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SKILL IS CAPITAL.

Hiram Veazie was a plain, good hearted, honest farmer's boy, whose parents lived on a farm where his grandfather was born, and half a dozen miles from Augusta, Me. With a good common school education, and a natural aptitude, Hiram was considered at the age of twenty to be quite a promising young man, and was certainly of great service to his father on the farm. Old Mr. Veazie was comfortable as to means; first, because his wants were few, and secondly, because his land very nearly supplied them all. But when Hiram asked his father to advance him some small amount with which to commence business, the good old man frankly acknowledged his inability, and rather wondered that his son could not content himself on the farm as his father and grandfather had done before him.

The truth was, that Hiram had from boyhood, and during all his school days, been the intimate friend and companion of pretty Lucy White, the squire's daughter, and this childish friendship had ripened with years into love. Lucy's father understood the position of affairs perfectly, between the young people, but never interfered until one day Hiram took the old gentleman one side, and asked him for Lucy as his wife, old Squire White, as he was universally called, replied kindly but firmly, that Hiram must first acquire some trade, and means enough to support Lucy, before he could give his consent to such an arrangement. The future looked bleak to Hiram, therefore, for he was a poor farmer's boy.

Lucy was a gentle and lovely girl of nineteen, as intelligent as she was pretty; she loved Hiram sincerely, but she was too sensible to be drawn with him and pine over the situation of affairs. "What says a practical Yankee?" she said, "I'll give you my advice."

"What, said she, 'the old man for New York? You are active, good looking, 'Lefin, but and I believe that the very character of that country is just what you need. I should say, in a large city, and see if you do not find the means of earning some wages, to enable you to lay in some things, before you will be industrious, in the meantime, what little you can save shall go to make up the necessary sum for the purchase of a snug little home for us."

Hiram grasped his chance, and, not hesitating for a moment, he set out for New York, and after a short stay of about a month, soon gathered a little money, and with the blessing of his father and mother, he took the cars for Boston. It was his first start to a large city, and at the outset he was almost lost; but seeking economical lodgings, he began at once to look about himself for employment. What he found hard to obtain, but he was daily growing more and more conversant with city life and ways, and he wrote every few days to Lucy a digest of observations and incidents. A fortnight or three weeks in Boston made fearful inroads into his slender purse, and at the suggestion of some new acquaintance he determined to go to New York.

Here he passed some two weeks in various adventures, but without finding an hour of paying occupation. He wandered everywhere, observing and searching out places, inhaling freely of all, until at the close of the third week, he had but a single dollar left in his pocket, and felt for the first time nearly discouraged. In his mood he strolled through one of the up town cross streets above Union Park, and found his attention attracted by the operation of a steam saw mill, which he entered and quietly watched the business of. He saw a small but efficient engine driving four saws fed by four men, while two stood at a dock, hard by, one, evidently the manager of the establishment.

Hiram felt a strong interest in what he saw, a large pile of lumber were in the building, an article he was familiar with from childhood, and he watched the process of sawing it up, carefully observing to what purpose the wood was put, and saw a couple of hands in a further part of the shop engaged in dovetailing the pieces together, and forming the timber into boxes of various sizes. He remained so much time, and was so minute in his observations, that at last the proprietor came up to him and addressed him pleasantly.

"You seem to be quite interested," he remarked to Hiram.

"Yes, I have seen a good deal of lumber in my day, and I was calculating how much you probably used up in this way."

"We use a good many thousand feet every week."

"So I should think, and best number ones too."

"Yes, we require the very best stock, and lumber is 'up' now."

"How much do you pay?"

"Twenty-four dollars a thousand, all clear and assorted."

"What do you do with all these boxes?" continued Hiram.

"O, we can sell them faster than we can make them, for packing soap, chemicals, &c."

"Rather heavy for that purpose, I should say," added Hiram.

"Well, they are rather heavy, but we can't get boards sawed any different, they are down to the lowest gauge of the lumbering mills."

Hiram looked thoughtful, handed the boxes, examined the saws, talked good common sense in business style to the man, and at last said, half seriously, half in jest:

"You don't want a partner do you?"

"Why, not exactly; though if I had one who would put in a couple of thousand dollars, and who would take hold heartily himself, I wouldn't mind sharing the thing with him, and throwing in the machinery."

"I haven't got any money," said Hiram; "but I will give you an idea about this matter, and will take hold and give my time, in a way I think will be worth as much as the sum you name, in a short time, provided you will give me half the business."

"I like the way you talk," said the man, honestly; "but this is an old proposition."

"You say you pay twenty-four dollars a thousand for the boards?"

"Yes."

"Supposing I bring them down to twelve at once, and make water and better boxes for your purpose?"

