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(PAGES NINE TO TWELVE)

Letter From Germany

Mrs. E. J. McIntyre Writes Another Interesting Letter to the Planet—Entertaining Description of a Day's Purchasing Trip.

Come with me this morning on a purchasing expedition! The Frost has spent many days with us, and has been so well pleased with his reception, that he has just signified his intention of prolonging his stay. Our supply of coal is burning low; severe weather than that of last winter and additional fires are responsible for our insufficiency. Now do not shrug your pretty shoulders, gentle reader, and exclaim, Oh, horrors! I am going to a coal yard, what an uninteresting place! On the contrary I can assure you that such a visit is full of interest, and as we wind our way through the streets of Chatham, I will tell you about my purchase of coal in Germany.

Never forget it. Not knowing where to go for it and having no idea of how to get it, I went to the Dutchland. I asked the woman who was cleaning and washing ready the flat for our occupation to accompany me and fulfill my errand, that I might learn how to purchase for myself in the future. I took me a little way across the street down into a shop kept in the cellar of the building, and can imagine my horror and disgust when I discovered the place to be none other than old Jew, one of Dickens' most characters. It was really curious to see how perfectly he seemed to every detail of the old Jew's description. I never thought I had seen much less to have seen the unrighteous persecutor of poor, little Oliver Twist, and here I was, as it were, hearing him in his very den. The narrow passage way lined on either side several heaps of coal and coke, and free entrance to the chief room at the back, and the two boys on the side, comprising the living of old Fagan well might be said. I did not venture beyond the store rooms, so can tell you nothing about the living rooms except a door leads into them from the Judging from the inmates, ever, who rushed out to catch glimpse of the "Englanderin." I truthfully say that no such "cleanliness" is next to "neatness" over the inner door. The appearance of the old Jew himself told me he had never learned his youth, that the earth's surface was divided into land and water, that the latter comprised three-fourths of this in order to insure sufficient for man's personal use. Only that the flat I had leased was but a very short distance from a pension in which we were boarded, and in which we had met several wealthy members of New York Boston society, I should have thought I had chosen a home in a very disreputable part of the city. The presence of these ladies, however, in the self-same pension as guests reassured me, for I thought if it was part of the city not at all desirable, they would have spent several months of residence in it. But to return to my business in hand.

The woman ordered a half bushel of coal for which I paid fifty pence; this equals twelve and a half cents in Canadian money. A small bundle of kindling sticks about a foot long to the value of twenty pence, or five cents, completed our purchase, in which it must be confessed I was seriously interested, wondering if coal and kindling was supposed to be ordered every day. Hitherto I had been accustomed to having my coal ordered by a boy, and even the reader will acknowledge that a slight difference in the way of doing things exists between this and a half bushel. The old man measured the coal into a loose sack, threw it across his shoulder, and taking the bundle of his hand signified his readiness to deliver the fuel.

The woman suit her pace order to direct him, I hurried the street, rushed quickly to the stairs into my flat, and asked the door of the room, the packing boxes and rest of my baggage which had only the day before was I was afraid old Fagan was anxious to inspect my new and finding the rooms not to my occupation, might have been to spend a part of his leisure hours in looking through the place, to see if there was anything he wished to appropriate. As I looked the door and took in the key, the old man's Col. is heard at the corridor door, and bidding him enter, he way into the kitchen and Col. told him to empty the coal box provided for it. He let the bag fall to the floor with a force sent the coal dust flying in great clouds, and I ventured to utterate and tell him that he had emptied the bag of its contents without first letting it fall floor, he growlingly informed that such a way of doing was the mode in Deutschland; and since learned that the German are particularly in the prevailing doing things.

Fortunately there was very little furniture in the kitchen at the time, and the woman was at hand to remove the unpleasant traces of old Fagan's visit. The coal was sufficient to heat all the water necessary for cleaning, and when I desired a second supply, I procured a large heavy paper sack and bade the woman go and fetch it herself. Before this was consumed, I learned that a part of the cellar (and the attic in the house) was at my disposal, and also where and how to buy my coal in larger quantities, so that my dealings with the old Jew were very limited.

