

THE SIMPKINS CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 1.

To Mrs. SIMPKINS, Simpkinsville, Ontario.—(*From a First Year Medical Student, Montreal.*)

My Dear Mother,—

On my arrival here two weeks ago, I wrote simply to inform you that your son had reached his journey's end without any accidents on the road. Since then my time has been so taken up with various matters that I have not had leisure to write.

My Dearest Mother,—I should first tell you that you have no idea of the expense of living in Montreal. The money which you gave me to last the whole term has been already expended. You must bear in mind that uncle John studied here thirteen years ago. Things are quite changed now. The books which uncle gave me are all old editions, and quite useless. I have had to buy an entirely new set. The number of books required now is very great. In the new system of Chemical Notation, our Professor informs us that every thing is estimated by *volumes*.

It is also necessary that I should provide myself with a book in two volumes folio entitled "Abernethy on the Veins of the Epidermis." I would try to explain to you what "epidermis" means, but I know that you are unacquainted with the structure of the internal organs. Suffice it that the book will cost forty dollars, which I must beg that you will remit to me immediately.

The "Specific Heat" (that is what our Professor calls "Cold") is here intense. The mercury in the thermometer stood yesterday at 60° below zero, or, to speak more scientifically, at 515° centigrade. I have had to provide myself with clothing suitable to the season. I have procured a good substantial coat of arctic wolf-skin, a seal-skin vest, and a pair of large fur gauntlets. The fur cap which I brought with me is not nearly warm enough. I have therefore obtained one with two horns,—one in front and the other behind,—the usual pattern here. I have directed the bill for these articles to be sent to you. Please settle it at once, as the furrier declines to give me any more credit.

I have not yet been able to pay all the fees of the Professors, which are three times as much as uncle John said they were. (By the way, I would not, if I were you, shew this letter to uncle. You know how contradiction irritates him.) Please send me some more money as soon as you can. I should also tell you that I have entered upon a course of Veterinary Surgery, which will be very useful to me in after years. There is a College for that purpose immediately opposite our lecture room, kept by Professor ALLOWAY. Live subjects are provided by that gentleman at so much an hour. I regret very much that, the other day, while trying elaborate experiments relative to the structure and capacity of the muscles of a valuable horse, I had the misfortune to break both his knees. Mr. A. has sent in a bill of damages, which I enclose. Pray pay this directly, because my veterinary studies are at present interrupted. There are two Theatres attached to our college; the one in which the Professors lecture, and a spacious one adjoining, which has been taken for the winter by Officers of the Garrison for a course of instructive lectures on general subjects. A Highland officer of great Indian experience will discourse on the peculiarities of "Caste," while another has taken for his subject "The Life and Times of Charles the Second," which will doubtless be very improving in its moral tone. I have subscribed to this course. This has left my purse quite empty. I must implore you to replenish it without delay.

I had considerable difficulty in finding a church which was, as you expressed a wish in your last, "void of all Ritualistic tendencies." I have, however, at last secured a sitting in

the only church in the city entirely free from such reprehensible practices. It is the little Church of St. John in St. Urbain Street. But, my dear mother, you have no idea how high the pew rent is. I shall never be able to pay it until you send me some more money.

I have also subscribed to a new and valuable scientific periodical called "DIOGENES," which contains treatises on various abstruse subjects, medical and otherwise. A remarkable series of articles on a Footman who was entirely destitute of Brains, has just been completed. A valuable treatise on "Incompatibility of Temper" furnishes many admirable hints on physiology and the treatment of nervous diseases. A boldly and clearly-executed diagram illustrates a wonderful optical experiment recently tried in the City Hall; and there have appeared two articles of great practical utility instructing medical men how to make money out of druggists. The cost of this periodical is twenty dollars per annum. Do not forget this in your next remittance.

I stayed ten days at the St. Lawrence Hall. This is one of the smallest and least important hotels in the city, and yet, with the strictest economy, I was unable to live there for less than ten dollars a day. I have at last succeeded in obtaining a room in a quiet boarding-house. This costs me only nine dollars a week. The usual price is fifteen. You see how things have altered since uncle John was here. You know, my dearest mother, how painful it is to me that my education should cost you so much money, but let me tell you one fact which I am sure will delight you. Two of the Professors have told me confidentially that I am already a marked man in the college, and that I am certain, eventually, to obtain the HOLMES' gold medal. Think then of that blissful April, four years hence, when I shall throw this well earned decoration into your lap, and every citizen of Simpkinsville will recognize the eminence of

Your affectionate and dutiful son,

JEREMIAH SIMPKINS.

P.S.—I repeat that I think it would not be advisable to show uncle John this letter.

A NEW READING.

When CRESSID, 'neath the walls of Troy,
Kept tryst with Priam's blue-eyed boy,
Conceive his deep but silent joy,—
A joy too keen to let him speak;—
But when to Tro-i-lus's love
The maid did false and recreant prove,
And shewed that she'd bad taste enough
To jilt him for a low-born Greek—
Did TROILUS go off and pine
His life away, and weep and whine?
Not much! that wasn't in his line!
He only got a little muzzy,
Dropped half a tear, said "well-a-day!"
Then filled his pipe—a common clay,—
And puffed, and puffed, and puffed away
All recollection of the hussy!

* * One WILLIAM SHAKSPERE, (one of us,) whose works, though very frequently bought, are seldom read now-a-days, has made the loves of TROILUS and CRESSIDA the subject of a play. In this play TROILUS is made to feel the loss of CRESSIDA more keenly, and to wreak his vengeance on the favoured Greek, whom he slays in single combat. This is, however, a mere poetic license, evidently introduced for stage effect. The correct version of the story is that given in the above lines.

What is the chief ingredient in the crust of a venison pie?
Doe (Dough).