

## JACOB FAITHFUL.

### The Old Man Has Somewhat to Say About Municipal Matters, and Other Things of General Interest.

It will always take place that one in Jacob's position sometimes hits and sometimes misses, though it is no presumptuous immodesty for him to say that the hits are a great deal more numerous than the misses. I understand that some did not much like the references of last week to the coming semi-centennial celebration. I can't help that. They were correct and deserved all the same. Nothing more need be said on the subject. The money I suppose has to be spent. The processionists have to tramp through the streets. Foolish rapid speeches have to be delivered. A dull book has to be published and general self-glorification has to be the order of the day. Well, so be it. The money will get into some folks pockets, and it will be taken out of others, and the thing will then be over. So be it. It is to be hoped that the weather will be good, with the visitors in perfect voice and not too declamatory. How much wine is to be drunk?

I have of late been going a good deal about the city and find it all dreadfully dirty. The highways are bad, but the back lanes are worse. How does it come to pass that the scavenger carts come to some places with all the regularity of clockwork, while at others they are scarcely seen all the winter? It is surely about time that all the wells in the city were shut up. They are all more or less polluted with sewage, and the water is not fit for human use. No doubt the city water is also sometimes pretty bad, but it is nothing to what is found in the wells.

As the snow goes away the havoc made in the block pavements begins to be fully seen. It is pretty bad in some places, but after all it might have been

#### A GREAT DEAL WORSE.

In most of the streets there is not a block out of its place, and even on Yonge street, it can't be said that the spectacle is a discouraging one. Some places on King and Queen are not what they ought to have been, still taking all in all there is no use in saying that the cedar block pavement has been a failure. It is doubtful at the same time if it will wear so long as its promoters said it would.

The outlying villages in the suburbs of Toronto are coming gradually in and putting themselves under the wing of the metropolis. This is as it ought to be. It is better for all parties. But could it not be managed when the city is extending in the way it is to have larger wards and fewer Aldermen? The City Council is getting unwieldy. If the area were wider would there not be the greater likelihood of superior men being ready to stand for city honors? And could the trading ward politician not in this way be got quit of?

The respectable citizens must understand that they cannot neglect their civic duties without in one way or other suffering for it. And they ought not only to watch how municipal matters are managed, but to be ready with the Council when asked. The office ought to seek the men, not the men the office. No doubt being an alderman entails a good deal of trouble, and the withdrawal of a good deal of time from private business. But some body must take the trouble, and it is far better that those should do so who would be above private jobs, and would not seek to recoup themselves by questionable way.

I was over to the island on the first

boat, and saw all the desolation which some of the papers have so graphically described. It is bad enough, but I don't think it is quite so bad as some would make out. The winter storms of Lake Ontario are, however, bad enough, and good solid work is required to stand up successfully against them. The island is a nice place for a summer residence but Jacob would not like to spend the winter there.

The Free Library has been getting under way. Of course I got myself certified by a rate payer, and have certified my certifier in return. It is all right, though it looks

#### A LITTLE RED TAPISH,

something of the nature of accommodation bills. The reading-room is well frequented, though still in a good deal of confusion. Nobody can reckon on any magazine or paper being at a particular table. All is higgledy piggledy; as to people keeping papers only for a certain time there is nothing of it. But there is no sense of judging things before the time. The stands for papers will be up by and by, and one will be able to see where he is to go when he wants to see a particular paper or magazine. By the way, though I do not grudge the dirty little *gimmies* the use of the illustrated papers, I don't see why they ought to monopolize them altogether. The sooner a printed catalogue is proposed the better, and then every reader ought to be obliged to purchase one, and make out a list of books for presentation at the counter so that he might be supplied with the first one on his list which is available.

I was down the other day at the Union Station. Surely anything more unsatisfactory cannot be well thought of. Strangers have no chance to get any information about trains or anything else, and even those who are not strangers may well be put out. But the railway authorities have it all their own way, and so need not be civil or obliging or anything else.

Why are some of the newspapers in Toronto always blowing their horn so vociferously? Can't they be satisfied with being first clap without continually shouting out that they are the best papers in all creation? If they are so good the public will by and by make the discovery without their shouting. There is one especially of this kind who is especially silly. It is continually snapping at its big neighbor, like a poor little masterless cur after the heels of a Mastiff. It is sure this one is going down the hill. It is sure that one is not nearly as readable as another that could be mentioned. It proclaims on the housetops that its own poor little foolish talk are just about the wisest and cleverest things in creation that its sayings are most quoted, its facts most relied on and its opinions most thought of. Such nonsense, all this, and yet Jacob knows that its conductors go cap in hand begging for an advertisement for dear life while most of what it has are either dead or given in charity to get quit of the impotency and for almost nothing. Have respect, young men, to

THE NOBLE CALLING OF JOURNALISM, and don't make yourselves ridiculous, and a respectable profession contemptible. A healthy man does not tell every man that he can walk. He walks.

Is there to be a great Music Hall in Toronto? It is said so. It is proposed to erect it in connection with the new City Hall. It would pay and pay well if in a central position and with the charges made strictly moderate.

It is generally said that servant girls are much more numerous than they used to be and wages not nearly so high. Better that it should be so. The more a certain class set about kindling their own fires and doing their own dish washing the better. It will help all round. It is the curse of a great many girls that they are kept in complete idleness. This is good for neither body nor soul. Neither for mind nor morals.

JACOB FAITHFUL.

## Current Events.

### Canadian.

There were thirty persons immersed in the different Baptist churches in Toronto on Sunday of last week.

