CHILDREN'S CORNER.

A HUNT, AND HOW IT ENDED.

Come Towzer!" cries Rob, "here's a rat
in the trap!
Come, bushy-tailed Bouncer! come short-
legged Snap!
The cunning young rogue! we have caught
him at last:
Hurrah! my bravo hunters—but don't be
too fast;
Down, Towzer! off Bouncer! you can't
have him yet:
Be civil, old fellow! be patient my pet!
Out here in the yard, where there's plenty
of space,
And nothing to hinder, we'll give him a
a chase.

"Now, Towzer! now Bouncer! look out
for the fun!
There! steady! be ready! I'm letting him
run;
Be sharp, now—eyes open—look out!
There he goes!
Quick, Bouncer! he's scudding right under
your nose!
Along by the carriage way—up by the
spout—
Now take him, now shake him before he
gets out—
I'm ashamed of your hunting! you're
clumsy as bears!
There he is again! after him—up the hall
stairs!"

"You shouldn't be scrubbing right here
in the way,
Good Bridget! I told you so! You've got
your pay,
With your old tub of water!" And down
through the hall
Tumbled tub, Bridget, Bouncer, spill'd
water and all.
"Now, Towzer, you have him! No—yes!"
From the stair
He leaps through the rod of the baluster,
where
Old Towzer gets caught, at the instant
his teeth
Are ready to snap his poor victim beneath.

A rally, a dash, and across the hall floor
They pursue to the store room, rush in
through the door,
And follow with furious yelping and
leaping.
Close under the shelf, along which he is
creeping:
Beyond stands a cask; he springs off upon
that;
The dogs are there almost as soon as the
rat,
Capsizing the cover with clatter and din—
Away goes the rat, while a dog tumbles in.

Who cares all the while for the rat and
his troubles?
For life, 'tis for life. that he dodges and
doubles;
For even a rat finds it pleasant to live;
And 'tis death to be caught; and O! what
would he give—
What mountains of cheese, and what trea-
sures of corn,
To be back in the dark cellar where he was
born!
In vain by the churn and the firkin—in
vain
Behind the barrel he lurks, a brief respite
to gain:

They are dragg'd from the wall, and, with
clamor and scrabble,
Behind and before comes the mad rushing
rabble
Upsetting the churn, overturning the firkin
Not leaving him even a corner to lurk in—
Out into the passage, away they go dash-
ing,
Through entry and pantry, with gnashing
and crashing;
Snap, always too late by a second appears,
Excitedly barking and pricking his ears.
While along with them speeds the young
rat catcher clearing
The way for them—stamping, and shout-
ing and cheering.

I wonder how one little frighten'd rat feels
With a boy and three wild, yelping curs at
his heels!
"Seek! seek! now!" The poor, panting
fugitive has a
Last chance for himself on the old back
piazza:
Now Towzer is on him—he jumps from
his jaws:
Now Bouncer and Snap—he slips from
their paws;
Now all three together—in one second
more
Three moist muzzles meet at a hole in the
floor,
Just in season to tickle their tongues with
the sight
Taper end of a tail, as it frisks out of
sight!

They valiantly bark at the hole, and then,
falling
Exhausted beside it, lie gasping and loll-
ing;
Rob vows he will give his three dogs for
one cat—
But it wasn't so bad, after all—for the
rat.

MOTHER'S RENT.

The old house by the mill stream looked very pleasant that hot June morning. The bird's were singing in the trees, the insects were buzzing about in the sultry air, the stream was making gentle music as it took its way to the river, and the children playing amongst the daisies were as happy as early youth and innocence could make them; but poor Mrs Meadows was sad at heart. She had much to trouble her that warm June morning.

A year before, Mr. Meadows, a traveller, died suddenly, and all his widow now possessed was an annuity of fifty pounds a year, and that wasn't much for a widow with seven young children.

True, her eldest boy Robert was no longer a burden to his mother. He was in an office in a town some six miles distant, and only came home now and then on a Sunday. Though but sixteen Robert was earning eighteen shillings a week; but as he had to pay for his board and lodging, and dress respectably, Mrs. Meadows could not expect any help from him at present.

The widow tried to increase her income by a little plain sewing, but as she did all the household work herself, and had seven children under twelve to look after, there was not much time for that.

