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London, Friday, April 26.

"Nest" Days Compared With the Present.

Some people who have no very friendly feeling towards anything that emanates from a Liberal Administration, find fault with the Department of Labor, established at Ottawa, to assist in settling labor disputes amicably, and in otherwise forwarding the industrial interests of the country. They allege that it does not move fast enough. Well, that is an offense, if it were proved, that can be overcome. But the cavill suggests the idea that the Labor Department, now established at Ottawa, moves much faster than the Labor Department which was never established by the late Administration.

In this respect it bears a strong resemblance to the law dealing with the importation of alien laborers, passed by the Government now in power at Ottawa. There has been much grumbling, for political effect, by the George Taylors and the Clarke Wallaces of the Conservative party, because this measure, in its experimental shape, did not in every respect meet the views of those who most zealously worked for its enactment. How much honesty there is in their criticism may be imagined when it is explained that these men for many years kept that question of an alien labor law dangling in a Parliament where the Conservatives had a very large majority, and never forced the question to an issue. They talked and talked, and wasted good Government money, but they never had the courage to demand that the Government of Sir John Macdonald, of Sir John Abbott, of Sir John Thompson, or of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, should place upon the statute books an Alien Labor Law. And they went out of power without any action having been taken. They are very angry when they are reminded of all this, and branch off on some other side topic. But on the platform and in the press it is well to remember these Tayloristic fiascos of the past when you have these fine fellows of the present telling what they would do were they given a similar opportunity to that which they absolutely wasted. The Alien Labor Law is to be amended, with the Prime Minister as its sponsor, but even were it to remain as it is today, the men who for many years toyed with the question, and left it without an approach to settlement, would be without an excuse for their hostile criticism, for "half a bill" would be better than "no bill," which was their contribution to the meeting of a situation with regard to labor matters, for which Canada is not responsible, but in which there might have been a different issue, but for the procrastination of the time-serving politicians who aided in the wreck of the Conservative party in 1896 and who are still very much in evidence in directing its policy.

Fact and Fiction.

The cynic will tell you that in all cases it is difficult to divide between fact and fiction, the two are so well blended in the affairs of human life. If the critic does not believe in Macaulay, he labels the works of that writer, "historical romance," and indeed, as "truth is stranger than fiction," it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between history and romance. As a matter of fact the romantic historian may get nearer to the heart of things than the sober analyst. It is possible to get a more vivid and truthful view of some periods from Scott than from many who pride themselves on being truthful historians.

A novel sometimes gives one a better conception of the particular social situation than can be got from a learned array of facts and figures. We all know that it is a poor thing to make fiction too large a proportion of one's reading.

It is well known that there are works of fiction that are not fit for young people, or for that matter, for any one else to read. There are also other books of all classes that are neither profitable nor inspiring. These facts we must deal with as best we can. But it is too late in the day to denounce fiction indiscriminately. There was a time when men had nothing else but fiction, that is, in early literature men's views of the world were presented in poetic forms which could not be called scientific. Science, literature, poetry, theology had not been divided into separate classes. Now we have the world of knowledge divided into various compartments, and after the strain of hard problems, it may be well sometimes to turn to a book which seeks to give a picture of human life. Let not the word "fiction" mislead us. Fiction here does not mean the false.

The great work of fiction is pre-eminently truthful and gives a fair view of human life, but the work of

the real artist is all the more truthful because it is, in its form, free from limitations of time and place. Beware of the impure story, the cynical novel, but accept the help that comes from the noblest fiction.

England and Preferential Trade.

There is one clear lesson from the last budget, namely, that what is called "preferential trade" has not yet come within the realm of practical politics in England. This form of trade is advocated by many colonial politicians, and also by many strong imperialists in England, which calls for some striking change, is a fine opportunity to get in the thin edge of the wedge. We are told by those who think they know that the thin edge of the wedge is driven in, but it is not this wedge; it is the other wedge, the protection wedge.

We are not now discussing preferential trade. We are not now concerned with the thing on its merits, but simply with the situation in England. What does that situation mean? It means simply this, that the politicians of the inner circle do not see their way to take hold of preferential trade, even when it comes in their way. We are not now speaking of Canada. Canada is prosperous, and can wait until the proper time for preferential trade, if that time ever comes. But Jamaica and other West Indian colonies need help, and might have had it in connection with the new sugar duties. But no, the Chancellor of the Exchequer turns deliberately aside from the path that it was supposed Mr. Chamberlain would lead him into. How is this? Some supporters of the Government think it sheer stupidity.

