

Hot Corn; or Life, in the City.

CHAPTER I.

"Hot corn! Here's your nice hot corn, smoking hot, smoking hot, just from the pot!"

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A new that exhausted nature slept—that a tender house plant was exposed to the chilling influence of a night of rain—that an innocent little girl had the curb-stone for a bed, and an iron post for a pillow—that by and by she would awaken, not invigorated with refreshing slumber, but poisoned with the sleep-inhaled miasma of the filth-reeking gutter at her feet, which may be breathed with impunity awake, but, like the malaria of our southern coast, is death to the sleeper.

It was past midnight when she awoke, and found herself with a desperate effort just able to reach the bottom of the rickety stairs which led to her home.—We shall not go up more to a little while, reader, you shall see where live the city poor.

Tired, worn with the daily toil—for such is the work of an editor who caters for the appetites of his morning readers—we were not present the next night to note the absence of that cry from its accustomed spot; but the next, and next, and still on, we listened in vain—that voice was not there. True, the same hot corn cry came floating upon the evening breeze across the Park, or wormed its way from some cracked fiddle voice down the street, up and around the corner; or out of some dark alley, with a broken English accent, that sounded almost as much like "lager beer" as it did like the commodity the immigrant, struggling to eke out his precarious existence, wished to sell.—All over this great, poverty-burdened and wicked-waste, extravagant city, at this season, that cry goes up nightly, proclaiming one of the habits of this late-supper-eating people.

Yes, we missed that cry. "Hot corn" was no longer like the music of a stringed instrument to a weary man, for the treble string was broken, and, to us, the harmony spoiled.

What was that voice to us? It was but one of the ten thousand, just as miserable, which may be daily heard where human misery has its abode. That voice, as some others have, did not haunt us, but its absence, in spite of all reasoning, made us feel uneasy.

It was this feeling that prompted us, as we left our desk one evening, to go down among the abodes of the poor. We followed in the route we had seen that little one go before—it was our only cue—we knew no name, had no number, nor knew any one that knew her whom we were going to find. Yes, we knew that good missionary, and she had told us of the good words which he had spoken, but would he know her from the hundred just like her? Perhaps. It will cost nothing to inquire. We went down Centre street with a light heart; we turned into Cross street with a step buoyed by hope; we stood at the corner of Little Water street, for the sound of prayer, followed by a sweet hymn of praise to God, went up from the site of the Old Brewery, in which we joined, thankful that that was no longer the abode of all the wrongs that ever concentrated under one roof.

Here! a step approaches.—It were a curious question to ask a stranger, in such a strange place, particularly one like him, haggard with over-much care, toil or mental labor. Prematurely old, his days shortened by over-work in young years, as his furrowed face and almost frenzied eye hurriedly indicate, as we see the flash of the lamp upon his dark visage, as he approaches with that peculiar American step which impels the body forward at railroad speed. Shall we get out of his way before he walks over us? What if he is a crazy man? No, it is that good missionary—that man who has done more to reform that den of crime, the Five Points of New York, than all the municipal authorities of this police-hunting and prison-punishing city, where misfortune is deemed a crime, or the unfortunate driven to it, by the way they are treated, instead of being reformed, or strengthened in their resolution to reform, by hard words rather than prison bars.

"That voice. We could not be mistaken. We could not enter. Let us wait a moment in the open air, for there is a choking sensation coming over us."

"Come in," said our friend. "Will he come?" Two hands were stretched out imploringly toward the Missionary, as the sound of his voice was recognized.

"She is much weaker to-night," said her mother, in quite a lady-like manner, for the sense of her drunken wrong to her dying child had kept her sober, ever since she had been sick, "but she is quite delicious, and all the time talking about some man that spoke kindly to her one night, and gave her money to buy bread."

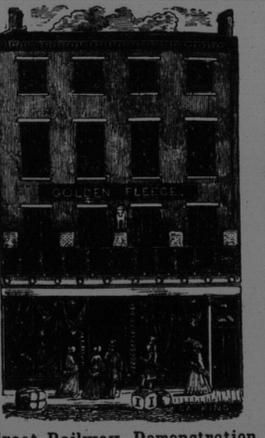
"Will he come?" "Yes, yes, through the guidance of the good spirit that guides the world, and leads us by unseen paths, through dark places, he has come."