"If you can do that, I will share with you at once, for my fortune would be made."

"Will you give me a chance to try the thing after my own fancy; for one day, say, commencing to-morrow morning?"

"Yes," said the man, after a moment's hesitation. "I can see no harm, though I am to be away to-morrow forenoon."

After a little longer talk, and a careful understanding that there should be no experiment tried that should risk the machinery, Mr. Hurd, the box-maker, gave orders to the people that Mr. Veazie was to be obeyed on the following forenoon, the space, though he himself were to give the orders, and that he should return at noon.

Hiram at once took off his cap, measured one of the saws and asked if it was the largest. He was told that it was; this he was sorry for, but still carefully taking his measures upon a piece of paper, he soon disappeared. He remembered a hardware store, to which he had passed that very forenoon; so, to his surprise, he selected a circular saw, twice as large as any Mr. Hurd had in his shop, and of a different make in the teeth; he also got some braces and jacks, of a size and style which he appeared to understand, and taking the stockmen that he wanted, he returned to Mr. Hurd in the next street, he found no difficulty in getting them on credit. With matters thus arranged, he returned to his boarding house, and studied in his own mind how he should carry out the plan he had conceived.

It was about twelve o'clock at noon on the following day, when Mr. Hurd returned to his shop, where he found Hiram Veazie in his shirt-sleeves and with a pair of "overalls" on, at work before a large splitting saw, to which he had applied the steam power. He was splitting the boards, which were fully thick enough to admit of it, and thus was making the boards produce just twice as many boxes as heretofore, with an equal amount of labor. Since those who finished them up into boxes after they were sawed could work faster with the thinner lumber to make up for the occupation of one hand to tend the splitting saw.

Mr. Hurd looked on, with astonishment, already were a score of boxes and more manufactured of the new thickness ample, for all purposes of strength, and the weight was reduced to one half. He was also delighted with his new acquaintance, who took hold of his work so handily, and above all he felt that he had at once given him an idea worth half his business and more. Mr. Hurd was an honest faithful man, and unhesitatingly kept his promise, installing Hiram in the business with one-half the profits.

The reader may imagine the letter which Hiram wrote to his faithful Lucy, and how she encouraged him to return, and how the business proved exceedingly prosperous, and how it was enlarged, and Hiram found himself at the end of a twelve month, worth some two thousand dollars; and how Squire White pressed his hand warmly when he returned to ask for Lucy, and told him to "take her," and how Lucy blushing laid her cheek bathed with happy tears upon his shoulder, and her kind old mother said that she had but one regret, and that was to part with Lucy, who must now go away to live in New York State.

But all this was so "Lucy and Hiram" were married, and their friends declared that Heaven made the match and worked a miracle for Hiram Veazie, who was so good, and industrious and generous spirited. But these are not days of miracles and the reader knows very well that it was brought about by the most natural agencies.

Three years only have passed since Hiram was married, as we have related in this veritable story, and on the Bloomingdale road, not a long walk from the factory of Hurd & Veazie, live Hiram and his lovely companion. The large and pleasant house in which they reside is his own, and a handsome surplus besides. Each annual Christmas, they return to their childhood's home, and Lucy thinks the journey is healthy for little Hiram.

Provincial Parliament.

House of Assembly.

Monday Feb. 22d.

A blank forenoon in the House.

Immediately after the reading of the journals the question came up respecting the number of sleighs that should be employed by the House for the use of members. When the question was first brought up, several members expressed a hope that the House would not spend much time in discussing such a trifling matter. The debate, however, lasted upwards of three hours, and at times much warmth was manifested. The majority finally decided to have no sleighs at all for the use of the House.

On the re-assembly of the House in the afternoon, his honor the Speaker arose, and in a short speech stated that he considered an imputation had been cast upon him by the resolution which the House had passed this morning. The resolution referred to was moved by Mr. McPhelim, and was to the effect that the clerk should pay those whose sleighs had been in attendance at the House this forenoon during the session.

An order had passed at the short session authorizing his honor the Speaker to cause one sleigh to be employed for the use of the House during the session.

Mr. McPhelim declared that he had no intention whatever of casting any imputation upon the Speaker, and was willing to have the resolution reconsidered.

After some discussion the standing order was moved, and the House sat with closed doors up to and after 1 o'clock.

The House remained with closed doors until 5:30 P. M. A resolution was unanimously passed sustaining the course pursued by the Speaker. It was also resolved to have two sleighs for the use of the House during the rest of the present session.

No other business done.

Tuesday Feb. 23d.

House opened at usual hour.

A proposal to expunge proceedings of yesterday from the Journals of the House, was not entertained.

