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Acton Free Press JOB H. HACKING EDITOR

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 12, 1877.

Affairs in the East have a decidedly warlike aspect. Each day's news tends to confirm the strong conviction that ere many weeks the battle cry will resound throughout the length and breadth of the European continent. It seems pretty evident that Russia has been quietly completing her arrangements during the winter while the parleying has been going on between the several Powers, for so effectively striking the enemy so soon as the state of the weather renders it permissible to enter upon the campaign. The result of a war may easily be foretold as disastrous to Turkey, unless she receive the aid of Britain or other nations. And the probability is that the necessary aid will be forthcoming, in good time to avert her utter overthrow without a tremendous struggle. When once commenced in good earnest, there is no telling where the war may end, or how great may be its magnitude. That it will soon commence, there can no longer be any reasonable doubt. Everything in the world seems to be shaping for it.

It is stated in connection with the recent execution of John D. Lot, of Mountain Meadows, that certain of his relations, seriously implicating Brigham Young, were suppressed by Attorney-General Howard.

The celebrated Big Push case, Regina v. Wilkinson, is set down for hearing at the Cobourg Assizes on Tuesday next.

The fact that the Czar will not take his customary summer trip to Ems is looked upon as evidence of the almost immediate outbreak of a Russo-Turkish war. Should the Porte comply with the protocol, Russia will discover some new pretext for making war inevitable.

Hurried preparations are making in all the ports of the Black Sea to meet the apprehended attack of the Turkish iron-clad fleet.

Rum and religion are very unevenly balanced in New York. While there are 49 Sabbath schools and 500 day schools in the interest of intelligence, morality and religion, there is an opposing force of 3,403 liquor saloons, with numerous evil accessories.

The License Commissioners for the South Riding of Wellington granted seventeen tavern and eight shop licenses for the town of Guelph, eight tavern licenses for Erinosa township, four tavern licenses for Puslinch township, and one tavern license for Guelph township.

Tenders have been let for the construction of the Stratford and Huron Railway, and the work is to be commenced at once.

A verdict for \$70 and costs has been granted against a tavern-keeper in Beverly, who sold liquor to a drunkard, after being warned not to do so by his friends.

An illicit still which Sam Garrett run for some time past at an immense profit, was seized in Wingham last week, and the owner fined \$100.

A gentleman of thirty, who is not prepossessing and has the candor to admit it, advertises in a Toronto paper for a wife. He "has the qualities of head and heart necessary to make home happy."

Butter was first made four thousand years ago. This fact recurred to us very vividly the other morning, on taking breakfast in a country hotel. We thought all the first crop had not been used.

Win. West, of Lucknow, a few days ago, skated 300 yards, making six turns, in 37 seconds.

The Decline of the Grange. From the annual report of the National Grange it appears that both in number of Granges and Grangers, the Order has suffered a serious decline, comparing 1876 with 1875. In eighteen States, representing every section of the United States, over 9,000 granges have gone out of existence, and membership has fallen off 180,000 since the report of 1875 was made. The decline is most marked where the movement had its origin, that is, in the Western States. In Missouri 974 granges with a membership of 42,529, report from 1876 against 2,034 granges, with 80,059 members in 1875. The South-west and North-west are next to show weakness. In the eastern and some of the middle States, where the movement was later in appearing, it remained almost at a standstill in 1876.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS. Interesting Lecture by the Grand Chancellor of the Order.

According to announcement, a public lecture was delivered in Matthews' Hall last Thursday evening, by Dr. J. S. King, Grand Chancellor of the Order of Knights of Pythias of Ontario. The hall was well filled with an intelligent audience, a considerable portion of which consisted of ladies. At the request of the meeting, Mr. W. H. Storey acted as chairman, and introduced the speaker with a few appropriate remarks.

The lecturer at the outset stated that he hoped to be able to place before his hearers the claims of the Pythian Order to be ranked as one of the foremost of the several benevolent institutions whose common object is to elevate and advance the interests of our common humanity, by a proper unification of effort, well directed. Before proceeding to sketch the origin, progress, principles, and objects of the Knights of Pythias, he briefly alluded to the origin and existence of the early societies mentioned in history, which were shown to have varied in scope, plan and purpose with the ages in which they existed, or rose among which they found favor, showing also that their existence was the natural result of unity of idea, and the desire for concerted action. The earliest organizations were shown to have been for the purposes of aggression and defense of personal power or aggrandizement, rather than for the good of the community; while with expansion of intellect and progress of mind, these attained the progressed position of centres of light and knowledge from which emanated a beneficence of doctrine or skill which exerted its influence upon those in whose midst they existed.