"The little emaciated form stared up in bed, and a pair of beautiful soft blue eyes glanced around the room, piercing the semi-darkness, as if in search of something heard but unseen. "Katy, darling," said the mother, "what is the matter?"

"Where is he, mother? He is here! I heard him speak!" "Yes, yes, sweet little innocent, he is here, kneeling by your bedside. There, lay down, you are very sick."

"Only once, just once, let me put my arms around your neck, and kiss you just as I used to kiss papa. I had a papa once, when we lived in the big house—there, there—Oh, I did want to see you to thank you for the bread and the cakes; I was very hungry, and it did taste so good—and little S's, she waked up, and she ate and eat, and after a while she went to sleep; hasn't I been asleep a good while? I thought I was asleep in the Park, and somebody stole all my corn, and my mother whipt me for it, but I could not help it. Oh, dear, I feel sleepy now. I can't talk any more. I am very tired. I cannot see; the candle has gone out. I think I am going to die. I thank you; I wanted to thank you for the bread—I thought you would not come. Good bye—Sissee, good bye, Sissee—you will come—mother—don't—drink—any more—Mother—good bye—"

"This is the last of earth," said the good man at our side—"let us pray."



Great Railway Demonstration. THE PROPRIETORS OF THE "GOLDEN FLEECE," Prince William Street, East London.

Robinson & Thompson, Proprietors. TO our Country Friends who are visiting Saint John, to witness the great Railway Demonstration on the 14th inst., we would announce that the Proprietors of the "SHEPHERD HOUSE" have been preparing for this most important period in the history of New Brunswick, and have provided a vast variety of attractions worthy of their special notice, besides a large collection of Fancy Articles suitable for presents; they will also find useful Furnishing Goods, which contribute so much to domestic comfort, and at the lowest prices. Below are enumerated only the leading or more important articles.

Watches, of both English and Geneva manufacture, in Gold and Silver Cases, with every modern improvement. JEWELLERY, consisting of elaborately wrought Chains, Bracelets, Rings, Brooches, Earrings, Cuff Pins, Lockets, Crosses, Pencil Cases, Gold Pens, Watch Keys, Stands, Studs, etc., etc., of the most novel designs, Silver and Electro Plate of every description, including Tea and Coffee Services, Waiters, Cake Baskets, Candlesticks, Butter Cakes, Toast Racks, Castors, Napkin Rings, Butler Knives, Fish Carvers, Tea and Table Spoons, Forks, etc., etc.

Pepper, Loaf Sugar, Mustard. Landing, per Miramichi, from London, 20 BAGS Black PEPPER; 25 kegs Coleman's SP MUSTARD; 10 cases Coleman's BEST STARCH; 1 case NUTMEG; 2 cases CASSIA; 2 cases LIQUORICE; 3 cases PICKLES, assorted; 1 case CREAM TARTAR; 1 case SALTPEPER; 1 case Blue VITRIOL.

Shawls, Shawls! Received per steamer Cambria, SILK Checked, CACHIMERE, DE ECOSSE, SARGEE, Tissue, and Damask Silk SHAWLS; Embroidered Circassian, Alpaca and Merino ROBES. JAMES SMELLIE, Prince William-street, May 24.

Miss BARCLAY, From Manchester, England, begs most respectfully to inform the Ladies of St. John, that she intends opening a Dress and Mantle Making Establishment, in Mr. CALWORTH'S House, Charlotte Street, July 2. Two or three Apprentices wanted.

JARDINE & CO. ARE now receiving, ex ship Imperial, a part of their usual supply of GROCERIES, etc.—Cases Golden SYRUP; bales Hemp Bed Cord; Cases Peruvian Lustre, Tripoli, Patent Starch; Spanish Chocolate and Prepared Cocoa; Cakes Cream Tartar, Blue Vitriol, Sulphur; 2 cases LIQUORICE; 1 case SALTPEPER, Black Lead, Borax, Camphor; Ground Ginger, &c.

MORRISON & CO., Prince William-street, Are now receiving per Packet Ship "LIBERIA," 23 Packages of FALL Goods, in Flannels, Doekskins, Pilot, Mohair, and Hemaley CLOTHS, Printed COTTONS, &c. &c. &c. To which they would earnestly call the attention of both Wholesale and Retail Buyers. MORRISON & CO. St. John, August 23, 1853.

