

# The Chatham Daily Planet.

(MAGAZINE AND EDITORIAL SECTION.)

CHATHAM, ONT., SATURDAY, OCT. 14, 1905

(PAGES NINE TO TWELVE)

## MOST VALUABLE RING EXTANT

That of Oheops, Pharaoh of Egypt—The Golden Circle for the Finger Has Played Famous Parts in History—Some Rare Relics

Most precious and ancient of all the relics of the Pharaohs is the signet ring or seal of the great Suphis, better known as Cheops, the Pharaoh who erected the great pyramid at Gizeh, for his tomb centuries before Abraham was born or Joseph was sold by his brethren to become the Prime Minister of one of Cheop's successors. It is a heavy, solid mass of gold, with a flat top, engraved in hieroglyphics—lotus blossoms, a crocodile, figures of Isis, Osiris and other gods of Egyptian mythology. The seal is oval in shape, about one inch across the widest part and five-eighths of an inch across the centre.

This ring was used to sign or attest all the decrees of the great Suphis, King of Memphis, and every order and contract connected with the nation of the great pyramid was supposed to have been sealed with this signet. Cheops was buried in a chamber in the centre of that, the largest of human structures, but his burial chamber was looted by the Persians under Cambyses, father of Cyrus the Great, about five hundred years before Christ. The sarcophagus was torn open, the body was thrown out and stripped of the jewels and other ornaments with which it was adorned. This ring, however, seems to have dropped from his finger unnoticed, for early in the last century it was found in the debris of the burial chamber by a Colonel Veyse, from whom it was purchased by Dr. J. J. Hill.

### JOSEPH'S SIGNET.

Next most interesting and valuable in the world—if it is genuine—is the collection of the Earl of Arundel, at his palace, Hyde Park, London. It is a rectangular piece of gold and is engraved on both sides with hieroglyphics. On one side is the cartouche of Thothmes II., the Pharaoh who was the friend of Joseph. On the other side the hieroglyphics have been translated and read, "Revealer of secrets; preserver of the world; protector of Egypt," which were the titles given to Joseph.

The ring was discovered in 1824 in the Necropolis of Sakkara, near the ruins of the ancient city of Memphis, on the bank of the Nile, and many antiquarians believe it is the actual ring referred to in Genesis xii, 42, 43.

"And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck, and he made him ride in the second chariot which he had, and they cried before him, 'Bow the knee,' and he made him ruler of all the land of Egypt."

Martin Luther's wedding ring was discovered in 1829 in a second-hand shop in Geneva by Mme. Michael Gid, and is now at Waldenberg. It is made of silver gilt and is believed to have been designed by the celebrated painter and goldsmith, Lucas Moser, and probably was wrought by his own hands, for he was one of the three men selected by Luther to witness his marriage. The ring is complicated and includes several symbols of the Passion, the centre is a figure of the Saviour; on one side is the Saviour with his side pierced; on the other side the ladder used in crucifixion. The pillar is a leaf of hyssop, the disc which the soldiers cast lots for, the three nails, a crown of thorns, and a cross.

"D. Martino—Catherine June, 1589." Luther's bride ring, under his influence, remains their order and became a duplicate of this ring, bought in Madrid while Mr. at the head of the legation. It was contributed by the German embassy to a charity bazaar. Mrs. sight it to Washington up to this country and a cabinet in the drawing room where it was stolen away by a guest at one of the charity bazaar.

### FISHERMAN'S RING.

Fisher's Ring, as it is called by the Pope, and used to attest papers of the Holy apostolic act is legal without for that reason the ring being object of great importance in the death of the Pope.

On such a sad event is the Dean of the Sacred College followed by all the Cardinals and the other dignitaries of the room where the body lies, looking on the door calls three in the case of the late Pope: "Come forth! Leo, come forth! Leo, come forth!"

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an hammer, repeating as before: "Leo, awake! Leo, awake! Leo, awake!"

Again there being no response the senior Cardinal takes from the finger of the dead Pope the Fisherman's Ring and destroys or defaces the engraved stone with his golden hammer. Sometimes a file must be used if the stone is hard. From the moment of the destruction of the seal the supreme authority rests with the sacred conclave, or the College of Cardinals, until the election of a new Pope.

The Fisherman's Ring is more than seven hundred years old, but the setting containing the seal has been changed with every Pope.