He rapidly sketched the character, teachings and influence of the secret societies of Greece, making special allusion to the Pythagorean Society and that of Isis and Osiris. One of the best ascertained features of the Pythagorean brotherhood, was their devoted attachment to each other, as illustrated by many examples, of which that manifested by Damon and Pythias forms one of the most marked in history. He contended that the moral as well as intellectual progress has ever been of continual growth, and that the unity of man with his fellow-man, in pledging the performance of moral duties, cannot but strengthen the individual effort, while the grand aggregate of benefit to the community, must be such as to make readily apparent the value of united action.

THE DECLARATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ORDER were stated to be "To protect the weak to defend the right to alleviate the sufferings of a brother; to watch with the sick; to bury the dead; to care for the widow, and to educate the orphans; to practice these ennobling virtues of Friendship, Charity and Benevolence; to exercise charity towards offenders; to construe words and deeds in their least unfavorable light, granting honesty of purpose and good intentions to others, and throwing the mantle of charity over the unfortunate or misguided people that are to be found in every community; to stop the circulation of slanders and rebuke the slanderer; to defend even the most bitter enemy when unjustly assailed; allowing full religious and political liberty to every one; to exhibit loyalty to the government under which the Order exists—is to assist in the realization of the hopes of the Knights of Pythias, 'Peace on earth and good will to all men.'" With this platform and an open Bible in the lodge as a guide, (as often it must be when the lodge itself is open) and an invocation of the Divine Blessing upon the efforts of the lodge, the members seek to inculcate the cardinal principles of the Order, so indigently upon the brotherhood, that their impressions may be distinctly observed by those met in the ordinary walks of life.

He next entered upon a more minute explanation of the BENEFITS OF THE ORDER TO MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, and enquired, "What nobler purpose or aspiration could any charitable society have than that of caring for the widow and orphan? How gratifying to the sorrowing widow with dependent orphans to feel that in the noble brotherhood of Knights, she beholds a brotherhood of guardians, ready to aid, counsel and protect her and hers; to feel that they will make her cause their aim; that their friendship is the bark that bears her over the stormy waves of sorrow without shipwreck; their benevolence her haven of refuge from want; and their charity her solace and comfort. The Pythian Order claims no monopoly of the principle it represents; it is broad and liberal as the air; it arrogates no glory for the duty it performs, feels no jealousy of other kindred Orders, and enters upon no rivalry save the rivalry of good works."

Having dwelt at some length upon the principles of the Order, and their varied application, he discussed some of the objections that are urged against secret societies, and met many inquiries that

overflowing friendship than that exhibited by these two friends. Having thus far introduced his subject, Dr. King next proceeded to outline the

ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE PYTHIAN ORDER. On the 19th of February, 1864, some 13 years ago, and during the progress of that terrible civil war which carried desolation throughout the land and threatened to destroy the American Republic; when the hand of son was set against that of his father, and brother was placed in battle array with brother, a number of good men actuated by a desire to establish and propagate the great blessings of Friendship, Charity and Benevolence, met at Washington and formed a society taking as its antetype in principle, the incident alluded to. The Order did not succeed for some three years in gaining a foothold out of Washington City, so that its growth may be dated from the year 1867, or just ten years ago. During the ten years that have elapsed since that date, notwithstanding many obstacles, both within and outside of the organization, the career of the Order has been unprecedented, having spread throughout the entire United States, Dominion of Canada, and other countries, even to Europe, where in England several lodges have more recently been instituted. It is to be noted, since the introduction of Bismark, and will probably take firm hold in the German domains. Such has been its rapid growth that at the present time no less than 34 grand jurisdictions are represented at supreme lodge, of which that in Canada is one of the youngest, while others count their lodges by hundreds, as for example the State of Pennsylvania which has in the vicinity of 400 subordinate lodges.

By the report of Supreme Lodge for 1875 (the last published report) it appears there were that year some one hundred thousand Knights in good standing. The gross receipts of the Order for the same year was one million dollars, while for charitable purposes, including sick and funeral benefits to brothers and relief to the widows and orphans of deceased brethren, no less a sum than over a quarter of a million dollars had been paid out of the funds of the lodge in one year. The favor of its reception and advantage too appears to be still on the increase, notwithstanding the financial depression, and this favorable and gratifying result is general and not alone confined to our own beloved province, where several new lodges have recently been instituted, while three or four others will very shortly be added to the list.