NEW STYLES. JUST RECEIVED, per steamers Admiral and Eastern City, from New York and Boston:—A large assortment of Gents' and Youths' Hungarian, Magyar, Cass, Jenny Lind, Cuban, D'Orsay, Egin, Kossuth and other HATS, comprising all the newest styles. Gents' Panama and Leghorn Hats; Children's Leghorn, China Pearl and Fancy Trimmed Felt HATS; Trunks and Valises, various qualities; OILED SILK, a beautiful article; Children's BELTS, very pretty; Peaks, Braids, Straps, Sweets, Kossuth Feathers, etc., etc.

Adams' Hardware Store. Dock Street Corner, Market Square. The Subscriber has received, per Ships Imperial, Miramichi, &c., 4 CASES SHOT; 10 rolls LEAD PIPE 8 rolls SHEET LEAD; 180 kegs Brandrams No. 1 WHITE LEAD, 1 cwt.; 90 kegs Green, Black, Yellow and Red PAINT; 20 casks best fine WHITING; 1 cask REFINED BORAX; 1 cask REPAIRING HOOKS and SICKLES; 34 dozen GRINDING SCYTHES; 1 case Cross-cut SAWS; 2 cases Planes, Chisel Handles, &c.; 1 cask Hair Cloth; 5 cases containing Blacksmith, Mill and other FILES; Pocket and Table CUTLERY; John Wilson's Shoo, Butcher, Farrier, Leather and Putty Knives, Razors, &c.

ADAMS' HARDWARE STORE. SAWS, FILES, &c. Received per "Middleton," "Perseverance," &c.—130 G GANG SAWS, (Hoole, Stanforth & Co.); 60 Gang SAWS, (Hoe & Co.); 60 Cross Cut SAWS; 12 PR SAWS; 200 Assorted MILL FILES, "Vickers" and others; 130 do. Pit, Blacksmith, and Cross Cut Saw FILES; 180 do. KNIVES, one, two and three Blade Pocket Iron Tea and Table Spoons, Carpenter's Rules, Trout Hooks, &c.

Oil, White Lead, Starch, &c. Landing ex ship Lisbon, from London—30 CASES Raw and Boiled Linseed Oil; 25 casks WHITING; 5 casks PUTTY; 150 bars Swede IRON. For sale low before storing. May 31. CUDLIP & SNIDER.

Teas, Tobacco, Cigars, &c. Just received, and on sale by the subscriber—60 CHESTS and 60 half-chests Superior quality Congo & Sonchong TEAS; 20 boxes Cavendish TOBACCO; A few Thousand excellent quality CIGARS. JOHN V. THURGAR, Aug. 9. North Market Wharf.

Unrivalled Cotton REELS. THIS very superior and popular Sewing Thread can be supplied by the subscriber—the Sole Agent of the Manufacturers—in any assortment of quality to suit purchasers. He has received by recent importations—10 Cases well assorted 3 and 6 cord REELS, in 100, 200, and 300 yard lengths—of White, Black, and various colors. The quality of the above can, with all confidence, be recommended; and the attention of purchasers is requested, to call and examine the Goods. JOHN V. THURGAR, North M. Wharf, July 19, 1853.

Per "Cuba," from Boston: 100 B OXES Bunch RAISINS; 50 bags Java COFFEE. FLEWELLING & READING, March 22.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT. A MOST MIRACULOUS CURE OF BAD LEGS, AFTER 43 YEARS SUFFERING. Extract of a Letter from Mr. William Galpin, of 70, St. Mary's Street, Weymouth, dated May 15th, 1851.

To Professor HOLLOWAY. SIR—At the age of 27 my wife (who is now 61) caught a violent cold, which settled in her legs, and ever since that time they have been more or less sore, and greatly inflamed. Her agonies were distracting, and for months together she was deprived entirely of rest and sleep. Every remedy that medical men advised was tried, but without effect; her health suffered severely, and the state of her legs was terrible. I had often read your Advertisement, and advised her to try your Pills and Ointment; and, as a last resource, after every other remedy had failed, she consented to do so. She commenced six weeks ago, and strange to relate, is now in good health. Her legs are painless, without seam or scars, and her sleep is sound and undisturbed. Could you have witnessed the sufferings of my wife during the last 43 years, and contrast them with her present enjoyment of health, you would indeed feel delighted in having been the means of so greatly alleviating the sufferings of a fellow creature. (Signed) WILLIAM GALPIN.

