THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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Acton Free Press

THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 28, 1878

The Press and the Pulpit.

We notice that several of our exchanges have taken it upon themselves to severely reprimand the Rev. Mr. Hobbs, of this Village, for the course he has pursued in "denouncing the skating rink." They hold consider'ble abuse at his head for his daring to say anything against such a place of innocent amusement as a skating rink. They merely say that there is no harm connected with a skating rink, but do not bring forth any facts to prove that such is the case.

We entirely disagree with the views expressed by these journals, as far as Mr. Hobbs is personally concerned. Mr. Hobbs was in sympathy with the skating rink until carnivals were introduced, when he felt it his duty to warn his congregation from attending them, as he had been at and seen enough of carnivals to warrant him in denouncing them.

One of the journals referred to heads its editorial with "Pulpit profanity," but where the "profanity" comes in we fail to see. If a minister sees the approach of what he thinks to be evil, it is a duty he owes to both God and man to warn his fellows to keep away from it. He does not see any harm in skating, provided it is kept within proper bounds, but he thinks a person can exercise their body and mind just as well, and better, without having carnivals connected with the rink. Mr. Hobbs is put there to warn his fellow-creatures of the approach of evil, and if he does not warn them according to the dictates of his own conscience, but steers a middle course, to please everybody, what a sin will he have to account for! If a preacher cannot preach what he thinks to be right, what is the use of having him in the pulpit at all!

In this case, we think that the editors of the journals above referred to are entirely wrong in saying that carnivals are right, when a minister of the gospel denounces them as being wrong, but should leave it for each individual person to take the matter home to himself and judge whether it be right or wrong.

Eternal Punishment.

A renewed agitation of the question of endless punishment is just now occupying the minds of the press and the pulpit, both in this continent and in Great Britain. The recent utterances of men like Canon Farrar, in a series of sermons in Westminster Abbey, and of Henry Ward Beecher, in Plymouth Church, have excited more than ordinary interest in the doctrine of a future hell.

The world has, truly, been awakened from a sleep of ages, and what would, a little while ago, have been denounced as rank heresy and infidelity, now assumes the milder term of "liberalism," and is tolerated with free discussion. What the general effect may be to the orthodox views, time only can tell.

Because Farrar and Beecher have denounced the coarse old caricatures of perdition, which belong more to the Middle Ages than to the faith of the present, there are those who greedily grasp the hope that there is no hell at all. Nothing would be more welcome to the remorseful sinner than the final putting out of the fires of hell, and no preaching would be so delightful to him as the announcement that there is no future punishment for the wicked—if he could only believe it.

The question of the future condition of impenitent souls cannot be determined by human experience, observation or reason in this life, and we cannot see why the words of Canon Farrar or Beecher should weigh a whit more, for or against a doctrine, than the words of any other man. Although they may be learned and eloquent, and gifted with genius, yet surely the question of future punishment is not one to be decided for men by the most learned scholar.

No living man can speak to us out of his own experience on this point, and no one can testify from personal observation. Eternity is a sealed book, alike to the learned and unlearned, and truly it has been said—

"Our entrance in Life is both naked and free,
Our journey that way it is toil and care,
Our exit from life we know not where,
But doing well here we shall do well there."

One could not say more by preaching a year.

The War News.

The rumors respecting the progress of peace negotiations and the attitude of the several European Powers have been very unsatisfactory and contradictory during the past few days. On Saturday there were reports that the situation had taken a turn for the worse, but these have been contradicted. It is asserted that the Anglo Russian situation is unimproved, and that all danger of a rupture has been avoided; that Russia is showing a disposition to respect English interests and modify her terms, and, on the other hand, that she will fight rather than abate one jot of her pretensions; that the peace treaty is on the eve of signature, and that peace has been concluded; that public opinion in Austria is strongly in favor of peace, and that the Austrian peace party cannot long hold their own; and so reports and rumors go on multiplying each other without end. But, taking a middle course, we shall probably not be far wrong in assuming that the signature of the Turco-Russian treaty is not far off.

The Nova Scotia Legislature was opened on Thursday. The Speech from the Throne, after alluding to the improved commercial prospects and provincial railway matters, refers to the submission of a measure for the assimilation of the local election law to that of the Dominion; the delegation sent to Fredericton to confer with the New Brunswick Government on the subject of Maritime Union; the fisheries Award and other matters.