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Having dwelt at some length upon the principles of the Order, and their varied application, he discussed some of the objections that are urged against secret societies, and met many inquiries that

suggest themselves regarding their character. Dealing with the question of secrecy, among other things stated, he said, "True we have secrets, as have other Orders, as has every person, every family, every government, nature itself, and even nature's God, who has kept from our knowledge and view as mortal beings, much that will in the course of time be revealed to those who having received and acted according to his command, shall upon judgment be accepted as worthy to receive an habitual abiding place in his presence. Our secrets serve to distinguish our friends from those not yet taken into the fellowship of our Order, and are also passports of entrance to the Lodges. Our rites and ceremonies are of a kind to render impressive and lasting the teachings of the Order."

It is asserted that there was not a single requirement or obligation in the Order that would bear the slightest construction of inconsistency with any duty we owe to ourselves, our families, our country, mankind or to our God. He also quoted from the Constitution to prove that improper conduct either in the lodge or in the daily walks of life, received condemnation rather than being shielded, and prevented the reception of benefits and in gross cases qualified to banish from the lodge and brotherly intercourse. The qualifications for admission were also stated, and all urged to carefully examine the principles of the Order before passing judgment or seeking admission. The lecture occupied nearly an hour and was listened to with marked attention throughout.

COUNTY COUNCIL. MILTON, April 4, 1877. Council met at 1 o'clock p. m., in accordance with notice issued by order of the Warden, who called a special meeting in order to receive and take action on the report of the Special Committee appointed by the Council to obtain plans and specifications of the proposed alterations in the Jail and County Buildings.

The Warden in the chair. Members present, Messrs. Buck, Clay, Dewar, Frazer, Foster, McKenzie, McGarvin, Menzies, Robinson, Waidie, Watson and Warren. The Warden addressed the Council, stating his reasons for having called the meeting, and read the report of the Special Committee on the Jail and County Buildings, which were as follows: Report of Special Committee appointed to procure plans for new Jail and addition to Court House. Your Committee beg to report that, after careful consideration and enquiry made, they found that the old jail could not be utilized in any manner so that it would conform with the Inspector's plan.

Your Committee employed an architect, Mr. James Balfour, of the City of Hamilton, to draw plans of the proposed addition to the Court House, and of Jail, the maximum cost thereof not to exceed the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (15,000), that after several interviews with the Inspector of Prisons, Mr. Langmuir, and alterations made as directed by him, the plans now submitted to the Council have been approved by the Governor in Council, which approval entitles this Council to receive the sum of six thousand dollars from the Government on the completion of the work.

Your Committee have agreed to pay the architect for said plans, one hundred and fifty dollars, being one per cent on the estimated cost of said work. Your Committee would recommend the Council to at once advertise for tenders for the work and to accept any suitable tender at about the said estimated costs.

Mr. Waidie moved, seconded by Mr. Foster, that the Special Committee's report on Jail and Court House be adopted. Mr. Clay moved, seconded by Mr. Menzies, that the report on Jail and Court House be not adopted at this meeting, but remain over for further consideration until the next meeting of this Council.

On the amendment being put it was declared lost. The original motion was then put and declared carried, the yeas and nays being as follows: Yes—Waidie, Buck, Foster, Watson, McGarvin, and McKenzie—6. Nay—Clay, Warren, Robinson, and Menzies—4.

Mr. Foster moved, seconded by Mr. Frazer, that the advertisement for Jail and Court House improvement be made by the Warden, that the plans and specifications be left with the County Treasurer, that before the specifications are submitted to the contractors, any amendments thought necessary may be made by the warden, Dr. McGarvin and Mr. McKenzie, who shall be a committee for that purpose.—Carried.

Dr. McGarvin moved, seconded by Mr. Foster, that this Council adjourn until the fifth day of May next.—Carried. WM. PANTON, Clerk.

There's a knowing dog in Windsor who, having no master or means of visible support, calls regularly every evening at the door of the lock-up for lodging.

DEATHS. In Esqueping, on the 8th inst., the wife of Mr. Wm. Moore, of a son. In Erin, on the 6th inst., the wife of Mr. L. Currie, of a son. In Esqueping, on the 10th inst., the wife of Mr. Peter E. Worden, of a son. In Esqueping, on the 12th inst., the wife of Mr. Thos. Cameron, of a son.

MARRIED. At the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. D. B. Cameron, on the 5th inst., Mr. Robert Craige, to Miss Elizabeth C. Kennedy, 3rd daughter of Malcolm Kennedy Esq., all of Acton.