All that we are concerned to do just now is to point out to the Canadian politicians who maintained that it was easy to get England to adopt preferential trade, that it is not so easy as they think. The men who are least inclined to make a fetish of Free Trade, the men who claim to be the real imperialists, find that it is not easy to introduce a new feature into the fiscal policy of a great country.

Says the Kingston Whig:

"The 'Queen's printer' at Ottawa has not yet heard about the ascension of Edward VII., and so issues the blue books of the government by 'permission of the Queen's most excellent majesty.' What do you think of that?"

Well, we think that as the Government blue books were in print before Feb. 22, 1901, when the Queen died, he did quite right. If the Queen's printer and the deputy heads of departments would always have the reports as promptly completed as they have been this year, Parliament would have its business considerably expedited.

Genial Jamaica.

The Elder-Dempster Company issue at the modest price of sixpence a beautiful illustrated guide to the Island of Jamaica. This company, like all others, must run on business lines, but we are particularly inclined to deny that business and patriotism may be gracefully combined. At any rate, the guidebook makes this statement: "In appealing to Mr. A. L. Jones to put his hand to the Jamaica plow, Mr. Chamberlain recognized that the man who has practically created the present West African trade and the tourist traffic and fruit trade of the Canaries, while conducting gigantic operations in other directions, is pre-eminently the man to see the thing through; and in lending his aid to the revival of Jamaica prosperity, Mr. Jones, it is evident, is actuated more by patriotic than selfish considerations."

Hence Mr. Jones, or his firm, Elder-Dempster Company, have undertaken to run a fortnightly mail service between Bristol, England, and Kingston, Jamaica. The splendid fruit of Jamaica will be placed on the English markets at prices within the reach of all, and its magnificent scenery, with all the glamor of its wonderful romance, and the picturesque life everywhere abounding, will be thrown open to the tourist of modest income. Why did Mr. Chamberlain appeal to Mr. Jones? Because, "to use a homely metaphor, Jamaica had put all her eggs in one basket; they had, so to speak, staked their whole welfare on sugar, and indeed for a time it seemed as if they could not have done better." Continental beet sugar has, however, made things hard for the Jamaica sugar planter, so that he must be helped by the British Government, or must adapt himself to new conditions. England, it seems, treated Jamaica very badly. "To add insult to injury, while the American physicians were sending their patients to seek renewed health and energy from the balmy breezes laden with health-giving ozone, which blow over the island, our life insurance societies, using data compiled in the days of the buccaners, placed Jamaica on their black list, and slandered its climate by demanding an additional premium of their policyholders visiting its shores."

However, Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Jones are going to remedy these wrongs, and we trust they will be successful. It may do the island more good to turn the energies of its people into some new lines of commerce than to give a preference to sugar. We trust that the optimistic tone of the following passage will be fully justified: "Happily, at last colonial affairs fell into able hands, the difficulty was squarely faced and grappled with, and now there is a fair promise of a revival of the old close connection fostered by enlightened statesmanship and secured by far-sighted commercial enterprise, combined with a generous imperialism."

The Iron Tables Turned.

That is good news which is cabled from Great Britain that the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, Sydney, C. B., are already receiving large orders for their output of iron and steel in Europe. The first order, amounting to several thousand tons is already on the way to Liverpool. This, in olden days, would have been regarded as carrying coal to Newcastle, but times have changed since Hon. W. S. Fielding, as head of the Nova Scotia Government, arranged for the effective working of these mines, against the strongest possible opposition of his political opponents, who then carried their warfare to Ottawa, and even to Rideau Hall, declaring to Lord Stanley that if he did not compel his Ministers to interfere with the bargain arrived at, the mines would be ruined, and the coal supply of the British navy on this continent would be cut off! People laugh at the vagaries of these Conservative politicians now, but they were then very, very earnest as now, in their opposition to Mr. Fielding, and with as little effect, for both he, the mines, the whole Province of Nova Scotia and the Liberal party have prospered in spite of it all.

Old-Time Restraint and Present Freedom.