The selection of Cardinal Pecci to the Popedom seems to be looked upon with general favour, and will doubtless give more satisfaction than the selection of almost any of the other aspirants would have done. France has been favorably impressed by the choice, and Bismark considers that it is the most suitable one that could be made at present. The feeling is that Pope Leo the Thirteenth will make a most excellent successor to Pope Pius the Ninth.

There are in Ontario 39 counties, of which the total population, according to the census of 1878, is 1,862,035. The county having the largest population is York, the figures being 133,486. The county having the smallest is Parry Sound, the figures being only 1,747.

John Walter, Liberal member of Parliament for Berks, and chief proprietor of the London *Times* was black-balled at the Athenæum Club on account of his anti-Turkish sentiments.

The Legislature of New Brunswick meets to-day.

Spelling matches are becoming popular in Newmarket.

Hanlan will row Plaisted, of Boston, for $1,000 a side, on Toronto Bay, in the middle of March.

At 1:15 on Sunday morning, a fire broke out in the Worswick Engine Manufacturing Company's machine shop, Guelph, which in a short time destroyed the entire establishment, excepting the engine and boiler house. The origin of the fire is a mystery, as no stoves were used on the premises. Mr. Worswick made a thorough inspection of the building about 12 o'clock, having been engaged up to that time on important drawing. The fire was first discovered by the caretaker of the Baptist Church, who gave the alarm. The strong wind blowing at the time carried the flames from one end of the building to the other with amazing rapidity, preventing the saving of anything except a little of the machinery. The machinery in the establishment was of the very best description. The loss amounts to between $50,000 and $60,000; insurance $29,300.

Correspondence.

We wish it to be understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

The Skating Rink.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

DEAR SIR,—

After all that has been said about the Rev. Mr. Hobbs, by the "Acton Skating Club," and also by "An Occasional Skater," through the columns of your valuable paper, I have been thinking that it would not be amiss for me to call the attention of the public to two or three important points which ought not to be overlooked.

In the first place, Mr. Editor, I think it strange that outsiders, *i.e.*, those who have not been renewed by the converting grace of God, and in every sense of the word, are "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God," should resort to the columns of your paper to vindicate themselves in the indulgence of that, which, to say the least of it, allures the mind from "spiritual things." Is there not also a great danger of wasting time and money that might, and should be spent for better purposes? The question is being asked: Why are those trying to vindicate themselves and their practices through the columns of the FREE PRESS by the use of such arguments as the following: "Mr. Hobbs attended an entertainment at Crewson's Corners, where some person sang 'Tommy make room for your uncle;'" "Mr. Hobbs announces for socials, tea meetings, &c., and attends them." Now, Mr. Editor, what do they prove? I must confess I do not wonder that Mr. Hobbs, when referring to the writer of the article, ironically said it must have been some poor *old* woman, but we find there is a *man* willing to confess he did it, and assures us that the "Occasional Skater" is not a woman.

Whoever the writers of the articles were, they must have been sadly deficient in the rules of etiquette. If I know anything about it, I say that it is very bad manners to compare the character of one person with another, especially in public, and they must be totally ignorant of a minister's duty if they think that it is not his duty to denounce existing evils, and with as strong language as the nature of the evil demands. Mr. Hobbs does denounce, in very strong language too, existing evils, as seen in the way and manner skating rinks are being conducted. As far as I can learn, it is carnivals and masquerades that Mr. Hobbs condemns and not the act of skating in itself. But is he to swear in his denunciations of the above practices? Let us see. He is the Pastor of the Methodist Church in this Village. He has a right to have the welfare of the people at heart. He is called upon by the Almighty to "watch over souls as one who will have to give an account." He sees in the above practices an allurement, to say the least of it, to draw away the minds of the younger portion of his charge from that which is "spiritual and divine." Time wasted, money expended, intellect neglected, and, if the language of St. Paul be true, "good manners *corrupted*." For we must not lose sight of the character of the general attendants at carnivals and masquerades. Are they not made up of those who are "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." Who ever saw or heard of a person noted for piety attending such places? If the word of God be true a minister cannot be too hard in denouncing existing evils.

I am sure I am safe in saying that the late communications which have appeared in your columns, Mr. Editor, written by the "Acton Skating Club," and "An Occasional Skater," are not the sentiments of the members of the Methodist Church, neither do they concur with the slanderous language used in the articles against their minister. We wish the public to bear this in mind.

By inserting the above, Mr. Editor, in your valuable paper, you will greatly oblige,

Yours &c.

MEMBER METHODIST CHURCH.