A new ring had to be procured for Pius X., because the old one mysteriously disappeared from the death chamber of Leo XIII., and has not yet been recovered. Nor is there any clew to it. The responsibility lies between the doctor in attendance, Pio Centra, the late Pope's valet, and two of the Pecci brothers, nephews of Leo XIII.

It appears that the fingers of the dying Pope became so emaciated that the ring was taken from it by the doctor and handed to the valet, with instructions to put it in a safe place. The doctor, the valet and the nephews are said to be the only persons who knew where it was hidden, but they deny all knowledge of its disappearance.

All cardinals, archbishops and bishops of the Roman Church wear rings that are placed upon their fingers at consecration, and adherents recognize this symbol of spiritual authority by kissing it. The settings of an episcopal ring may be either sapphires, rubies, emeralds or amethysts. The present Pope wears a beautiful emerald which was presented to him soon after consecration.

### RINGS THAT CARRIED POISON.

Poison rings are as old as history. Demosthenes wore one, but did not use it. When the police came from Athens to arrest him he asked permission to write a farewell note to a friend, and sucked his pen after dipping it in poisoned ink. When Crassus, who was custodian of the treasures of Rome, was detected in pilfering a pile of gold that was concealed under the statue of Jupiter on Capitoline Hill, he brushed the jewel of his ring in his teeth and died immediately.

When the Roman Ambassador commanded the King of Bithynia to surrender Hannibal, the latter committed suicide by sucking poison which he always carried about in a ring.

Solomon is said to have worn a ring which possessed magical power; and Midas, the King of Phrygia, had one which, when he wore it, made him invisible.

In ancient times there were very valuable rings. One worn by the Empress Faustina, wife of Caligula, was worth \$250,000, and the Empress Domitilla wore one worth \$300,000.

An iron ring worn by Charlemagne is preserved with other relics of the Holy Roman Empire in Vienna. Its intrinsic value cannot be more than a penny, but its historical association makes it one of the most valuable in all the world.

There is a large collection of historical rings in South Kensington Museum. The most interesting, perhaps, is a diamond ring set by Queen Elizabeth to her cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots, as a pledge of friendship and protection, and it induced the beautiful Mary to intrust herself to English hands. It is a double ring, but cannot be separated, one part being linked to the other, and each part has a diamond. When pressed together it looks like a solid ring with two settings.

Lying beside this relic of treachery is the wedding ring of Mary Queen of Scots, placed upon her finger by Lord Darnley. It is of gold and beautifully enamelled, and bears a monogram: "M. and A."—Mary and Albany—for Darnley was Duke of Albany. It also bears the arms of England, Scotland and Ireland. After the death of Mary the ring descended to her grandson, Charles I., who on the scaffold, took it from his finger and requested Archbishop Juxon to give it to his son, Charles II., who pawned it in Holland for £200. It afterward came into the possession of the Earl of Islay, who presented it to the British Museum.

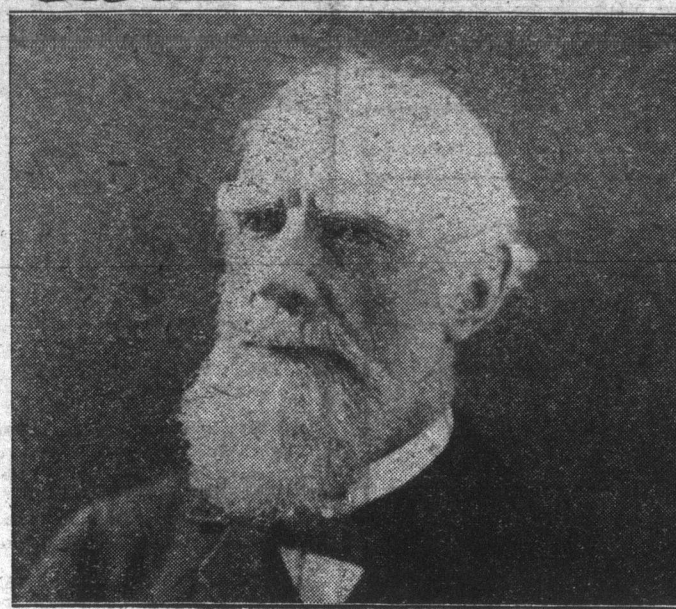
In the same museum is a curious ring that has a tooth of Sir Isaac Newton for a setting. The tooth was sold by Dr. Newton's dentist to a nobleman in 1816 for \$3,500, and the latter had it set in gold and wore it constantly on his finger. Denon, a French savant, had a similar ring, set with a tooth of Voltaire. In the Kensington collection is the wedding ring of Cola di Renz, given by the famous tribune of Rome to Caterina di Bisselli, his wife, upon the occasion of their marriage. In the earlier part of the fourteenth century. It was purchased at one of the annual clearing sales of the Monte di Pietà, or Government pawnshop in Rome, by Mr. Waterton, of England.