What troubled her most was the rent. To the little house by the mill stream Mrs. Meadows had been brought when a bride; and it would break her heart to leave it. But oh, that rent!—quarter-day seemed always coming round. The money was saved up, but something was sure to be wanted, and then the money had to be spent.

"I don't know what to do!" said Mrs. Meadows to herself, that warm June morning, as she sat at her work; "the rent must be paid, and we shall be turned out of house and home. I must try to move the furniture, or the children will be ill, or something happens to keep us in-doors, or my poor head will ache so that I shan't be able to work at all, and then what shall we do? I must try to move my poor head, or rent will be lost, and we must be turned out of house and home. I must try to move my poor head, or the children will be ill, or something happens to keep us in-doors, or the furniture will have to be sold."

Then Mrs. Meadows put on her bonnet and shawl, told Kitty to be careful that her younger brothers and sisters did not fall into the stream, and set out to walk to the town. She was not young and far from strong, and her long walk under the hot sun greatly fatigued her, and when she reached the office of Mr. Melton, her landlord, the poor widow felt almost exhausted.

To the surprise of Mrs Meadows, Mr. Melton was really polite.

"Ah! Mrs. Meadows!" he exclaimed. "Didn't expect to see you so soon. Sit down, madam, you must be tired after your long walk."

"Mr. Melton," said the widow, "I've come to ask a favor."

"Want the roof mended, eh? always something the matter with your roof."

"No, I've come about the rent."

"The what?"

"The rent. For many years I've paid you on the very day——"

"And if you always send the money as readily as you did this morning——"

"What *do* you mean?"

"My clerk has just posted the receipt to your house, and the next time I go your way, I'll see what is the matter with the roof."

"But Mr. Melton——"

"Excuse me, madam, but here's a gentleman on most important business."

Once more Mrs. Melton found herself in the crowded city street. Then the rent was paid, but who had paid it? Some kind friend? But Mrs. Meadows, who had only lived for her husband and children, knew of no acquaintances in the neighborhood who would be so kind as to pay her rent. It was now three o'clock; and the widow went to Robert's lodging, to wait until her boy came home from business. She had a long time to wait, for it was nearly six when Robert came in. He was pleased to see his mother, and said, "Now what can I get you nice for tea? and then I'll walk part of the way back with you."

"I'm not hungry," remarked Mrs. Meadows; besides we musn't be extravagant these bad times. Oh, Robert your coat does look shabby. I thought you had saved enough to get a new one." Robert Meadows blushed.

"I hope you haven't wasted the money," said his mother.

"It's rather a temptation for a youth like you to live by yourself in this city."

"I've spent the money, but it has not been wasted."

"Robert!" exclaimed Mrs. Meadow's, suddenly remembering her surprise at Mr. Melton's office. "It can't be you that's——"

"What, mother?"

"Paid my rent."

"As you know the secret it's a secret no longer. I hope you are not angry?"

"Angry! my dear boy, you have saved me from being turned out of the house I love so well. But you will miss the money."

"All right, mother; I've obtained evening employment, and hope soon to buy not only a new coat, but a whole suit of clothes."

After that Robert got on so well that he paid "mother's rent" every quarter, and when his salary became higher, Mrs. Meadow's and the children had many little comforts that they had never expected to have again.

How did Robert Meadow's pay "mother's rent?" How did he afterwards manage to save at least a third of his salary for his mother, brothers and sisters? Simply by denying himself unnecessary luxuries and comforts many look on as necessaries, only associating with steady, sober companions, and finding his greatest happiness in seeing those at home comfortable and well provided for. Robert is now in business for himself, rich, married and respected by his neighbours, but he says that the happiest moment of his life was when he was able to pay "mother's rent."

MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, ADDRESSED to the Postmaster-General, and marked "Tenders for Mail Services," will be received at Ottawa, until 12 o'clock noon, on Friday, the 17 March, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails twice per week each way,

Between Kentville and New Ross,

on and from the 1st April next.

The conveyance to be made by Vehicle.

The route pursued in the conveyance of this mail to be as above, via North Alton, Beech Hill and New Ross Road.

The computed distance between Kentville and New Ross is twenty-six miles.

The rate of travel to be not less than five miles per hour including stoppages for all purposes.

The days and hours of arrival and departure to be as follows, subject to a right of the Postmaster-General to alter same, should he consider it advisable so to do.

Leave Kentville on Tuesday and Friday at 6 a.m.

Arrive at New Ross 12.30 p.m.

Leave New Ross on same days, after arrival of Mails from Chester Basin.