A Young Lady's Opinion on the Skating Rink.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

DEAR SIR,—

As a friend of morality and social advancement, I have been much interested in reading several articles in the FREE PRESS of the 14th and 21st inst., criticising some remarks made by a minister of Acton on the "skating rink amusement."

Now, as I did not hear the sermon, nor have I visited the Acton skating rink to see how it is conducted, perhaps I should not say much about either. But, as to public amusements, I think we all feel interested in them, on account of their influence on the youth.

I think that it is generally admitted that skating with pleasant company is a delightful and healthful exercise, if not continued too long. But is it necessary for enjoyment or beneficial to the health to skate for a length of time, with intervals for resting in an atmosphere, which, though artificially heated, must still be damp and cool? And is it a sign of advancement in civilization and intelligence, and, above all, is it according to the teaching of the Bible and Christian culture to veil the human features with the semblance, if not of the monkey, certainly not of an intersting human face? What are its advantages? Does it tend to refine and elevate the mind? If, after spending an evening in this manner, will our sentiments be purer? Will we go back to our duties with fresh vigor, and be enabled to rise to a more noble and useful manhood and womanhood?

Of course, young people require amusement, but have we not musky socks, social conversation, etc? And how can we spend an evening more pleasantly than at a mutual improvement club, with anthems, art, plans for usefulness, etc., as topics of conversation and study. Then there is also the advantage of knowing whose company we are in. How many misunderstandings have arisen in social life through masked entertainments? I think that not only the greater part of the people of Acton, but also of the neighborhood, will feel, though they may not express it, obliged to the Rev. Mr. Hobbs for his Christian courage in so manfully filling his position as pastor of a church and a Christian minister.

For the far fame of the prosperous Village of Acton, I hope you will let your ministers preach the Word of God unfettered.

I remain, Mr. Editor,

NASSAGAWEYA.

Rev. Mr. Hobbs and the Rink.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

DEAR SIR,—

We wish to, ere we close this skating rink controversy, to dwell slightly upon one or two remarks made by the Rev. Mr. Hobbs last Sabbath evening.

He spoke of us as trying to *blacken* this character. We are very sorry, indeed, that the rev. gentleman has formed that opinion from our communications. We emphatically deny that we, either as a club or as individual members, ever entertained such an idea. We too highly esteem the office Mr. Hobbs holds to attempt to lessen his influence for good in this, or any other community.

Our communications were inserted in your paper merely to justify ourselves in the management of the Acton skating rink, and to prove that the manner in which our rink is conducted is not what Mr. Hobbs represented it to be.

Mr. Hobbs attempted to show that we kept late hours. In this we believe that he must have been misinformed, as we always close punctually at ten o'clock, excepting upon opening and carnival nights. We maintain that we do not allow immoral conduct in the rink, whether under the innocent disguise of a mask or not. As it is greatly to our own interest to keep the rink so respectable that *any person* wishing to enjoy the skating may not, in the least, find anything offensive, our carnivals have been conducted so that no person under any disguise could act ungentlemanly. We have printed regulations by which we are governed, and we assure you that our rules are strictly enforced.

In conclusion, we hope that Mr. Hobbs will not consider us such degraded creatures as to wish to blacken his, or any other person's character. We do not, as he supposes, try to keep the young people of Acton from the means of grace, as we, from the beginning of the season, strongly advised our young folks to attend prayer meetings in preference to our rink.

Thanking you kindly for the space allowed us,

We remain,

ACTON SKATING CLUB.

The Rink vs. Rev. Mr. Hobbs.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

DEAR SIR,—

Your correspondents on the subject of the skating rink seem very desirous, the public should be well posted on their opinion of the Rev. Mr. hobbs, and from their manner and attempts to justify the masquerade and carnival, it would seem evident to them at anyrate that Christian people could freely indulge in all such follies without incurring the condemnation of a self-accusing conscience, or even meriting the reproach of an intelligent worldling.

If religion is merely a form, and consistency out of the question, then, I admit such associations may be tolerated. But, surely, it is well understood in those days, that a person laying claim to the name of Christian, must keep himself from the least appearance of wrong, and not run with the giddy multitude to do evil. Skating, when reasonably indulged in, for recreation, Mr. Hobbs quite approved of as a healthy exercise. It was only the masquerades he condemned, and who, I ask, possessing the least knowledge of Christian ethics will say he done wrong.

One of your corrospondents says that the rink is patronized by the "most respectable part of the Village." That may be. But Christianity is one thing, and what passes current for respectability another.

A METHODIST.

