

# PROFESSIONAL BEGGARS IN TORONTO.

Their Green Room—Novel Eye Shades—The Cost of an Outfit.

Wishes for The World by G. H. C. How I managed to penetrate into the green room of the beggars, as I may term it, will not be of any interest to anyone but myself. Suffice it to say, I did penetrate; and what I there heard and saw will be of interest. There is in a remote part of the city an establishment kept by a descendant of Father Abraham for the sole use of beggars. It is a sort of "beggars' manufactory," and very good work it turns out. Here they make sound men lame, blind and sore for a time, and at the expiration of the time transform the lame, blind and sore ones into sound men. Mr. Jew, like all his brethren, doesn't work for nothing; he has a regular scale of charges. To be fitted up as a beggar costs money, and the more fitting up you require the more it costs. So if you only wish to be lame; time you may be for about twenty-five cents a day, but if you wish to add some eyes to the lameness you will have to pay double that amount.

Very few adult beggars go into the sore eye business; the process is not pleasant, and besides it takes too long; so they devote the juvenile part of the community to that art. The poor children are assigned to the tender mercies of the Jew, who for a consideration undertakes to give them opthalmia, (or rather an imitation of it). The children are tied to a chair and each eye covered with a pill box.

In each box is a cockroach. When the cockroach gets hungry he commences to feed upon the eyelids of the poor little martyr, and in a few days the work is accomplished. The boxes are taken off and the eyes dressed with some chemical to make it even worse than it was before; and the child is ready for begging.

Sometimes they omit the cockroach part of the treatment, and instead irritate the eyes with cowage. It takes a long, long time for any person so treated to regain their sight, and it never is worth much afterwards. The parts the adult beggars play are not so painful. The chief preparation they have to go through is a series of hot oil baths, to render the joints pliable; all the rest is very easy. Their limbs are simply bound up, in such a way as to seem to be minus, or are bent out of shape, by being kept tied in the position they require. They also manage by some means to stow away their tongues, and so cleverly is this done that any person unacquainted with their ways, would fail to discover that they had such an organ at all; but they have and can use it too; sometimes not very pleasantly.

The descendant of Abraham also lends suitable attire—"for a consideration." He also lends babies, on the same terms. Nearly everybody who meets with the "discreet mother" type of beggar. She is generally burdened with twins, and tells a pitiable tale "how her husband was killed by the cars and left her with these two poor lambs." Her husband is very likely in another part of the city telling some other lie, and the babies are hired "for a consideration. The twins never grow older. This may seem strange, but it is easily explained. As soon as they get too heavy to carry they are given up for a fresh pair, which the obliging Abraham has ready for hire.

Far be it from me to say that there are no really distressed people begging for their living. No doubt there are; but I say and I know that the vast majority of the beggars are humbugs and worse than humbugs—thieves. Only a few days ago an old woman took the very picture of a woe, came to my house and asked to be allowed to get warm. As the day was rather chilly she was told to come in and sit by the fire and after a while she departed—and a tablecloth with it.

These wretched impostors literally prey upon the charitable feelings of the people, and when their benefactor's back is turned, rob him. People should be very careful to whom they bestow charity, as success in begging encourages them to ramp and steal. Send two letter stamps for references, pamphlets and terms. World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

**The Blaine Family.** Mrs. Blaine is not popular among the ladies of Washington, as she is thought to have haughty manners. Walker Blaine, the eldest son, is a graduate of Yale, where he made a good record. He is a bright lawyer, a good linguist and a polished man of society. One of the last acts of Garfield was to make him third assistant secretary of state. He is now one of the counsel for the United States before the French claims commission. Edmund Blaine, the youngest son, is in a business office in Chicago and is said to be doing well. The youngest daughter has made a favorable impression on society by her beauty, cleverness and spirit. Such is the Blaine family, though no account of it, however brief, should overlook Miss Abigail Dodge, "Gail Hutton," who has been a member of the household for years.

**Sending Around the World for her Son.** From the New York Sun, June 11. The following advertisement was printed yesterday:

"JOHN SPEAK OF BRADFORD, ENGLAND, just received cable: your mother is dangerously ill; return home at once; cable message awaits you. W. M. FIRTH, SONS & CO., 90 Green street."