### AN EXTRAORDINARY RELIC.

One of the most extraordinary relics of the Catholic Church is a Continued on Page Ten.

## FAMOUS PEOPLE

BY FANNIE M. LOTHROP



LORD STRATHCONA

### Canadian High Commissioner to London

In 1838 a young Scotch boy of eighteen, named Donald A. Smith, entered the service of the Hudson Bay Co. He had been educated for the Civil Service in India; but the sturdy life of hardship, the rigorous, close, hand-to-hand battle with fate, somehow appealed to him more than the easier and more enervating life of the Orient.

For thirteen years he labored on the hard Labrador coast, where the climate was insupportable, the loneliness appalling, and promotion seemed slower than the movement of a glacier. But young Smith made his record, and in this rough training-school learned self-reliance, courage, self-conquest, prudence and shrewdness among the solitudes, and a sureness of judgment. He learned to conquer obstacles and to laugh in triumph at them. In 1869 he had gradually risen to the post of resident-governor—the supreme possibility under the Hudson Bay Co.

When the Federation decided to take over the title of the company, they met an obstacle in the opposition of the Metis, the halfbreeds of the plains, who rose in rebellion under the leadership of the fanatic Louis Rell. In this extremity Donald Smith was recognized, and his courage, tact and wisdom aided in cutting the Gordian knot of disagreement. He at once became the most powerful man of the Northwest, and a year later was elected to the House of Commons. Then came the fierce battle against the corruption, bribery, and Governmental incompetency in building the great railroad connecting the oceans, and later the organizing of the company, headed by Mr. Smith (the future Lord Strathcona) and his cousin, Lord Mount Stephen, that built the magnificent railroad on the ruins of the Government's hopeless failure. Lord Strathcona's financial ability, his organizing power, his genius to inspire others to see and to realize his visions, carried the day; and as J. J. Hill says, "the one person to whose efforts and confidence in the growth of our country, our success in early railroad building is due, is Lord Strathcona."

He received his first imperial honor in 1886 and in 1897 was raised to the peerage. His manifold duties defy cataloguing; as financier, statesman, philanthropist, and in various other fields he has been pre-eminent, and like all really great men has retained his simplicity through it all. To-day, at the age of seventy-five, he is Canadian High Commissioner in London, a most exalted position, and his marvelous knowledge of Canadian affairs and his other unique qualities would make it impossible to replace him.

Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year 1905, by W. C. Mack, at the Department of Agriculture.

## PRINCE WHO WAS ENGINE DRIVER

It is an interesting and remarkable fact that two of the czar's most exalted subjects—both men of world-wide fame—have risen under romantic circumstances from obscure positions on railways to the highest dignities in Russia.

Few men have had a more varied and romantic career than Prince Hilko, the greatest minister of railways Russia has ever had, and constructor of the great trans-Siberian railroad. A scion of one of the oldest noble families of Russia, the early days of Prince Hilko were spent in the splendid and luxurious environment of palaces; he became a dashing officer in that most aristocratic and exclusive of regiments, the Imperial Guard, and was a favorite at the imperial court, but when the emancipation of the serfs reduced his father almost to the brink of poverty, the young prince fled forth into the world to make his fortune, and with him went his young wife, as brave and adventurous as himself.

The youthful couple first made their way to Philadelphia, where, after much hardship and many rebuffs, the prince found work as a boldhead maker at the unprincipled salary of 4s. a day. "What is your name?" asked his employer. The prince started to reply, but the names sounded so outlandish that the old quaker stopped him. The name upon Hilko's lips was "Michael," which he pronounced "Mikha-el." "Whan. Magill?" asked the Quaker. The prince hesitated. The absurdity of the position struck him, and he answered "John." And from that hour, for several years, the descendant of twenty generations of princes was known as plain John Magill.

