughts made the flame of the candle unsteady, too, and the shadow of the miller's nose, which was a large one, fell in uncertain shapes, upon his cheeks and interfered with the progress of the razor. At first he thought he would wait till daylight. Then his temper got the better of him.

"I won't," he said, "I won't why should I?"

So he began again. Like many other men he held on by his nose to steady his cheeks, and he gave it such a spiteful pinch that the tears came into his eyes.

"Matters have come to a pretty pass when a man's own nose is to stand in his light," said he. By and by a gust of wind came through the window. Up flared the candle, and the shadow of the man's nose danced over his face, and the razor gashed his chin. Transported with fury, he struck before he could think what he was doing. The razor was very sharp, and the tip of the miller's nose came off as clean as his whiskers.

When daylight came and he saw himself in the glass, he resolved to leave the place.

"I won't stay here to be a laughing stock," said he.

As he trudged out on the highway, with his bundle on his back, the Baron met him and pitied him. He dismounted from his horse, and leading it up to the miller, he said:

"Friend, you are elderly to be going far afoot. I will lend you my mare to take you to your destination. When you get there, knot the reins and throw them on her shoulder, saying, 'Home.' She will then return to me. But mark one thing, she is not used to whip or spur. Humour her, and she will carry you well and safely."

The miller mounted willingly enough, and set forward. At first the mare was a little restive. The miller had no spurs on, but, in spite of the Baron's warning, he kicked her with his heels. On this she danced till the miller's hat and bundle fell right and left, and he was very near to follow them.

"Ah, you vixen!" he cried. "You think I'll humor you as the Baron does. But I won't—no, you shall see that I won't." And gripping his walking stick firmly in his hand, he belabored the Baron's mare as it had been a donkey, on which she sent the miller clean over her head, and cantered away back to the castle. Then wherever it was that he went to, he had to walk.

He never returned to his native village, and everybody was glad to be rid of him. One must beat and forbear with his neighbors, if he hopes to be regretted when he departs.

But my grandfather says that long after the mill had fallen into ruin, the story was told as a warning to willful children of the miller who cut off his nose to spite his own face.—Aunt Judy's Magazine.

Mr. Blake will sail from England on the 24th inst.

Oh, Charles!" she gasped, as she rose with some difficulty from her fourth plate of strawberries and cream. "If I eat any more I think I will bust." And Charles fumbled abstractedly in his pocket and murmured: "That last plate just busted me."

Ladies who follow the common practice of carrying the purse in the hand on the street may be warned by the example of a girl in Halifax, who, on being taken leave of by name by her companions, was accosted by a stranger with the remark: "Maggie, don't you know me, and upon her halting to look at the man, he snatched her pocket-book containing all her money and made off with it. Carrying the purse in the hand seems to be simply a temptation to thieves.

Now is the Time to Purchase

CLOTHING.

TWEEDS being rushed off at reduced rates to make room for

FALL STOCK NOW ARRIVING

AT THE EAST END.

DICKSON & McNAB.

Acton, August 1, 1876.

CARD OF THANKS

Christie, Henderson & Co., Acton, desire to tender their sincere thanks to their many customers for the large share of business accorded them during the past season.

On the 1st April last, in order to meet the views of the closest buyers, they determined to adopt the POPULAR CASH SYSTEM, doing business at the least possible expense and selling goods at the smallest possible profit.

This step they have no reason to regret. The result has proved most satisfactory to themselves, and they trust much to the satisfaction and pecuniary advantage of their customers.

Notwithstanding the great depression in money matters generally, their sales, since adopting the cash principle, have been largely in excess of former years and their circle of trade much extended.

They trust that by close application to business, always watching carefully the wants of their customers, and selling goods at closest prices, they shall continue to merit the large share of trade so liberally accorded to them.

They invite close inspection and comparison both in prices and quality of goods offered, and have no fear of the result.

Hoping that a bountiful harvest may crown the labors of the husbandman, and that a good price may be obtained for the same, they again assure their numerous friends that no effort will be spared on their part to supply good reliable goods at the least possible cost.

CHRISTIE, HENDERSON & CO.

P. S.—Try our famous 50c Tea, the best value in the market.

C. H. & Co.

Acton, July 19, 1876.

BOOK AND JOB PRINTING

PROMPTLY EXECUTED AT

THE FREE PRESS OFFICE

THE NEW DOMINION BOOT AND SHOE STORE.

KENNEY & SON

Have just received their Spring Stock of

BOOTS, SHOES, AND PRUNELLAS,

The Best that ever came into Acton, for Price, Style and Quality.

OUR CUSTOM WORK

Will receive careful attention, and all work guaranteed to give satisfaction

Repairing Done Neatly.

Don't forget the place—

Main Street, Next Door to Agnew's Hotel.

KENNEY & SON.

Acton, May 29, 1876.

GREAT SPECIAL SALE

DRY GOODS AND CLOTHING

Preparatory to Removal.

W.M. STEWART & CO.

Our entire stock of Dry Goods and Clothing is now offered regardless of Cost, to reduce stock before removing to our new premises, now building. The public may rely on the

Best and Cheapest Bargains ever offered of NEW CHOICE GOODS

Cheaper than Old Bankrupt Stock at Half Price—Cheap because just the goods wanted—Cheap, because Fresh and New.

THE STOCK MUST WILL AND SHALL BE SOLD.

But we are aware how perplexing it is for honest people to read the advertisements here and elsewhere. Who'll talk the loudest and brag the most seems to be the maxim of each. But an intelligent Public know well that Shoddy Goods are dear at Half-price.

We give a few quotations of

GOODS REDUCED.