During recent years the question of freedom of teaching has become to a certain extent recrudescence. There has certainly been progress with varied movement, from the time when the entertaining of individual opinion stood in the same category with crime. The movement has been from a stereotyped state of society to a social condition where men are free. We are now practically free; no one thinks of questioning that freedom of thought and research has resulted in such material progress as would otherwise have been impossible.

Notwithstanding the result of such freedom, which must be evident to everyone, we, even at the present day, hear of attempts being made to bridle the mouths of instructors in institutions of learning. In fact, these attempts to curtail freedom of speech have gone so far as to cause the dismissal of university professors, a case which recently happened at Leland Stanford University, California. This attitude on the part of wealthy benefactors of the New York Evening Post to elicit the opinions of prominent educationalists on matters pertaining to the functions and rights of instructors in colleges.

President Harper, of the University of Chicago, states that a formal expression of opinion adopted by the congregation of the university in 1899, declares "the principle of complete freedom of speech on all subjects, to be fundamental in the university; this principle can never be called in question; that the university, as such, does not appear as a disputant on either side upon any public question; and that the utterances which any professor may make in public are to be regarded as representing his own opinion only." President Harper adds also, that "no donor of a university, whether that donor be an individual or the state, has any right to interfere with the teaching of the instructors in a university." President Hyde, of Bowdoin College, declares that "a professor has a right to teach as truth whatever is accepted by the consensus of experts in his department; and, in addition, to give dignified and moderate expression to his opinions on disputed political and social questions." This does not mean that he should make himself an offensive partisan, or that he should advocate measures which are repugnant to the aims of the institution in which he is employed. These limitations, if such they may be called, will not in any way interfere with a professor's rights as stated above. "Donors, founders, and benefactors have no more right to interfere with a professor in his teaching than the stockholder of a steamship company has to direct the pilot how he should steer."

The Passing of a Great Historian.

The Rev. William Stubbs, Bishop of Oxford, whose name has found a place in the category of Britain's greatest historians as the author of an English constitutional history, died on Monday last. Though in the front rank of English bishops, he is known better as an historian than as an ecclesiastic.

His Constitutional History of England appeared in successive volumes between the years 1874 and 1878, and placed him among the modern school of historians, along with John Richard Green and the historian Freeman. Regarding his relation to these men, the Cleveland Plaindealer states that "if Stubbs lacks somewhat of the vigor of Freeman and the fascination of Green, his works are free from some of the defects of those historians. He was not as prejudiced and controversial as is Freeman in some of his writings, nor as apt to sacrifice exactness of facts to picturesque style as has been charged to Green's delightful 'Short History.' Stubbs was painstaking as a writer of history, as he was also in editing the 'Select Charters' and the 'Chronicles' of medieval England published under the supervision of the master of the rolls. The historical student rather than the ecclesiastic is indicated by the statement, in a recent biographical sketch of Bishop Stubbs that his recreations were 'making out pedigrees and correcting proof sheets.'"

THE RUNIANS-GRAY CO.
A MEDLEY OF ATTRACTIONS.

The following deserve special attention. Odd lines, broken lots, and special drives, together with new lines, all seasonable bread and butter goods, make up a list rarely equaled and never surpassed. Our close buying and selling for cash make these prices possible for you.