Arrive at Kentville 8.30 p.m.

The contract, if satisfactorily executed, will continued in force for a term not exceeding four years the Postmaster-General reserving the right to terminate the agreement at any time previous to the expiration of the four years—should the public interest, in his opinion, require it—upon giving the contractor three months previous notice of his intention.

All expenses on this route for Tolls, Ferries, etc., must be defrayed by the contractor.

Each tender to state the price asked *per annum*, in words at length, and to be accompanied by the written guarantee of two responsible parties, undertaking that, in the event of the tender being accepted, the contract shall be duly executed by the party tendering, for the price demanded; undertaking also to become bound with the contractor in the sum of Six Hundred Dollars for the due performance of the service.

Printed forms of tender and guarantee may be obtained at the Post Office at Kentville and New Ross or at the office of the subscriber.

F. M. PASSOW,
Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector,s Office,
Halifax, Feb'y 21, 1876 } —3i

MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, ADDRESSED to the Postmaster-General, and marked, "Tenders for Mail Service, will be received at Ottawa, until 12 o'clock, noon, on Friday, the 17th March, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails twice per week each way,

Between Chester Basin and New Ross,

on and from the 1st April, next.

The conveyance to be made by Vehicle.

The route pursued in the conveyance of this Mail to be as above, via Chester Grant.

The computed distance between Chester Basin and New Ross is fifteen miles.

The rate of travel to be not less than five miles per hour, including stoppages for all purposes.

The days and hours of arrival and departure to be as follows, subject to a right of the Postmaster-General to alter same, should he consider it advisable so to do.

Leave Chester Basin on Tuesday and Friday, at 7. a.m.

Arrive at New Ross at 10 a. m.

Leave New Ross after arrival of Mail from Kentville.

Arrive in Chester Basin in three hours.

The contract, if satisfactorily executed, will continue in force for a term not exceeding four years, the Postmaster-General reserving the right to terminate the agreement at any time previous to the expiration of the four years—should the public interest, in his opinion, required it—upon giving the contracter three montes previous notice of his entention.

All expenses on this route for Tolls, Ferries, etc., must be defrayed by the contracter.

Eech tender to state the price asked *per annum*, in words at length, and to be accompanied by the written guarntee of two responsible parties, undertaking that, in the event of the tender being accepted the contract shall be duly executed by the party tendering for the price demanded; undertaking also to become bound with the contracter in the sume of Five Hundred Dollars for the due performance of the service.

Printed forms of tender and guarantee may be obtained at the Post Office at Chester basin and New Ross, or at the office of the subscriber.

F. M. PASSOW,
Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
Halifax, Feb'y 21, .875. } —3i

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NIGHT EXPRESS TRAINS

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LOCAL EXPRESS TRAIN

will leave Pictou for Truro at 3.15 p.m. and Truro for Pictou at 10.50 a.m. St. John for Sussex 4.30 p.m. Sussex for St. John at 7.35 a.m. Point du Chene for Painsec at 11.40 a.m. and 3.20 p.m. Painsec for Point du Chene at 12.30 p.m. and 4.05 p.m.

MIXED TRAINS.

will leave Halifax for Truro and Pictou at 11.45 a.m., and 1 a.m., and Pictou for Truro and Halifax at 6.30 a.m., Truro for Painsec and Moncton at 7.00a.m.., and Moncton for Painsec and Truro at 7.20 a.m. Point du Chene for St. John at 6.45 a.m. St. John for Point du Chene at 10 .m.

ACCOMMODATION TRAINS.

Will leave Moncton for Miramichi, Campbellton and Way Stations at 12.15 p.m. and Cambellton for Moncton at 6.20 a.m., connecting with trains to and from Halifax and St. John.

For particulars and connections see Small Time Tables.

C. J. BRYDGES,
General Supt. of Government Railways

RAILWAY OFFICE,
Moncton, 18th Dec., 1875. }

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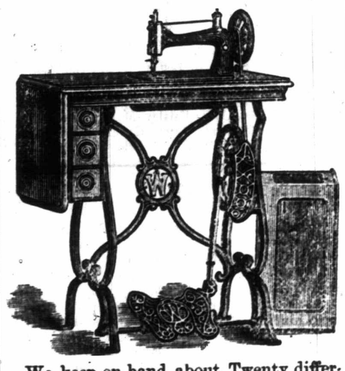

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