A terrible disaster occurred near Port Arthur, Manitoba. There was a premature explosion of a blast on the railroad works and six men were immediately killed, and several others injured.

The Canadian Pacific Railway telegraph line is now in operation between Montreal and Algoma Mills. It is also completed between Winnipeg and Michipicoten on the Lake Superior branch. At the present rate of construction it is thought telegraphic communication will be established all through Canadian territory, between Winnipeg and Montreal, by the 1st of May.

An interesting decision on the effect of marriage with a wife's sister, on the rights of property, was delivered at Osbourne Hall, Toronto on the 2nd, by Chancellor Boyd. Briefly, the decision was that, after the death of the wife, the husband is entitled to a life interest in the property as tenant by courtesy, and further, that to entitle a husband to tenancy by courtesy a legal marriage only is necessary. It need not be canonical.

The *Globe* says:—The increase of burglaries all over the Province is calculated to excite grave alarm. Toronto has had more than her usual share. Kingston had seven private residences and a church burglarized within a week. Hamilton has just had four daylight robberies in three days, while many towns and villages throughout the province have also suffered from recent burglarious operations. Who or what is responsible—the hard times, the carelessness of the people, or the inefficiency and inactivity of the police and constabulary forces?

The *Winnipeg Sun* says:—The perfect system adopted by the Canadian Pacific Railway for procuring a weather report from every station along the line has proved of invaluable service to the company during the past winter. When a storm was reported at any point along the line, and it was evident from its violence, and the direction of the wind, what course it would probably take, a report was sent to head-quarters, and all necessary preparations were made. In this manner very little loss or inconvenience resulted to the company from the storms of the past winter.

The editor of the *Calgary Herald* thus writes of the change in the North-West:—We arrived in Calgary early in August, last. On the following Sunday there was a horse race, two foot races, a baseball match, and two auction sales. Besides these, the billiard saloons were open and the stores doing a rushing business. Being fresh from the orderly decorum of an eastern Sabbath, it jarred upon our feelings to find people desecrating the Lord's day in such a manner. What a change has taken place! Last Sunday there were seven services held in Calgary, besides Sabbath school. "The sound of the church-going bell" was heard pealing forth its sweet-ringing notes, and a quiet, subdued manner was observed everywhere.

### United States.

It is estimated that the new *Jeannette* expedition to the north in search of the Greely party will cost something over a quarter of a million dollars.

President Arthur has made a proclamation restoring to the public domain all of the Turtle Mountain Indian reservation in Dakota, except two townships, which have been reserved for Indians.

At Columbus, Georgia, the steamer *Rebecca Eeringham* was burned to the water's edge on the 3rd inst., and thirteen of the passengers and crew were burned to death. The others had a narrow escape.

The loss of property is estimated at \$24,000.

There is a "Day Nursery" in Philadelphia where about sixteen children from three months to nine years old, are received each day, nursed, fed, and amused, while their mothers earn bread outside. They are provided with swings, hobby horses, toy waggons and other play things. After work hours are over the mothers come and take their children home and pay six cents apiece for the care given during the day. Many women are thus enabled to earn bread for their little ones.

The whistling craze is the latest in fashionable circles. In New York there is a coloured man who was once owned by Henry A. Wise, but more recently a waiter at Long Branch, who has as many pupils as he can attend to. They are mostly misses ranging from 10 to 16 years. He guarantees whistling, according to his system, to reduce the size of the mouth and give the lips a pouty, kissy appearance. In addition to this the exercise is good for the lungs, develops the chest, and induces cheerfulness.

### Personal.

El Mahdi, the leader of the rebels in the Sudan, is reported the possessor of no less than eighteen wives. Some writers are amused at the idea that Chingisso Gordon should expect to send a man like that home by the mere powers of moral suasion.

Mrs. Bowell, wife of the Hon. Commissioner of Customs, died recently in Southern California. She had been ailing with lung disease for some time and left her home at Belleville for California some months ago hoping to benefit by the change of climate.

Hon. John Stevenson, of Nanaimo, died at his residence last week. He had been a very successful and energetic business man, and by his own energy and industry he became very wealthy. He represented the County of Lennox in the first Ontario Legislature and was elected Speaker of the House.

Mr. J. C. Miller a wealthy lumber merchant of Parry Sound, Ont., died in Southern California on the 3rd inst. He had been in poor health for some time, and went to California health-seeking last summer. He was at one time a member of the Ontario Provincial Legislature, and a gentleman held in high esteem by those who knew him.

Lady Brassey, whose cheerful writings descriptive of the voyages of the yacht "Sunbeam" are so popular, writes, that when on her way to Egypt she was given a new pet, a long haired pig by the inhabitants of Navarino, and she evidently took to it as kindly as to pug and poodle dogs. She describes it as the quietest little animal imaginable, and enjoyed herself comfortably among the pillows on her sofa. This may make a new rage among pets.

Lady Manners has been writing some disagreeable things about the "higher circles" in English life. She says that in many of the Scotch and English country houses now a-days the time is largely occupied in eating. A succession of meals, each partaking more or less of the character of a dinner, occupies the guests, with brief intervals throughout the entire day. Bread and butter, with tea or spirits, on rising, hot and cold meats at ten, the game, with all sorts of puddings and jellies at two; tea, crumpets, and muffins, at five; and dinner and supper after that time. The thing is overdone.

### Religious.

Archbishop Gibbons, of Baltimore, having returned home from a visit to Rome, reports that at the conferences recently held there one of the chief subjects was "the higher education of the clergy, especially with regard to the physical sciences, so that pastors may be better prepared to refute the errors of modern scientists who pretend to discover a want of harmony between science and revelation."