DIED. In Acton, on the 6th inst., Oliver Alexander, son of Mr. John Hawkins, aged one year and 5 months.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. BOY WANTED. A good, reliable boy, about 16 years of age, wanted to attend the livery stable and drive team. JOS. ALLAN. Acton, April 11, 1877.

DRESSMAKING. MRS. BARBER takes pleasure in announcing to the public generally that she has started dressmaking in the basement of John Kennedy, on Main street, and would respectfully solicit the patronage of the ladies of Acton and vicinity. Acton, April 10, 1877. 41-1m.

FARM FOR SALE. The undersigned offers to sell his farm, being lot No. 26, 4th con. of Esqueping, comprising 100 acres, about 90 acres cleared and under cultivation. Good frame barn and shed on the premises. For particulars apply to the owner, on lot 13, 8th con., Esqueping Post Office. PETER MILLER. Esqueping, April 6th 1877. 41-m

Dissolution of Partnership. The partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, doing business as clothiers, under the style of Dickson & McNab, has been dissolved by mutual consent, Adam Dickson retiring on account of failing health. ADAM DICKSON. PETER McNAB.

In connection with the above, the undersigned would announce that they have entered into partnership to carry on the business of the late firm under the style of Fife & McNab. All liabilities of the late firm will be discharged by us, and we will collect all outstanding accounts. JOSEPH FYFE. PETER McNAB. Acton, April 10, 1877.

3 YEARLING SHORTHORN BULLS FOR SALE. "ROYAL BEAUFORT"—roan; got by imported Royal Oxford Gwynne 21796 (3396), dam imported Lady Barnes. "KELVIN DUCK"—red; got by 3rd Duke of Springwood (3087), dam Maggie Belle, by Constance Duke (1144) 7753. "ACTON PRINCE"—red and white; got by Zephyr (4260), dam Princess Louise, by John A. (1877). For price and particulars apply to C. S. SMITH, Acton. Acton, April 10, 1877. 40-1m.

GLENLAWSON MILLS. Having thoroughly repaired our Mill, and put in a new Middlings Purifier, we are now prepared to give a better yield of flour than formerly, with quality quite as good. GRISTING AND CHOPPING promptly attended to. The patronage of the public respectfully solicited. For terms and conditions apply to the highest price always paid for any quantity of wheat. A quantity of seed barley for sale. G. & E. TOLTON. Acton, April 10, 1877. 41-3m.

VALUABLE PROPERTY FOR SALE. In the Thriving Village of Acton. The undersigned Executors of the estate of the late Mrs. Ann Clark offer for sale that desirable property on the corner of Church and John streets, consisting one Village Lot and good frame dwelling house, beautifully situated near the business part of the village. Such a property will rarely be offered to the public. For terms and particulars apply to Christie & Henderson, or to the Executors. ROBT. KENNEDY, } Executors. JOHN WARREN, } Acton, April 3, 1877. 40-4f

HORSE BILLS. Parties requiring Route Bills this season should send their orders to the Free Press Office. Where they can have them executed in a workmanlike manner and at reasonable rates. A number of splendid Cuts to select from. Bills printed while you wait. HURRAH! HURRAH! FOR THE BEST PHOTOGRAPHS in the County, at The Ontario Photograph Gallery For Beauty of Finish and Brilliance in Tone, they cannot be surpassed. COPYING & ENLARGING. In all its branches, in the best style of the art, done on the shortest notice and at reasonable rates. Also a splendid stock of Mountings and Picture frames kept on hand and made to order. Call is solicited and you will be convinced that this is the place to get photographs. Yours respectfully, C. W. HILL. Acton, Dec. 5, 1876. 40-3m.

BARGAINS! HURRY, HURRY!



STILL AHEAD AT THE ACTON TIN AND STOVE DEPOT.

WILSON & JOHNSON

Begin to think their numerous friends and customers for the kind patronage hitherto extended to them, and wish to inform them that they have now on hand a large stock of Plain, Pressed and Japanned Ware, which they are selling cheaper than ever.

EAUTROUGHING A SPECIALTY. Call and see us before purchasing elsewhere, as our prices cannot be beat in the county. Being practical workmen, most of our stock of Tinware is made up by ourselves, and we feel satisfied that we cannot be overrold.