Upon Getting a Wife.

We have been handed the following essay, "Upon Getting a Wife," for publication, which was read at the last meeting of Nassagaweya Debating Society:—

Young man, if you have arrived at the right point in life for doing so, let every other consideration give way to that of getting married. Don't think of doing anything else. Keep poking about among the rubbish of the world until you have stirred up a gem worth having, in the shape of a wife. Never delay the matter, for they say delays are dangerous. A good wife is the most constant and faithful companion you can have by your side while performing the journey of life. A dog isn't a touch to her. She is of more use, too, than you may at first imagine. She can smooth your linen and your cares for you; mend your trousers, and, perchance, your manners; sweeten your sour moments, as well as your tea and coffee for you; ruffle your shirt bosom, but not your bosom nor your temper, and, instead of sowing the seeds of sorrow in your path, she will sew buttons on your shirt, and plant happiness instead of harrow teeth in your bosom. Yes, and if you are too confoundedly lazy to do such work yourself, she will chop weed and dig potatoes for dinner, for her love to her husband is such that she will do anything to please him, except receive company in her every day clothes. When a woman loves she loves with a double distilled deadiness, and when she hates she hates on the high pressure principles. Her love is as deep as the ocean; strong as a hempen halter, and as immutable as the rock of ages. She wont change it except it is in a very strong fit of jealosy, and even then it lingers as if loth to part like evening twilight at the windows of the west. Get married, by all means. All the excuses you can fish up against doing the deed ain't worth a spoonful of pigeon's milk. Mark that, young man.

Young woman, I need not tell you to look out for your husband, for you are fixing your contrivances to catch one, and are as naturally on the watch as a cat for a mouse. But one word in your ear, if you please: Don't bait your hooks with an artificial fly of beauty; if you do, the chances are, ten to one that you will catch a gudgeon—that is some silly fool of a fish that is not worth its weight in saw-dust. But array the inner body with the beautiful garments of virtue, modesty, truth, morality and unsophisticated love, and you will dispose of yourself much quicker and to much better advantage than you would any other way, honorable to those who brought you to years of maturity. If you don't think so, just try your experience and you will see for yourself.

Pen and Scissor Selects.

Rose is to visit Barrie.

Berlin, Ont, has an indebtedness of $26,000.

Beware of Winnipeg city lot land sharks.

A second cousin of King Humbert, of Italy, resides in Guelph. So says the *Herald*.

Dr. Allen, of Belleville, has been committed for trial for attempting to produce an abortion.

A Brantford liquor dealer has been fined $50 and costs for allowing gambling on his premises.

Mr. A. McCorkindale, clerk of Guelph Township, who has been suffering from the growth of the left eye has had it removed by Dr. Roseburg, of Toronto.

It is reported that work will be resumed on the Credit Valley Railway early in the spring, and that a small gang is at present at work on the Elora Branch, near the village of Belfountain.

An Ottawa man by the name of Valiere puts in a claim to an enormous fortune left to a citizen of Montreal, to whom he claims the relationship of cousin. The fortune is said to amount to $15,000,000.

E. King Dodds purposes visiting those sections of the United States where a prohibitory liquor law is in force, with the view of learning how easily the law can be violated. He will report at a later date to the Canadians.

A Winnipeg despatch says there is great activity among the Fenians at St. Paul, and it is believed that a movement is intended in the direction of Manitoba in the improbable event of an Anglo-Russian war.

Considerable excitement is at present being created in Toronto over the proposed lecture on "Irish Liberty," to be delivered in the Royal Opera House, on Monday, the 18th of March, on which day the celebration of St. Patrick's anniversary will be observed—the 17th falling on Sunday—by O'Donovan Rossa, the notorious Fenian convict, who at present is enjoying his liberty through the clemency of the British Government. Rossa is to lecture under the auspices of the Hibernian and Young Irishmen's Societies, St. Patrick's Society standing aloof from the affair altogether.

In 1845 a young Montrealer named Valiere left for the States, and eventually got into business at New Orleans, where he soon began to make money. He rapidly acquired an immense fortune, and died in the beginning of the year worth some $15,000,000, and with no known heirs.

Between four and five o'clock on Monday morning, the dwellers on Front and Coleman streets, Belleville, were awakened by a loud and rumbling noise, made by the passage of the ice down the river. The great cakes of ice, as they passed down, made a great crashing, and everything they came in contact with was injured or carried away, and a number of buildings were demolished. The jam of ice prevented the free passage of water, which rapidly rose, until all the yards on the east bank were submerged, and the buildings were more or less injured. The jam against the Suspension Bridge was so great that one of the coils was broken. The water has not been so high since the flood of ten years ago, when the bridges were all carried away. The loss to property holders and merchants is great.