Table Linen. Special line Heavy Double Damask Table Linen—best Brookfield make: 72 inches wide, very pretty patterns; regular price \$1.50, special, per yard\$1.00	Tailor-Made Suits. Ladies' Man-Tailored Costumes, in great variety, strictly new and up-to-date. The latest weaves and newest colorings. They range in price from \$8.00 up to\$30.00	Sailor Hats. A specially large and fine assortment of Ladies' and Misses' Sailors, in all shades; they range in price from a brown and navy fancy straw, with silk band, at only 15c, up to a fine Mackinaw at\$1.00
Corsets. 300 pairs Ladies' Corsets, in eoru. fine coutille jean, all sizes, medium length, regular price 50c, special, to clear29c	Gloves. Ladies' French Kid Gloves, in both Perrin's and Jaunnet's celebrated makes; all leading shades; every pair fitted and guaranteed. Special, per pair\$1.00	Silk Belts. Taffeta Silk Belts, hemstitched and corded, in black and white, extra special, each50c
Corset Covers. Ladies' Corset Covers, good, strong cotton, trimmed with embroidery, sizes 32, 34, 36, and 38, special15c	Hosiery. Children's Black Cashmere Hose, fancy ribbed, spliced sole, in sizes 6½, 7, 7½, and 8½, regular price 25c, special, each18c	Bicycle Skirts. Ladies' Bicycle Skirts, in Oxford gray, brown, blue and black homespun, stylishly made, from \$5.00 down to\$4.00
Ladies' Ties. Ladies' Corded Stock Collar and Tie, taffeta silk, in sky, pink, white, mauve, black, cardinal, bluet; special, each50c	Laces. A fine assortment of Cream and White Applique Insertions, edges and allovers; these range in price from \$2.00 down to15c	Belts. Patent Leather Belts, double-faced, with black and steel buckles, worth regularly 35c, our special price25c
Toilet Sets. 10-piece Printed Toilet Sets, in blue, brown and pink, regular price \$2.50, special, per set\$1.95	Men's Shirts. Black drill, with white stripes, fancy Ceylon flannel; fancy check flannels, black sateen and Oxford shirting, for workmen; big assortment50c	Ladies' Lace Boots. All sizes, beautiful, fine stock, hand-turned soles, swell style\$2.00
Lemonade Sets. Lemonade Sets, in plain and decorated colored glass, large assortment, from \$1.75 down to, per set, \$1.00	Ladies' Oxford Shoes. Very fine Chocolate Dongola Oxford Shoes, with vesting top, neat style, regular \$1.75 and \$2.00, all sizes Saturday\$1.25	Men's Suit Bargain. \$6.50 and \$7.50 Men's Tweed Suits, nobby and reliable and up-to-date. Saturday\$4.95
Linoleums. We have just put in stock a special deep sailor English Linoleum, in both floral and tile designs, new colorings, special, per yard45c	Balbriggan Underwear. Full-Shaped Double-Thread Balbriggan Shirts and Drawers, all sizes 34 to 42, each37½c	Boys' Vestee Suits. Black Serge and Fancy Tweed, deep sailor collars, neatly trimmed, sizes 22 to 26, regular \$2.75 and \$3.00, Saturday\$1.95
Brussels Carpets. Special line Heavy Body Brussels Carpet, with border to match, in the newest colorings. This line is worth regularly \$1.15, our special price per yard85c	Muslins. In great variety, Swiss dots, tambours, organdies, dimities, batistes, plain and fancy lawn, and brodered lawns, etc., every wanted shade, prices range from 5c up to50c	Art Scrims. Special line Colored Scrim, fancy lattice stripes, with floral designs, in gold, mauve, green, pink and cardinal, fast colors, special, per yard10c
75c Waist Silks for 35c Special lot Waist Silks, in shades of blue, green, pink, and black, and checks, in taffeta, English merv, and Japanese Wash stripes, regular 50c, 75c, special, per yard35c	\$1 Waist Silks for 50c. Special lot Waist and Dress Silks, in fancy foulards, taffetas and satin stripes, light and dark colors, regular price 75c and \$1.00, special, per yard50c	\$1.50 Waist Silks, 69c. Special lot Waist Silks, in piece checks and fancy figured, in taffeta, duchesse satin and Swiss silks, regular \$1.25 and \$1.50, special, per yard69c

Don't Brag.

[Washington Star.]
"When you are lucky," said Uncle Eben, "don't brag. If you do you are simply advertising for somebody to come along and make trouble for you."

Superseded.

[Washington Star.]
Of statesmen soon no more we'll hear. The mighty men will disappear. We'll give attention once again To summer girls and shirt waist men.

Results of Economy.

[Detroit News.]
Economies of management effected by the tin can trust have cheapened production to such an extent that the organization is able to advance prices 25 per cent.

Smuggling Silver.

[Toronto World.]
As there is a 20 per cent duty on American silver coming into this country, isn't every man or woman who comes over here with American silver coins a smuggler?

Can't Hold a Candle.

[Chicago Journal.]
"This is our latest novelty," said the manufacturer, proudly. "Good work, isn't it?"
"Not bad," replied the visitor, "but you can't hold a candle to the goods we make." "Ah, are you in this line, too?"
"No, we make gunpowder."