Repairing and Jobbing promptly attended to. WILSON & JOHNSON. Acton, April 3, 1877. 40-3m

EXECUTORS NOTICE. The undersigned Executors of the estate of the late Mrs. Ann Clark hereby give public notice to all parties having claims against the estate to hand in the same, properly vouched, by the fourth day of May next. The Executors will not be responsible for any claims against the estate after that date. JOHN WARREN. ROBT. KENNEDY, Executors of the estate of the late Mrs. Ann Clark. Acton, April 3, 1877. 40-4f

TO FARMERS. Now is the time to improve your stock. The first prize bull, Sir William Temple (2286), dam Diana, by Red Prince (602), will serve cows on the premises of the undersigned during the season. Terms—Thoroughbred cows \$4.00; Grate cows \$1.50. JOEL LESLIE. Lot No. 5, 1st con. Erin. April 4, 1877. 40-3m

NOW THEN! ATTENTION! Robert Fisher Has everything that you want in Tinware, Stoves, and Kitchen Furnishings, all to be sold cheaper than ever.

An immense stock just arrived. Brass Kettles, Porcelain Lined Kettles, Lanterns, Smoothing Irons, Milk Pails, Japanned Ware, Pressed Tinware, COOKING BOX AND PARLOR STOVES, STOVE PIPES, &c., &c. EAUTROUGHING, Jobbing and Repairing Promptly Attended to. ROBERT FISHER. Acton, April 3, 1877. 40-3m

REPAIRING ON PLOWS, and also also kinds of Lath Work and Iron Planing on the shortest notice. Please call and examine our plows before purchasing elsewhere. AGENTS FOR Sharp's Self-Dumping Hay and Stubble Rake. Acton, Feb. 13, 1876.

UNDERTAKING. The undersigned begs leave to inform the people of Acton and vicinity that he will furnish all Requisites in Undertaking on short notice and reasonable terms as can be had. Hearse Supplied when Desired. Also that he will Fit up Stores & Offices in the best style. Show Cases, Book Cases and Desks made to order. FURNITURE REPAIRED. Shop on Willow street, near Main st. P. M. McCANN. Acton, March 20, 1876. 39-6m

TO BREEDERS. The thoroughbred Durham Bull "Zephyr," will serve cows on the premises of the undersigned, near the Grand Trunk station, Acton. Terms—Durham 2nd Grades, \$2. Pedigree—Zephyr (600) bred by E. W. Stone, Guelph, got by Imported Sheriff (2964), dam Campbell 10th. C. S. SMITH. Acton, Feb. 14, 1877. 35-1f

DRESSMAKING. MISSES MANN respectfully announce to the ladies of Acton and vicinity that they have commenced business as Dressmakers in the house recently built by Mr. Edward Mathews, and Nicklin's bakery. The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited. Dressmaking in the best manner and most fashionable style. MISSES M. & M. S. MANN. Acton, March 21, 1877. 33-2m

CASH FOR WHEAT. Any quantity of good merchantable wheat wanted at the Acton steam mills, for which the highest market price will be paid in cash. B. & E. NICKLIN. Acton, Feb. 7, 1877. 32-1f

BARGAINS! HURRY, HURRY!

BARGAINS BARGAINS

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES,

Boots and Shoes

HALF COST PRICE For One Month Only.

J. D. WILLIAMSON & Co., Having bought the

McNair BANKRUPT Stock Will run off the whole lot at Half Cost Price, at McNair's New Store, Acton.

This Great Chance of Buying your Goods for one-third the Usual Price will last for One Month Only.

HURRY IN AT ONCE The Slaughter will commence to-day, Thursday, 12th April.

J. D. WILLIAMSON & Co. Acton, April 11, 1877.

The Acton Plow Co. Are manufacturing the celebrated STEPHENSON PLOWS, AND The 'Boss' Gang Plow They keep a full stock on hand, and are prepared to do all kinds of Repairing on Plows, and also also kinds of Lath Work and Iron Planing on the shortest notice. Please call and examine our plows before purchasing elsewhere. AGENTS FOR Sharp's Self-Dumping Hay and Stubble Rake. Acton, Feb. 13, 1876.

Stylish Buggy or Serviceable Wagon. I am making up a large stock for the present season, from the best material. Call and See our Handmade Buggies. Now is a good time to secure bargains. Strict attention given to Horse-Shoeing & General Blacksmithing. JAMES BYDER. Acton, Feb. 26, 1877.

PAINING AND Paper Hanging. The undersigned is prepared to do all kinds of House Painting, Kalsomining and Paper Hanging in the very best manner, and on reasonable terms. Residence corner of John and Agnes streets, Acton. W. H. WALKER. Acton, Feb. 14, 1877. 32-2m

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