The Bill to compel the attendance of witnesses under Commission, from other countries, passed in Committee.

Provincial Secretary laid before the House a copy of the Report of the Chief Commissioner of the Board of Works.

Mr. Mitchell enquired of the government whether any correspondence had taken place with the Governments of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward's Island, on the subject of Steam Communication with the North Shore.

Prov. Secretary replied that no correspondence had taken place.

There was a long discussion on Mr. Cudlip's Bill to modify the Curfew Laws. Bill opposed by Wilnot, Tibbits, Steadman, Harrington and others; supported by Tiley, Brown, Wright, McAdams, Speaker, Chandler and Cudlip. Progress reported.

Mr. Harrington gave notice of intention to move an Address asking for Railway documents and information.

Mr. End introduced Bill to abolish Judges' Fees in the Supreme Court.

Dr. Vail presented petition from several of the Physicians of St. John, asking for an amendment of the Act relating to physicians and surgeons. House adjourned at 5.

Wednesday Feb. 24

The House was principally occupied this morning in the disposal of unimportant business. The following Bill passed in Committee:

A Bill passed to amend the election Law, introduced by Mr. Ferris. This Bill simply provides for the establishment of a Polling Place in the Parish of Cambridge, Queen's County.

A Bill to incorporate the Lower Dam Company, Mill Pond, St. Stephen.

A Bill to incorporate the St. Stephen Water Company.

A Bill to authorize the Justices of Peace for the County of Charlotte to assess the Parish of St. Stephen for an Almshouse.

Progress was reported on several bills, the most important of which was Mr. Villiston's Disqualification Bill, on which Mr. Harrington is Chairman of Committee.

Several Members spoke in support of the principles of the Bill, which promises to assume an important attitude. Mr. Steadman and others members announcing their intention to discuss the whole question of the

Government policy in making official changes.

Mr. Peiley introduced a Bill to increase the Representation of the County of Carleton.

Mr. Scovil introduced a Bill to repeal the Act relating to the General Post Office, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

The Bill provides for the Removal of the General Post to St. John.

Mr. McPhelim introduced a Bill to change the Constitution of the Legislative Council, by making it Elective.

PROVINCIAL REVENUES.—The Journals of the Assembly received this morning, contain an abstract and comparative statement of the Revenues for the year ending October 31st, 1857. We have only time to note a few particulars. The gross Revenue collected for the year is £16,083 18s 10d, being an increase over the Revenue of 1856 of £17,815 11s 4d. Under five heads there is an increase of £21,631 11s 9d, and under other four a decrease of £3,816 0s 5d. The items in which an increase has taken place are Railway imposts £8,333 18s 2d; import duties £12,661 2s 9d; Export duties £391 2s 2d; Supreme Court fees £236 14s; Auction duties £95 14s 6d. The items that have decreased are Canal and Territorial Revenue £2,250; Emigrant duties £16 10s; Light House duties £198 19s 9d, and sick and disabled Seamen's duties £350 10s 8d. It will thus be seen, that notwithstanding the great depression of the times the export and import trade of the Province has largely increased over that of the preceding year, and that the only material decrease is in the Canal and Territorial Revenues which fell off from £7,750 to £4,939. If any one asks the cause of this decline we can only say tell them that it is the only source of revenue over which the Executive Government for the time has a direct control, and bid them recollect who were in office the greater part of the year. —*Courier.*

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT ST. LOUIS.

FIFTY LIVES LOST.

St. Louis Feb. 26.

The Pacific Hotel in this place was burned to-day at 3 o'clock A. M. Fifty persons were killed, and many others seriously injured by jumping from the windows. It is very impossible to learn the names of the killed and wounded.

The burning of the hotel proves a much more terrible calamity than the first despatch stated. About one hundred persons were in the house when the fire broke out, forty or fifty of whom are missing.

The fire caught in the drug store under the hotel, and the flames spread so rapidly that the stairways were enveloped in flames before the inmates could be rescued. All egress was thus cut off, except through the windows and were horribly mutilated, or instantly killed, and many more were unable to reach the windows and were burned to death in their own rooms. Several fire bodies are supposed to be in the ruins, and hundreds of men are engaged in removing the rubbish. The wounded were taken to the hospitals, where many, it is feared, will die. The loss of property is upwards of \$50,000.

The venerable Father Crandall, a Baptist Minister of Apostolic character and labours, died on Friday last. The *Visitor* says:—

"For these twenty or thirty years he has been spoken of as Father Crandall, and justly, for he was emphatically the spiritual Father of the family of Baptist Churches in New Brunswick. He could in truthfulness say to many of the ministers, deacons and laymen of our denomination, as Paul said to the Corinthians, 'In Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the Gospel,' and at the tidings of his death spread over these Islands many a household will feel that a Father tenderly and affectionately beloved has gone to the Spirit land."