War.

[Ainslie's Magazine.]
"All trembling in the meadow: All crimson is the hill. The dead lie in the valley. The dead lie on the hill. And one side is the victor. The other side has lost—The women of two peoples. Are counting up the cost."

Industry the Best Balm.

[Pittsburg Dispatch.]
The new south is awaking to its advantages and forgetting its calamities. The factories in operation have done more to heal the wounds of the rebellion than all the oratory of thirty years. Industrial development has given the people an outlook to the future and induced them to forget the past. The new south is the same as the old, but is busier and better, casting aside its ancient grievances for the treasures to be extracted from the present.

CURIOUS INSTANCES.

A large wild buck was taken from Long Point to the provincial park, at Rondeau, and turned over to Chief-Ranger Herbert Gardner. The buck was placed in an inclosure formed by a wire fence seven feet high. The buck did not take kindly to captivity, however, and when approached, cleared the seven-foot fence with apparent ease. This incident occurred nearly two years ago, and the buck ran wild in the bush of the park until a short time ago when Ranger Gardner, after working for nearly a week, succeeded in decoying him into the inclosure again. He is a magnificent animal.

Seventy-four years ago the first tree was cut in Guelph. The chief figures in that great instance have long since been gathered to their fathers, but on each recurring anniversary of the city's birth, Guelph honors the memory of John Galt and the men who were associated with him.

Harrison Tribune: A postcard was addressed on March 15, from this office, to parties in Detroit, Michigan. The postal authorities there tried to find the persons, who had left Detroit, and they

forwarded the card. Again and again the card was forwarded, until finally it arrived back at this office bearing a number of changes of address and fifteen postmarks. It is a good monument of the efforts which the United States postal authorities make to deliver a letter before they finally give up.

Aylmer Sun: On the afternoon of Good Friday, 5th inst., Postmaster Ashbaugh placed a setting of eggs under one of his hens, and on Tuesday morning last, eighteen days later, the brood was hatched. This breaks all records so far as we know, and double discounts any chicken stories ever told by Aylmer's finance minister or the editor of the Express.

The North American Bent Chair Co., of Owen Sound, made shipments last week to Dawson City, Dunedin, Scotland, and to the Hawaiian Islands.

On the Lake Shore there is a car which has a history, second to none in railroad annals. The car in question is number 19, and has a very interesting history, dating back for years. It was one of the cars in the disastrous wreck at Angola in years gone by, and was also in the great Ashtabula disaster; in both places many lives were lost and many maimed for life. The car has been repaired and rebuilt a number of times, but is still the same old car with quaint panels and ancient fixtures. In its day it was considered one of the finest cars in use, and as it flits back and forth it is looked upon with reverence and awe.

A Kuhlville correspondent writes: We are sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Catherine Ruel, widow of Mr. Hy. Ruel, who predeceased her some nineteen years ago. She was 96 years of age. She leaves a family of five sons and two daughters, and 46 grandchildren, 110 great grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren.

A Warning.
To feel tired after exertion is one thing; to feel tired before is another. It isn't; but it's a sign that the system lacks vitality, is running down, and needs the tonic effect of Hood's Sarsaparilla. It's a warning, too—and sufferers should begin taking Hood's at once. Buy a bottle today.

Every precious stone known to the lapidary has been found within the limits of the United States.

THE GREAT lung healer is found in that excellent medicine sold as Hickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It soothes and diminishes the sensibility of the membranes of the throat and air passages. It is a sovereign remedy for all coughs, colds, hoarseness, pain or soreness in the chest, bronchitis, etc. It has cured many when supposed to be far advanced in consumption.

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SATURDAY EVENING

From 7:30 to 10 we offer the following array of special bargains:

300 yards Fancy Check Gingham, assorted colors, good strong cloth, worth regularly 1½c, our close price 9c. Saturday evening only, per yard,	48 pairs Ladies' French Kid Gloves, in black and tan, laced and buttoned, regular price \$1 and \$1.25. Saturday evening only, per pair,
6c 375 yards Art Mualins, assorted colors, neat designs, 27 to 30 inches wide, regular price 8c. Saturday evening only, per yard,	59c 72 pairs Ladies' French Kid Gloves, in tan and black, all sizes, regular price 15c. Saturday evening only, per pair,
5c 25 pairs largest size Flannellette Blankets, in gray and white, cut and finished at both ends. Special, Saturday evening only, per yard,	9c 100 pairs Ladies' Black Cashmere Hose, spliced sole, sizes 9 and 9½, special, per pair,
88c 24 Ladies' Corset Covers, trimmed with tucking, insertion and embroidery, regular price 35c. Saturday evening only, each,	15c 200 Jowled Spikes—the new thing for ribbon and cord ends, regular price 5c. Saturday evening, each,
27c 30 Bottles Florida Water, regular price 25c. Saturday evening, per bottle,	2c 110 yards English Tapestry Carpet, regular price 50c, Saturday evening only, per yard,
15c 18 Velvet Finished Ruffs, size 27x66, assorted colors and designs, regular price \$1.25. Saturday evening, each,	38c 5 pieces Figured Mohair Dress Goods, 42-inch, in small designs, good weight, regular price 35c. Saturday evening only, per yard,
95c 6 pieces only, Figured and Striped French Flannel, for waists, in green and red brocade, black and white, black and purple stripes, and designs, regular price 50c. Saturday evening, per yard,	20c Men's Shirts. Your choice of any Men's Colored Shirts, cuffs separate, laundered bosoms. Any \$1 or \$1.25 Shirt Saturday evening,
20c High-Grade Boot Bargain. Ladies' \$3 and \$3.50 Fine Lace and Button Boots, American make. Saturday evening for,	75c Men's Hats. Your choice of any Men's Fedora or Soft Hat in the store at \$2 and \$2.50, Saturday evening for,
\$2.25 38 bottles of Choice Mixed Pickling, only, per bottle,	\$1.50 300 pounds of choice Dried Apples, Saturday evening 6 pounds for,
8c 	25c

WESTERN ONTARIO

Live Items Culled for Busy People's Information.

S. Hardy, of Zurich, sold his dwelling on Tuesday, 22, were sold at prices ranging from \$65 to \$108. Many buyers were present from the Norwich district.

The East Zorra Sunday school convention will meet on June 14, instead of June 11 as recently announced.

Since the first of the year permits for buildings to the value of about \$2,000 have been granted by City Engineer Jones of Brantford.

Mr. W. E. Long has purchased the furniture business of Mr. Charles Whitney, who has been in business in Brantford for twenty years.

Mr. Samuel Ditchfield has sold his property situated on the northwest corner of Innis and Harris streets, Ingersoll, and will go to Manitoba the first of next week.

Harrison may soon get improved public school accommodation. The board have asked the town council to raise the necessary \$8,000.

A branch office of the Molsons bank will shortly be started in Zurich to be managed from the Hensall branch. The manager at Hensall will make bi-weekly visits to Zurich.

Brantford Courier: Rumor has been busy of late with the report that executors of the estate of the late Mr. J. C. Cockshutt contemplate making a gift to the city of the agricultural park, upon which Mr. Cockshutt held a mortgage of \$10,000.

Out of 25 horses offered at woodstock, on Tuesday, 22 were sold at prices ranging from \$65 to \$108. Many buyers were present from the Norwich district.

Robert Brown, of Norwich, bought a new driver from R. Lockhart for \$100, and S. Allan bought from J. Breckenbridge a worker for \$80. A driver owned by George Nutt brought \$90, the purchaser being J. Hartwell.

It has just come to light that a week ago last Sunday, an elopement took place from Otterville. Miss Maud Sherman, whose home has been at Milldale, which is about two miles away, came to the village to attend Sunday school. She was met while in town, by Frank Ammerman who lived on a farm some where in a southerly direction. No trace of the missing ones has been found.

THERE IS NOT a more dangerous class of disorders than those which affect the breathing organs. Nullify this danger with Dr. Thomas' Eclectic Lung Cure, a pulmonary of acknowledged efficacy. It cures lameness and soreness when applied externally, as well as swollen and crick in the back; and, as an inward specific, possesses most substantial claims to public confidence.

The darabuka, or Turkish drum, resembles a long vase, the bottom covered with parchment.

If you take a Laxa-Liver Pill to-night before retiring, it will work while you sleep without a gripe or pain, curing biliousness, constipation, dyspepsia and sick headache, and make you feel better in the morning. X