The coal and briquets which are brought to the miniature shop of Fagan are conveyed thither in a hand wagon drawn by himself and son, his wife or daughter being in attendance upon the customers during their absence, and shovelling out the measure of coal. The vehicle in question has a carrying capacity of about a ton, and upon the days the old man feels his age entitles him to an extra hour or two for recreation, the son and daughter act as substitutes for the four-footed quadrupeds generally used by Chatham coal merchants for such a purpose. But here we are at our destination, and passing through the ever open gateway, we soon reach the modest little ten by twelve building usually constituting the coal yard office. Before entering, we pause for a moment to note the surroundings, and find it is completely encircled by temporary mountains formed of all grades and kinds of coal and coke, the demand in Berlin for the latter being much greater than that in Chatham. We see men everywhere about us engaged in screening the coal, otherwise we should openly declare it had never undergone any such process, so dirty is it when it is put into the cellar of the purchaser. Tier after tier of pressed coal, this form being the most in use, we find lining the enclosure of the yard.

In earlier times a sort of a brown coal, much of which came from Bohemia, was principally used for heating purposes, but within the last ten years this product has been found in great quantities in the neighborhood of Senftenberg, a small town not far from Berlin. This material being soft and inclined to easily crumble, is not in its natural form practicable for general use. With the aid of machinery, however, it becomes powdered, mixed with water, pressed into brick shapes, heated and dried, when it is ready for the market, and is sold under the name of "briquets." These are loaded in and out of a wagon by means of a low, box-like affair, the bottom of which is curved so as to readily accommodate itself to the back of a man as he stoops, upon which it is carried to and fro, being kept in place by attached ropes held in each hand. These boxes, made from very heavy lumber, weighty in themselves, are capable of holding one hundred and fifty large briquets. You will, therefore, readily perceive that the back of a German coal carrier does indeed bear many a burden. These briquets are sold from two dollars to two dollars and fifty cents per thousand, according to size. The fuel chiefly used in the kitchen stove or machine, as the Germans term this household article, is called stein coal; it is a harder material than that which is pressed and is always mixed with coke. Besides these above mentioned another kind of coal is produced in Germany, but it is not used as fuel; from this latter, paraffine oil is extracted and is used in the manufacture of candles, which are much used here.

Now, if we step inside the office we shall meet a young girl, who bears every appearance of having been most tenderly reared, but who has been blown hither by the adverse winds of fortune. After giving my order, I will chat with her for a few minutes, that an opportunity of learning something more about those in the lower ranks of life may be afforded you, for although this is a large business it numbers among its patrons many whose incomes seem pitifully small, notwithstanding the fact that the bread-winner often belongs to a very respectable laboring class. A very large percentage of the customers are women who carry home their own coal, the value of which seldom exceeds ten or fifteen cents. You will now understand why my character woman did not expend more than this amount when purchasing my first supply. It was purely a matter of habit with her.

Now, as we are again in the open air, retracing our steps homeward, I will tell you something more of what I have learned while sitting in yonder office, for I sometimes go there and chat a little while with the young lady who is office girl, book-keeper and cashier combined. So doing not only improves my knowledge of the German language, but also affords me a fine opportunity of observing those compelled to follow in the footsteps of poverty, though I always go

home with a heart saddened by what I have seen. It is quite frequently the case that only two, three or five cents is all that can daily be expended in the buying of fuel, the laboring poor receiving very scanty pay, though rents are high, work heavy and food expensive. These people seldom know the luxury of a fire except when one is necessary to cook the family sustenance. My pity for the working poor has greatly increased since I came to Berlin; one sees so much of the dreary side of life here.

It was after just such a visit as the one we have made to-day that I met Bill Sykes, the companion in crime of old Fagan. I had ordered my winter supply of fuel shortly after my arrival here, and it was to be delivered on the morrow. The morning came and went, however, without its appearance, but during the afternoon, when I was quite alone in the house, a ring at the bell summoned me to the door. Upon opening it I saw three coal-begrimed men standing on the threshold, the foremost of whom was Bill. One

being in the extreme end of the corridor, which was only dimly lighted, necessitated a lamp being held for the men, in order that they might see to properly pile away the briquets. Not wishing to further the acquaintance of such undesirable specimens as German coal-carriers seemed to be, I directed them to the porter's wife, who first accompanied them to the cellar and showed them where to deposit the fuel used in the kitchen stove, and then came and attended to their wants while they stowed away the pressed coal. As this was being done, the presence of the German woman re-assuring me, I stood in the hall watching their operations, so that ample opportunity was afforded me to study the face of Sykes. As I beheld him, I wondered if it were really possible that even one belonging to the very lowest rank in the social scale of femininity could entertain the faintest spark of kindly feeling for such a reproach to manhood, but Nance I have never seen, though Berlin may boast of many such as she.