CREDIT SALE OF FARM AND FARM PROPERTY WITHOUT ANY RESERVE WHATEVER.

The undersigned has received instructions from Mr. John Allison to sell by public auction on Tuesday March 19, on lot 27, in the 5th con., Township of Nassagaweya, the farm containing 150 acres, 120 of which are under cultivation, 22 acres of wheat in ground and seeded down with timothy; 11 acres of rye; also 25 acres ploughed, the balance, 22 acres is timbered with pine and cedar, and 8 acres of hardwood. At the same time he will also sell the following Stock and Implements:

STOCK.—Span Horses 9 years old, 3 milch Cows, yoke Oxen 5 years old, yoke Steers 3 years old, 4 2 year old Heifers, 3 Yearlings, thorough bred Bull, 14 Sheep, 3 store Pigs, brood Sow.

IMPLEMENTS.—Lumber Wagon, Fanning Mill, light Wagon, pair Bob-Sleighs, long Sleigh, set double Harness, set chain Harness, 3 Ploughs, 2 Harrows, Cradle, gang Plough [Cossitt's make], combined Reaper and Mower, land Roller, Seed Drill [Watson's], Cultivator, Cutting Box.

Also a quantity of Hens, Turkeys, Geese and Ducks. Also Household Furniture—Cooking Stove [new], &c. and a quantity of other articles.

The above property must be sold as Mr. Allison is leaving the country. The Implements are nearly all new.

TERMS.—$10 and under, cash, over that amount 12 months' credit on approved joint notes. On real estate—$2,000 cash, the balance in instalments to suit purchaser, at six per cent. interest.

Sale to commence at 12 o'clock sharp.

W. W. ROE, Auctioneer.

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ANNUAL TEA MEETING

The annual Tea Meeting will be held in the

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, ACTON,

On the evening of

Thursday 7th March,

The following reverend gentlemen are expected to be present; Mr. Silcox, Toronto, C. Duff, Speedside, J. Unsworth and Mr. Lynch, Georgetown, R. Hobbs, D. D. Cameron, of Acton, and J. Davies, Pastor. Doors open at 6:30. Tea served from 6:30 to 8 o'clock. Admission, 25c. Children under 12, 15c.

P. S. ARMSTRONG, Treas.

Acton, Feb. 20, 1878. 34-2i.

WATSON

the Moral

HUMORIST

Will Lecture in the

TEMPERANCE HALL,

On the evening of

MONDAY, MAR. 11

SUBJECT:

"Particular Allurements and Proper Amusements of the Youth of Both Sexes."

Doors open at 7:30. Lecture to commence at 8 o'clock.

For particulars see hand-bills.

Admission 15c. Children 10c.

Reserved Seats 25c.

Pringle's Jewellery Store, Guelph.

TO FARMERS AND EVERYBODY ELSE.

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You can buy watches and clocks cheaper there than anywhere else, because Pringle having bought from Thos. Russell & Son for cash the whole of their stock in Guelph, and got it cheap, he can afford to sell cheap. All stock bought by him in future will be bought for cash. Merchants and traders know that this is a great advantage. Pringle has no connection with the firm of Russell & Son, any more than he is still their authorized agent for the Russell watch, which is acknowledged to be the best watch made. G. D. Pringle has also been established as agent for the Waltham and Elgin American watches, and a full line of them, from the lightest to the heavy six-ounce case, will be kept on hand. Remember that all those watches are now bought entirely for cash, and therefore can and will be sold by him cheaper than they can be got anywhere else. Beautiful Christmas goods coming in every day. Gold chains, gold rings, lockets, brooches, &c.

22-3m. ONE WHO KNOWS

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Please call and examine Our Stock.

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Acton, Dec. 12 1877.

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WM. LEITH, Proprietor.

Acton, Dec. 29, 1877.

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Acton, Aug. 22d, 1877.

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Price, in a sealed envelope, only 6 cents or two postage stamps.

The celebrated author, in this admirable Essay clearly demonstrates, from thirty years' successful practice, that alarming consequences may be radically cured without the dangerous use of internal medicine or the application of the knife; pointing out a mode of cure at once simple, certain and effectual, by means of which every sufferer, no matter what his condition may be, may cure himself cheaply, privately and radically.

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