GAS EXPLOSION IN A CHURCH.—On Friday evening, at seven o'clock, the Methodist Protestant church, on Sixth street near Race street, Cincinnati, Ohio, was partly destroyed by the explosion of defective gas pipes. At the hour mentioned some fifteen persons were assembled in the basement for meeting, when a strong odor was felt, and an effort made to discover the leakage. A light was applied to the pipe when the blast burst forth, but was extinguished by a bucket of water. Quiet was almost restored, when the explosion took place, tearing up the floor, shattering the walls, and making a wreck of the basement. More than half the pews in the church were torn up, windows blown out, and portions of the roof blown as high as the ceiling. Doors were forced from their hinges and blown into the street. The explosion was heard at a distance of half a mile. The windows of many buildings in the vicinity were des-

troyed. Eight or ten persons were severely wounded, and two or three of them are not expected to survive. —*Boston Courier.*

THE FIRESTONE.—Wearied with the fatigue, or what is worse, the impertinences of the day, how pleasant it is to retreat to one's own hearth. Disguise and restraint are here laid aside, and the soul, as well as the body, if tolerably well formed, always appears more beautiful in dishabille. The quintessence of earthly happiness, which, in warmer climates, was expressed by sitting under one's own vine, is here made sensibly felt by one's fireside. There is something in the impetus of the English which the fire settles, as it does the metal, and renders it for use. How often has a room full of visitors been unable to furnish out an hour's conversation, for no other reason but that they were seated in stately order at long angled distance from the fire. Bring the same assembly into cozy semi-circle round the grate and they prove wonderful good company. Tell us not of the convivial bottle, with its riotous folly and fevered worshippers; but commend us to cheerful household fire—the altar of freedom and the focus of happiness.

A Puzzling Relationship.

There were married at Durham, C. E., on the 25th ult., an old lady and gentleman, involving the following interesting connections. We understand them perfectly, and hope the reader will also:—

"The old gentleman is married to his daughter's mother-in-law, and his daughter's husband's wife's mother. And yet she is not his daughter's mother; but she is his grand-children's grand-mother, and his wife's grand-children are his daughter's step-children. Consequently the old lady is united in the bonds of holy matrimony and conjugal affection, to her daughter's brother-in-law's father-in-law, and her great-grand-children's grand-mother's step-father; so that her son-in-law may say to his children, your grandmother is married to my father-in-law, and yet he is not your grandfather; but he is your grandmother's son-in-law's wife's father. This gentleman married his son-in-law's father-in-law's wife, and he is bound to support and protect her for life. His wife is his son-in-law's grand-children's great-grand-

DISAGREEABLE TRUTHS.—Don't flatter yourselves that friendship authorizes you to say disagreeable things to your intimates. On the contrary, the nearer you come intimacy with a person, the more necessary do tact and courtesy become. Except in cases of necessity, which fire raze, leave your friend to learn unpleasant truths from his enemies; they are ready enough to tell them.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—Mr. Black, who was injured on the Nova Scotia Railway track a short time since, so much so that one of his legs had to be amputated, has since died leaving a wife and six children. He was a native of Aberdeenshire. Mr. Black was one of the Railway Contractors.

PROVINCIAL BANK.—We see this matter frequently alluded to by our contemporaries. We are strongly in favour of the creation of a Provincial Banking Institution—the sooner the better! At present the Banks are of no assistance to the community; they are merely crisis-conservators! We are glad that the Banks sustain their own credit, but we think they could do this without sacrificing the credit of our mercantile community. —*Recorder.*

WHAT IT COST TO ASK A QUESTION.—A young man named Johnson, not unknown to the police records, was brought up yesterday morning, on suspicion of being a thief, and sentenced sixty days in the city prison.

"Is that all?" asked the prisoner, as though disappointed in the time. "No, I'll make it ninety days," replied the judge. It cost the fellow thirty days to ask the question. —*Fredericton Gazette.*

FORGERY OF THE MONTREAL BANK.—Alexander W. Anderson was arrested week before last in Louisville, Kentucky, and taken to London, Canada, West, from which place he had fled, to answer to a charge of forgery on the Montreal Bank to the amount of ten thousand dollars. The proofs of his guilt are ample. He was a young man, married, and was pursuing a profitable business, but became involved in a course of crime and debauchery which finally led him to the net. He was committed on Monday last for trial, but being released by the court.

LIFE IS A MOMENTARY CONVULSION between two tranquil eternities; an avenue to the grave; as the grave is the flower gate that opens to a new and more enduring life.