From Philadelphia he drifted to Argentina, and in time rose to be a "round house boss" at seven dollars a day, and this was the summit of his fortune on the other side of the Atlantic. Eventually he returned to his own land as poor as when he left it, and was glad to obtain employment as an engine driver; from which humble position he has risen, by his splendid pluck and ability, to be the king of Russian railways and a minister and trusted friend of the czar.

Surly seldom within a few years has the pendulum of any man's fortune swung and returned so far. In some features the career of Sergei Yulievich Witte, whose name today is on the lips of the world as one of the arbiters of peace or war, is curiously similar to that of Prince Hilko, pauper emigrant, bold-head maker, engine driver and minister of the czar. Mr. Witte is of Dutch stock, was educated in Prussia, and spent

some time as a hard-working journalist before he accepted a very modest position on the Odessa railway. But he did not mean to remain long in obscurity. Slowly but surely he forged his way out of the crowd, and when still a young man was placed in charge of the station at Kiv, at the time when Russia was pouring her troops in hundreds of thousands through it to the Turkish frontier.

His opportunity came, singularly enough through a defiance of the authorities. On his own responsibility he stopped and detained a train conveying soldiers which was being wrongly despatched. Kiev was agitated at the young man's daring, and fully expected that he would be sent to Siberia at the least; but his daring was justified and approved, and at last he was a marked man. A little later he chanced to be on the imperial train, when the czar and his family so narrowly escaped a horrible death at Borki, and his coolness and resource—such a critical moment when everybody else lost his head, struck the czar so favorably that he rewarded him with a responsible post in the ministry of finance.

The ball of fortune was now at M. Witte's feet. The post of director of railways was specially created for the ex-booker of Kiv, and his great abilities, his integrity, and the imperial favor have since advanced him to the very highest position in the service of the czar. And this in spite of much jealous opposition from powerful rivals, and the fact that he has practised none of the arts which usually are associated with such brilliant advancement.

Hard, stiff, angular, slow to speak, and prompt to act, devoid of physical attractions and of the cheap arts of servility and flattery, he is said by those who know him most intimately to be gifted with a mind of large compass and with a keenness of insight bordering upon prophetic vision.

Love has little to do with common sense and good judgment in either sex.

Bay what thou hast no need of and give by them; they supply our very ties.

The art of saying appropriate words in a kindly way is one that never gets out of fashion, never fails to please, and is within reach of the humblest.

The wind may be tempered to the shorn lamb, but not in the stock market.

## The Days of Auld Lang Syne

Interesting Events of Ye Olden Times Gathered from The Planet's Issues of Half a Century Ago.

From The Planet files from Aug. 27, 1863, to Sept. 3, 1863.

Sir Edmund Head is chosen Governor by a new company which has purchased the stock of the Hudson Bay Company for \$2,000,000.

The Government has increased the remuneration of the Grand Trunk Railway for carrying mails from \$70 to \$100 per mile.

### BIG STORM.

Accounts reach us from all quarters of ravages committed by the fearful storms that passed over this section of the country on Sunday night and Monday last. In addition to the melancholy loss of life which occurred in Orford resulting from lightning, whereby a Miss Campbell was killed outright and Mr. Campbell, his son Thomas aged about 20 years and a child four years old badly stunned and Mrs. Campbell's foot seriously burned. We have to record the death by lightning of Mrs. McKay, wife of Mr. James McKay, who lives on the 4th concession in Harwich, while sitting at a stove. Strange to say, a little infant, although almost smothered by the fallen rubbish of the torn building, and a little boy that was playing just outside the door, escaped without injury. This last accident happened on Monday. The same storm blew down trees, in one instance killing a splendid yoke of oxen, the property of Mr. William Brown, of Harwich. It is said that for miles in the vicinity of Blenheim rails, barns, hay stacks, etc., were carried away or blown down. The barn of Mr. J. Taylor, near Buckhorn, was blown down and his whole stack of grain more or less injured. We further learn that during the storm of Sunday night the lightning struck the barn of Mr. Humphrey, who lives in Camden, about half way between Gee's Bridge and Thamesville, totally destroying it, together with its contents, valued at about \$10,000. The dwelling houses of Mr. Campbell, of Orford, and Mr. McKay, of Harwich, were torn completely to pieces. Along the Lake Shore, we are told, immense damage was done to the tobacco crop by the violent wind accompanying the hail.