"John Speak," said Mr. Firth, "is the son of one of the wealthiest spinners and cotton manufacturers in Yorkshire. It is now nearly two years since his parents have seen him. He started to make a tour of the world, having nothing to do and plenty of money to do it with, and when he took an artist, whose expenses he paid. I don't know where he is, and am surprised to learn that his parents don't know. The family has a cable cipher, and in it John is informed of his mother's sickness. I suppose, but I can't read it. A cable message, sent on the same day (Monday last), informs me that Mrs. Speak is sinking. Speak is here from Australia about this time. We were playfellows in Bradford."

"A Perfect Flood of Sunshine"—will fill the heart of every suffering woman if she will only persist in the use of Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Remedy." It will cure the most excruciating periodical pains, and relieve you of all irregularities and give healthy action. It will positively cure internal inflammation and ulceration, and all kindred disorders. Price reduced to one dollar. By druggists.

**Take Your Choice.** From the Boston Traveler. In church and in state. It is ruled or he ruled. In courtship and marriage. It is fool or he fooled. In logic and law. It is sick or he cured. In gambling and trade. It is a trick or he tricked. In treaty and war. It is a heat or he beaten. In the struggle for life. It is out or he eaten.

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Don't Delay Sending in Your Answers.

At the solicitation of many friends TRUTH announces one more—the final—Bible competition. Owing to the fact of so many valuable rewards going to citizens of Toronto, this competition will be open only to persons living outside the city of Toronto. Any one residing in any other part of the habitable world will be eligible to compete for these magnificent rewards. The questions—which are supplied by an eminent Presbyterian minister—are very difficult, but the rewards are valuable. We hope the publisher of TRUTH will meet with the success his enterprise so richly merits. Everything he has offered in previous Bible Competitions has been promptly and cheerfully handed over to the successful contestants. We most heartily commend the paper to our readers. They will find it all in its representation of the full and complete list of all those who gain rewards are given in TRUTH the week following the close of each competition. There will be no change, and no postponement in any way; everything will be carried out exactly as stated.

HERE ARE THE QUESTIONS.

1.—Where is the first reference in the Bible to the day being divided into hours?  
2.—What is the superficial area in cubits or square feet of the largest building mentioned in the Bible?  
3.—What evidence have we that in Bible times women were often engaged in the manufacture of broad and awnings?  
4.—Every one competing must send two dollars with their answers, for one year's subscription to TRUTH. And aside from the rewards themselves, they will find that all those who gain rewards are given in TRUTH the week following the close of each competition. There will be no change, and no postponement in any way; everything will be carried out exactly as stated.

**First Prizes.**  
1 and 2.—Two elegant Grand Square Rosewood Pianos, by the celebrated makers, Stevenson & Co., which have made the highest reputation in the organ makers in Canada. \$250.00  
3.—One beautiful quadruple-plated Silver Tea Set. 100.00  
4.—One Gentlemen's Stem-winding and Stem-setting, latest style, Solid Gold Hunting Case Watch. 100.00  
5.—One Lady's Solid Gold Hunting Case Watch, latest style, latest design. 50.00  
6.—One Gentlemen's Stem-winding and Stem-setting, latest style, Solid Gold Hunting Case Watch. 100.00  
7 to 10.—Ten beautiful Silver Tea Sets, each with a pair of Butter Knives. 650.00  
11 to 20.—Ten Gentlemen's beautiful Solid Gold Silver Hunting Case Watches, each with a pair of Butter Knives. 200.00  
21 to 31.—Twenty Waterbury Watches, latest style, latest design. 100.00  
32 to 51.—Twenty Waterbury Watches, latest style, latest design. 100.00  
52 to 101.—Fifty two beautiful Gentlemen's Stem-winding and Stem-setting, latest style, Solid Gold Hunting Case Watches. 194.00  
102 to 151.—Fifty five beautiful Gentlemen's Stem-winding and Stem-setting, latest style, Solid Gold Hunting Case Watches. 325.00  
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952 to 1001.—Fifty five beautiful Gentlemen's Stem-winding and Stem-setting, latest style, Solid Gold Hunting Case Watches. 325.00

The above magnificent list of awards will be given to the first two hundred and fifty-two persons who send in correct answers to each of the three Bible questions given above. Then follows the big list of

**Second Prizes.**  
1.—FIVE ACRES OF BEAUTIFUL SITUATED LAND, adjoining the city of Toronto, with a fine view of the harbor, and a fine view of the city. 100.00  
2.—One beautiful quadruple-plated Silver Tea Set. 100.00  
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4.—One Lady's Solid Gold Hunting Case Watch, latest style, latest design. 50.00  
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