4,500 yards of Dress Goods,—former prices, 15, 20, 25 and up to 50 cents—reduced to 10, 15 and 20 cents.

Striped silks reduced to 57 cents. Lace Curtains 75 cents. White Cotton Hose from 6 1/2 cents. Straw Sun Hats from 5 cents. Cashmere Jackets from \$1.25. Linen Suits from \$1.50.

Table Linens, Bed Quilts, Table Napkins, Sheetings, Damaska, Toweling will be offered at striking prices.

Colored Shirting from 10 cents. A lot of Woolen Tweeds reduced from \$1.00 to 60 cents. Colored and White Dress Shirts from 40 cents.

A JOB LOT OF LADIES UNDERCLOTHING to be SACRIFICED.

This Sale is no Clap Trap.

Reduced Prices Must Be Cash.

WILLIAM STEWART & Co.

Geolph, June 5, 1876.

STILL AHEAD AT THE

Central Boot and Shoe Store.

CRAINE & SON

Have just received their

SPRING STOCK OF BOOTS & SHOES

which is ahead of anything ever offered in Acton for style and durability and at prices that cannot be undersold.

OUR CUSTOM WORK

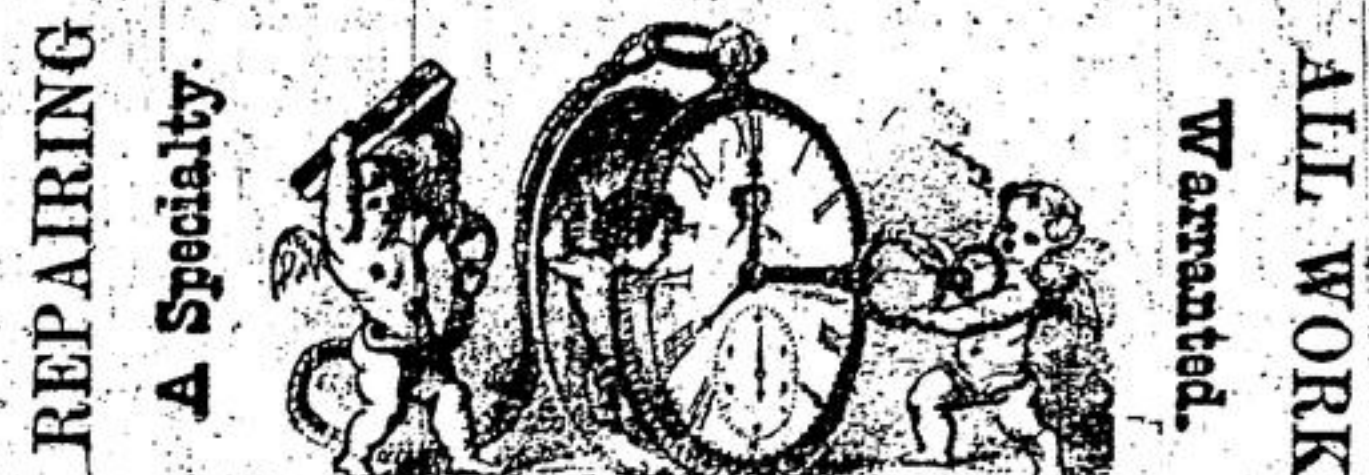
Will receive careful personal attention, and all work guaranteed to give satisfaction.

Don't forget the place,

Mill Street, opposite Morrow's Drug Store.

CRAINE & SON.

Acton, April 4, 1876.



RUSSELL WATCHES.

ELGIN WATCHES.

SWISS WATCHES,

Second-Hand Watches, Cheap,

AT

C. & G. HYNDS,

Post Office, Acton.

Acton, July 4, 1876.

HO! FOR BARGAINS.

ON THE RAMPAGE.

Look Out for Cheap Goods.

MAMMOTH HOUSE

GEORGETOWN,

McLEOD, ANDERSON & Co.

ARE HAVING ONE OF THEIR

IMMENSE CLEARING SALES

For Thirty Days Only.

CUTTING AND SLASHING RIGHT AND LEFT.

No quarter will be given. All goods marked down, and will be sold regardless of cost.

Dress Goods, Muslins, Grenadines and Prints

At Cost Price and Lower.

MILLINERY & MANTLES AT HALF PRICE.

Ready-made and Ordered Clothing, Tweeds, Gent's Furnishings, Hats and Caps, &c., at extraordinary low prices. Call and examine, it will pay you.

Carpets, Oil Cloths, Rugs, &c., a clean sweep must be made of these goods. Cottons, Tablings, Ducks, Drillings, Towelings, &c., at very low prices.

We commence our Annual Sale on Thursday, July 20th, and shall continue it for 30 days. Remember we never advertise anything that we do not perform, so that you can rely upon getting bargains and first-class goods cheaper than ever. Come and see our prices and examine our goods.

McLEOD, ANDERSON & Co.,

MAMMOTH HOUSE, GEORGETOWN.

REMOVAL, REMOVAL,

G. M. SCOTT

Begs to inform the inhabitants of ACTON and surrounding country, that he has removed to

MILL STREET,

Next Door to Galloway Bros.' Bakery, in the building lately occupied by R. Crech,

which has been neatly fitted up. It has the best light of any store in the two counties, which is very essential for the proper selection of goods. His stock, which is very choice, is fully assorted,

And will be Sold at an Unusually Low Figure.

He is determined to still maintain his former reputation of keeping

NOTHING BUT THE BEST OF GOODS AND SELLING AS

CHEAP AS ANY HOUSE IN THE TRADE.

Give him a call.

G. M. SCOTT'S

Square Dealing House, Acton

June 27, 1876.