Messrs. Clarke and Errington have a china store on King street near the market.

The residence of Thomas Doolittle, of Dover, was totally destroyed by fire.

### THE MASTER

### OF THE SHIP

### HIS FATE

### FOUND HIM

It is a just and wholesome rule that a captain shall command his own ship, no matter who is aboard. If he has the sense and spirit to enforce his authority, there is the less chance of disaster from pompous mediocrities. V. C. tells a story of Emperor William which may or may not be true, but it illustrates the principle just stated. The story is that when the royal yacht was entering a port the Kaiser noticed that the boat was slowing down, in accordance with the orders of the pilot, an old Norwegian named Nordhaus, who knew the channel and its dangers. The emperor rang the bell for full speed himself in the way, leaned over the wheel, and called down the tube to the engine room, "If speed! Never mind the bell!"

You countermand my orders?" cried the emperor, and gave the bell another hard jerk.

Never mind the bell! called Nordhaus through the tube.

The emperor drew himself up. Go below, he said, and report yourself under arrest.

Leave the bridge repeated Nordhaus, grasping the wheel more firmly. This ship is in my charge, and I'll have no interference with my orders from king or seaman.

The officers on deck hurried silently aft, in their hearts wishing luck to the pilot, Nordhaus stood at his post unshaken by threats deaf to commands, and carried the yacht safely into harbor.

The next day the emperor came to his senses, and decorated the pilot with the order of the Black Eagle.

Bacon said, "God Almighty first planted a garden"; and, indeed, it is purest of all human pleasure.

Dishonesty in small affairs often assumes large proportions.

Money lost in bad investments is regretted more than the money spent in silly extravagance.

Fair play doesn't always win fair lady.

It will take more than gold-loving hearts to make a golden age.

The Grit, electors of the County of Hastings must be the thirstiest set of men living. They beat even their progenitors in Old England. After the late parliamentary election in Belleville, a tavern keeper in Mr. Wallbridge's interest, sent in his "little bill" for refreshments supplied 200 thirsty voters. He charges for 5,500 glasses of liquor, which would be 27 1-2 glasses to each person present, and 18 glasses per minute for five hours steady drinking. He also charges 1,500 cigars smoked by the same 200, each of whom if the charges are right, drank over a gallon of liquor and smoked 7 1-2 cigars.

John VanHorn presented the editor of The Planet with a box of fine honey.

A temperance rally was held in Dresden. D. D. Williston delivered an address.

Chas. E. Pegley and Alex. R. Robertson passed their examinations and were given the "long robe."

### CRICKET.

On Friday last a friendly match at cricket was played at Windsor between eleven Chatham and Windsor players. The game was very favorable for the game. The toss was won by the Windsor men, who went to bat. J. Biles acted as umpire for the Thames Club and Mr. White on behalf of the Windsrites. At the conclusion of the match cheers were given. The score:

Windsor—1st innings—H. Neilson 0, O'Leary 0, J. O'Connor 0, Ayers 0, Cousins 0, Hobbs 2, McEwan 16, Elliott 4, Gilks 5, Hamilton 1, Stiff 0, leg bys 1, total 29.

Windsor—2nd innings—Stiff 0, Neilson 0, Elliott 1, Gilks 9, O'Connor 2, McEwan 6, Cousins 1, Hobbs 14, Hamilton 2, Ayers 3, O'Leary 0, byes 1, total 39.

Grand total, 68.

Chatham—1st innings—McGree 1, Purser 2, Little 5, W. Northwood 0, Vester 2, A. Northwood 0, Oldershaw 16, Cross 0, Pratt 0, Jordan 8, McIntosh 0, byes 8, leg bys 1, total 56.

Chatham—2nd innings—R. Purser 8, W. Northwood 1, byes 2, total with ten wickets to fall 13.

Grand total, 69.

Madame Anna Bishop, accompanied by Mr. Sedgewick, vocalists gave a concert in the Town Hall.

Birth—in the Township of Dover East, on the 18th of August, the wife of Mr. Wm. Willmore of a son.