A PERSON 70 YEARS OF AGE CURED OF A BAD LEG, OF THIRTY YEARS STANDING. Extract of a Letter from Mr. William Abbs, Builder of G. Ovens, of Rushford, near Huddersfield, dated May 31st, 1851. To Professor HOLLOWAY. SIR—I suffered for a period of thirty years from a bad leg, the result of two or three different attacks of Gout. My legs, accompanied by scabrous eruptions, I had recourse to a variety of medical advice, without deriving any benefit, and was even told that the leg must be cut off, yet, in opposition to that opinion, your Pills and Ointment have effected a complete cure in so short a time, that few who had not witnessed it would credit the fact. WILLIAM ABBS. The truth of this statement can be verified by Mr. W. P. England, Chemist, 13 Market Street, Huddersfield.

A DREADFUL BAD BREAST CURED IN ONE MONTH. Extract of a Letter from Mr. Frederick Turner, of Penarth, Kent, dated Dec. 13th, 1850. To Professor HOLLOWAY. DEAR SIR—My wife had suffered from Bad Breast, for more than six months, and during the whole period had the best medical attendance, but all to no use. Having before had an abscess in my own leg by your medicinal medicine, I determined again to use your Pills and Ointment, and therefore gave them a trial in her case, and fortunate it was I did so, for in less than a month a perfect cure was effected, and the benefit that various other benefactors of my family have done me, I have not time to mention. I now strongly recommend them to all my friends. (Signed) FREDERICK TURNER.

A WONDERFUL CURE OF A DANGEROUS SWELLING OF THE LEG. To Professor HOLLOWAY. SIR—For more than twenty years my wife has been subject, from time to time to attacks of inflammation in the side, for which she was bled and blistered to a great extent, still the pain could not be removed. About four years ago she saw, in the papers, the wonderful cures effected by your Pills and Ointment, and thought she would give them a trial. To her great astonishment, she felt a relief from their use, and after persevering for three weeks, the pain in her side was completely cured, and she has enjoyed the best of health for the last twelve months. (Signed) FRANCIS ARNOT.

NEW SPRING GOODS. JAMES BURRELL, Corner of King and Germain Streets. HAS received per St. John, from Glasgow, part of his Spring supply of DRY GOODS, viz:—SHAWLS, Delaines, Cashmeres, Fancy Printed Muslin Dresses, Gingham, Handkerchiefs, Harness Filled Bordered Book Muslins, Linens, Towellings, Sewed Muslin Habit Shirts and Chemises, White and Shaded Yarn, Reels, &c. &c. Remainder daily expected. JAMES BURRELL, April 26. Corner of King & Germain Streets.

Vulcan Foundry Manufacturers. A LARGE assortment of the manufactures of the Vulcan Foundry, consisting of Bay Stair and Patent Union COOKING STOVES, GRATES, RANGES, Register GRATES, Close Stoves, PUMPS, &c., &c., all of the most approved patterns as descriptions. For sale at the Warehouse of the subscriber. The above Goods can be recommended to the attention of the public. Orders for Castings or Work required at the Foundry will have attention, if left at the Counting Room of JOHN V. THURGAR, North Market Wharf, April 26.

Groceries! Groceries! Per ship Canmore, from Glasgow—216 PACKAGES GROCERY GOODS. JAMES MACFARLANE, June 7. SUGAR. LANDING from Brig Lucy Ann—40 hhd's Very bright Porto Rico SUGAR.—For sale low by May 24. FLEWELLING & READING. Pure Concentrated Flavoring Extracts, For Ice, Jellies, Custards, Syrups, Pastry, &c. COMPRISING Vanilla, Lemon, Rose, Bitter Almond, Peach, Kernel, Ginger, &c. Also—1 Case superior Rose and Orange Flower WATER. Just received and for sale by THOMAS M. REED, Head of North Wharf, March 1. SUGAR & MOLASSES. Landing ex Victor and Pelgrim, from Porto Rico 206 H HDS. Bright SUGAR; 16 T Hds. 241 hhd's. Molasses & Molasses, 16 T Hds. do. do. All of very choice quality.—For sale by JARDINE & CO May 24. Clinch Rings. THE subscriber has just received, per Packet Ship Liberia, a good assortment of Convex and Pressed Clinch Rings. W. H. ADAMS, Aug. 23.