

THE BIRD WITH A BROKEN WING.

One day a convict in a prison picked up a scrap of paper containing these lines:

I walked through the woodland meadows,
Where sweet the thrushes sing,
And found on a bed of mosses
A bird with a broken wing.
I healed its wound, and each morning
It sang its old sweet strain;
But the bird with a broken pinion
Never soared as high again.

I found a young life broken
By sin's seductive art,
And touched with a Christlike pity,
I took him to my heart.
He lived with an noble purpose,
And struggled not in vain;
But the life that sin had stricken
Never soared as high again.

But the bird with a broken pinion
Kept another from the snare,
And the life that sin had stricken
Raised another from despair.
Each loss has its compensation,
There is healing for every pain;
But the bird with a broken pinion
Never soars as high again.

A TORONTO DRUMMER'S NERVE.

A Toronto drummer had borrowed \$10 from a Dundas merchant, and for a year had been calmly destroying all the angry duns which the merchant sent. One day the Dundas man went to Toronto blazing with rage, and determined to order his winter goods from another firm.

He walked into the drummer's office with fire in his eyes. But it had no effect on the agent. The latter grasped his hand, and inquired about all the folks.

"That's all right," said the Dundas man, "but will I have to take my money out in bluff?"

"My dear fellow," said the agent, "I must confess I am ashamed of myself, but really the matter always seemed to slip my mind. I cannot tell you how badly I feel about it. Just step this way and I will get it for you."

Then going to the bookkeeper he said: "Just let Mr. J. have \$10, will you, Fred?"

The bookkeeper handed over the money without any trouble, and the Dundas man became very strongly of the opinion that he had made a mistake in forming such an unfavorable estimate of the agent. His manner changed, and, after talking awhile, the two became as close friends as ever. The Dundas man finally gave his order and went home, satisfied that he had made a mistake and atoned for it.

In due time the order arrived. With it came the bill. The Dundas man looked it over, and when he reached the last item opened his eyes very wide. This was the item:

To borrowed money.....\$10
The Dundas man now gets his orders filled elsewhere.

WHY LOST PEOPLE WALK IN CIRCLES.

The fact that people lost on a desert or in a forest invariably walk in a circle is due to slight inequality in the length of the legs. Careful measurements of a series of skeletons have shown that only 10 per cent. had the lower limbs equal in length; 35 per cent. had the right limb longer than the left, while in the other 55 per cent. the

left leg was the longer. The result of one leg being longer than the other will naturally be that a person will, unconsciously, take a longer step with the longer limb, and consequently will trend to the right or to the left, according as the left or the right leg is the longer, unless the tendency to deviation is corrected by the eye.

The left leg being more frequently the longer, as evidenced by measurement of the skeleton, the inclination should take place more frequently to the right than to the left, and this conclusion is quite borne out by observations made on a number of persons when walking blindfolded. Further, on measurement of the arms, it is found that in 72 per cent. the right arm is longer than the left, while in 24 per cent. the left arm is the longer, showing that a considerable majority of persons are right handed and left handed. The inequality in the length of the limbs is not confined to any particular sex or race, but seems to be universal in all respects.

EVADING THE LICENSE LAW.

An important principle is at present under the consideration of the Victoria License Commissioners, and that is, says the *B. C. Commercial Journal*, whether or not licenses to sell liquor are to be granted to the parties who own premises instead of to the tenants who occupy them, their transference—in the latter case, should occasion call for anything of that kind—being subject to the approval of the commissioners. There are now two applications for licenses made by property-owners—who they are is not, or should not be, material to the issue.

Under the law there are certain conditions regarding the parties to enjoy the benefit of the license which have to be complied with, failing in which the parties are ineligible. The applications to which we refer practically remove the parties by whom the conditions of the license are to be carried out from the purview of the Board. In the cases in question the owner of the property applies for the license. He may or may not have sufficient influence among the ratepayers to secure the necessary number of signatures to obtain what he seeks and to prevent the necessary number of names being affixed to the counter presentment.

Supposing then the owner obtains what he asks. Whether this is through personal or political influence is beside the question. The idea is to prevent the individual for whose practical enjoyment the license is to be issued coming directly under the scrutiny of the people whose right and whose prerogative it is to say whether or not the applicant's character is in their estimation such as to warrant his being entrusted with a franchise about whose conference the law is exceedingly careful and strict. Then, too, the Licensing Board are to be quite as much ignored—their real business being non-existent.

One at least of the premises sought to be licensed in this patent way of acting up to the letter, but violating the spirit, of the law, had by no means the most immaculate of reputations under a previous tenancy. This by the way, except to suggest

the inquiry of what it may not be impossible for the future to bring forth.

We will now suppose that a license be granted to any owner of property to sell or have liquor sold upon his premises. That enhances or is supposed to enhance its value for purposes of rental and by so much injure the prospects of the business and chances of other persons who, as tenants, may seek to be placed in a similar position. The property owner who possesses the license has the choice of his tenant and may instal in the position of a vendor of intoxicating liquors the vilest scoundrel to be found on the Pacific coast or in any other district, or he may transfer the premises to the lowest and most abandoned harridan that may have been driven from those localities which even the slow going civic authorities deemed it expedient should be purged of their presence.

It will doubtless be said that it would not be to the interest of the property owner to act in this way. The authorities and the license commissioners would step in, the violator of the law would be fined and the license would be cancelled. But we might here inquire how many of the almost interminable delays of the law might intervene before this was accomplished? Meantime, the offending tenant, after his offences had become too glaring for even the least scrupulous of landlords and most easy going police authorities to put up with, might be replaced and the same course of things repeated, all the time demoralization increasing and the surrounding properties depreciating in value.

We do not regard this subject in any sense from a legal point of view. That is for the lawyers. But looking at the matter from a commercial and moral standpoint, we hold that the principle of licensing property owners as such, instead of the actual occupants, is in the highest degree contrary to all good principles. We would ask a business and a sentimental question and we have done. What dry goods man, grocer or boot and shoe dealer would care to have alongside of him an establishment which, even under the most remote contingencies, might be placed in a position, if it saw fit, if only temporarily, to set the law at defiance? What head of a household would care to have his family patronize a dry goods, grocery or boot and shoe house next door to such a concern as the one referred to? The line has to be drawn somewhere, and it is in a case like the present that we think it should be tightly drawn.

AN EXPERIENCED BRIDE.

"I love you, dearest, and I never shall love you one whit less. It shall be my purpose as long as I live to make you happy and contented."

"Yes, yes; I've been married before. Let us come down to something practical. How much are you going to allow me per week for spending money?"

Then he proposed, and she quit yummyming.—*New York Mercury*.

The Anglo Columbian Company, with headquarters in London, England, has established a branch at Vancouver, with Mr. G. D. Mackay as managing director.

MODERN SAFETY

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