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OLD TIMES AND NEW.

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OLD TIMES AND NEW.

JEREMIAH FODDER SEES FREDERICTON, AFTER MANY YEARS.

How the Highstalks Changed When They Moved Into a Two-story House—The Free Seats in the Cathedral—A Now-Forgotten Methodist Sermon.

I just took it into my head to tell you of a little trip to Fredericton I made a few weeks ago. I know it'll astonish my folks when they see it in PROGRESS for my folks always sends to town for it, they say it beats the other papers all holler, and I must say I think its ruther spicy myself. 'I'm a plain man, and don't put up to much learnin' but I hev ben very obsarvin all my life, and I hope I hev good sens enuf to know that natur never intended me to have a seat in the house of assembly.

I hadn't ben in town of a Sunday for forty three year, the reason I remember so well, I'd done a little lumber that year, and sold my logs to Mr. Bedell in the spring, and he paid me my money, so thinks ses I, I'll trect myself to a watch, for I'd never had none, so I bawt a good silver one from Mr. Justin Span and paid three pound for it, and I aint never had reason to repent my bargain. Mr. Span was a dutchman, but he was an excellent mechanic.

Well as I sed, I kinder hankered to spend a Sunday in town, so I got a chance and put up at the Cummershal, and havin the afternoon with nothin to do, I thought I would spend it a visitin my friends. I wanted to see Captin Currier, as good a man as ever sailed the river, but he was too sick to be seen. I hed sun noshen of goin down to call on the Judge's widdier, I knowed she'd be glad to see me for I alwus voted for her husband and didn't ask no pay for it ether, but I expected she'd press me to stay to tea, and as she's most a hundred years old she might take it to hart if I didn't, so as it was a good way down I giv it up. Now ses I to myself, there's Joshua and Marthy Ann Highstalk ther sort of elbow cuzzins, and they was rale clever the last time I called on them. To be sure they lived in a story and a haf house then, and they qir in a too story now, and it mite make a difarence, and it did, as I found out.

On percedin to the hous I rung the bell at the dore, and though I heerd fokes a talkin in the hall, they kept me waitin till the hired gal cum from the kitchen to let me in.

As soon as the sun had got out of my eyes, I spide Seraph, one of the dawters. Why, Seraph, ses I, how air you? I don't know you, ses she, in a very cool vice. Don't know Jeremiah Fodder, ses I, what ketchen you when you was fallin from the haymow 29 years ago next fall! I'd know you anywhere by yer hair. Jest then the gad sed Mis' Highstalks would resave me up stairs, and she did. a-settin on a big cheer that was all covered over with cloth flowers, and a most dazlin' room it was, with chancy ornaments and things I did not know the name of. Marthy Ann had a very high cap, or turben, on her head, and she spoke in a drawlin' vice, and hoped that my family was well; and where was I residin' now. I told her all the news I knowed; how Hiram's wife had twins and Sofrony was goin' to be married, and how I'd put a noo ruff on the inn barn, and that I'd a good stock of cattle and as much mudder land as I wanted. She kept sayin', ah, yes, indeed, in a patronizin' way. I am glad you are so comfortable. Jest then Seraph come in and, without noticin' me, sed: Maw, couldn't you order the dinner for five instead of six. You know we air doo at "The Jingles" at eight, and I want the coachman to take a note to "The Softwood." I kinder consaited they did not want me, so I bid them good day and left.

After I'd come home and was a-sittin' in the kitchen a-tellin' my wife and Ant Polly about my visit to the Highstalks, I thought they would a-killed themselves laffin'. They yelled and yelled, and jest held their sides. O, tell that agin about Marthy Ann, ses Ant Polly; it's jest like her. Me and her sister playd together when we was children, and she alwus would play "lady," and she nster set in a old sly way that was behind the barn for hours, a-pretendin' she was Mrs. Shore from Fredericton, and they laffed agin till the tears rolled down their faces. When Hanner could speak, ses she, I'll bet anything she consaited that thing on her head was a crown and she was Queen Victory. Well, ses I, don't git in high stericks about her; but, after all, we talked and laffed till nigh about midnight.

To go back to that Sunday in town I'd laid out to attend the Salvation Army and the Cathedral, so I went out when the first bell rung and walked on till I got to the Cathedral. I'd never ben inside before and I thought it was a mighty grand meetin' house. I went up pretty far, as I'm a leetle hard of heerin' and sat down in a pew, but a terrible old woman and two other wimmen sed it was their seat, so I moved a few pews fuder back, but a very civil spoken man told me he was accustomed to set there with his family, so I went back agin' and sot down aside of a colored man and was not disturbed no more. I'd run of a nosum that the sects was free, but it seems I was mistaken. As I sot there a meditatun', I observed fokes that I alwus thought was methodists, and other fokes that I was sure was Scotch Kirk, but there they was a reedin' their prayer books quite nateral. Well ses

OLD TIMES AND NEW.

I to myself I'm beat, but thank the Lord I don't see no Baptists. Jest then I heerd a vice that I thought I knowed a hollerin' the response, and I looked round and saw a man that I could have sworn was tellin' his experience at another meetin' about that time, and whose forefathers for nigh a hundred years back had all ben in the water.

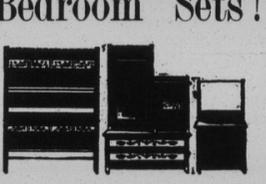
I was 'disapated at not hearin' the Bishop but he was away from home, but a rale nice pretty little man was in his place. I could not make out whether he was singin' or reedin', but I've no doubt it was very instructin'. As to the singing I can't say I admired the chantin' or the anthim' which was a few words over and over agin' "the sheel, the sword and the battle"; but the hims was grand and I enjoyed them much. There was one hansum woman that hollered for all she was worth. I never heerd such a powerful vice 'cept Phebe Pelter that uster sing "Invitation" at the corner singin' skool, but this ere woman had a vice that would fill Noter Dam in Rome.

In the afternoon I attended the Salvation Army, and though I liked part of their service I wasn't quite satisfied, they most all give the same testimony and the young gals seemed a leetle forud, but after all they've considerable gospel among em.

I was advised to go to Methodist in the evenin', so I went. It don't go in till seven, which I call late for fokes that has their milkin' and chores to do afterwards. When I come up the stair, I was met by a nice-lookin' young man with a most smilin' countenance, and he asked me did I wish a seat. I sed yes, sir, and took me up to a rale nice cushioned pew. Bimby by the fokes begun to come in, and ses I to myself, this can't be a Methodist meetin'. John Wesley wouldn't own it. Sec'h finer, sech bunmits, sech fashions, 'pon my word I was struck. They begun by singin a most lovely him, to the tune of Elmwood, and I jined in with all my hart. Then the minister offered a most bewifull prayer, and then he red a chapter and the quire kind of chanted, and then there was another chapter and they sung an anthim. They was more words in it than the one at the Cathedral, but the tribbles seemed to chase the tensors, then the counters run after the basses, and the basses sassed back agin, and they 'peared to be runnin' after each other till they got through. They most hev ben tired. I must give them the credit of havin' some fast rate vices among 'em.

The minister gave us a rale good sermon. They was not as many beds as uster be in days gone by, but I liked it every word, but I didn't like one thing, and that was a singin' 'ab-nen after the prayer; it was too much like the church, and they borerred it from the Romans. I was thinkin' if good old Joseph Gaynor hed ben there he would hev gut up and protested. I'm goin' to spend another Sunday in town soon, and I'm goin' to bring Hanner with me to visit the rest of the churches. JEREMIAH FODDER.

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