Meeting one day a German gentleman



The design of the Eton in this Friedlander suit suggests a Capuchin hood over the shoulders and the elaborate scheme of braids and fringe further this impression. There is a shallow yoke and vest edging in embroidered white cloth, and stole ends in braided plum cloth extend below

would have known him anywhere; the brutality of his face had undergone no softening change. I began to think Berlin was going to prove a very interesting place, and that I should be privileged to meet many curious characters hitherto unknown except in story. It struck me as a remarkable coincidence that both Bill and the old Jew should have been sentenced to spend their laboring hours in the same employment, when transported hither, but the fates seemed inclined to not widely separate their future. Bill, who acted as spokesman, his burly form and surly manner probably according him this right, gruffly asked me where the coal was to be carried.

Now, the briquets are used in all the cookery, as the German monumental heating apparatus are called, one of which is placed in every sitting room and sleeping apartment in the dwelling. Each often consumes about twelve or fifteen briquets a day if fires are kept burning, and as the maid will not carry these up from the cellar or down from the attic (for even German servants sometimes prove obstinate) a small compartment is usually provided in each dwelling for their accommodation. The receptacle afforded me for such use

the waistline. The skirt is pleated to the waistband, and falls in full folds to the feet, where an elaborate pattern is braided above the hem. A narrow band of curved hair cloth is introduced in the interlining and a velvet binding affords the correct finish.

man, who was exceedingly well educated, a great reader who had travelled much, we began to compare the lives of the American working men with those of the German laborers, and when I told him of the strange characters I had met he smilingly informed me that he knew Dickens very well—almost by heart, and that beyond a doubt, the two of whom I spoke were rightly placed. "It is no marvel," said he "that all trace of self-respect, manly dignity and tender feeling should be so utterly crushed out of the heart, when one considers the life a coal carrier leads in Deutschland. Doomed to daily burden their backs with those overwhelming weights of coal, which so often must be carried up four, five or six flights of stairs, often winding ones, receiving very scanty pay therefor, depending very greatly upon the tips thrown to them by the customers they serve, having early and late working hours, often eating their dinner of black bread and cheese, raw ham or sausage in a coal begrimed wagon, from coal begrimed hands, is strange," he added, "that nature should deal so harshly with them!" He told me that the whole system of paying for service rendered must

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The Days of Auld Lang Syne

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

From Planet files from January 11, 1858, to January 18, 1859.

Chicago at this time has 42 papers.

The French language, it is said, contains 5,000 more words than the English.

The man who shot at Joseph St. Luke at Big Point turned out to be his brother-in-law.

Freeboot—The River Thames on January 15th, 1858, had raised several feet in height at this town.

A New York paper comes out strongly in behalf of the use of horse meat as an article of food.

During the year 1857 there were 13 murders committed in New York City, 50 homicides and 59 suicides.

It is now certain that Great Britain will require the loan of \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000 to meet expenses in India.

A careful estimate of all the Indian tribes indicate that they numbered in 1858 about 500,000 in all North America.

The Washington Star tells of a church in that remarkable place where part of the religious exercises consist of kissing.

Eggs taken from the west to New Orleans were sold by the barrel. They are quoted on the market at \$23 and \$24 per barrel.

The newly elected members of the Town Council were Mayor Charteris and Councillors Askin, Keating, Tilt, McCrae, Smith, Ireland and McKellar.

Out of the 5,000 Christians exposed to death in India during the meeting there, only five were discovered as renouncing their religion to save their lives.

The report of the Police Magistrate, Thomas McCrae, shows 30 committals for 1857, besides 40 complaints which were not entered in the records.

Married, at Sylvan cottage, Dresden, by the bride's father, on the 11th inst., Wm. H. Hedges, of Dover, C. E., to Maria Clark, third daughter of Rev. Wm. Clark, formerly of Simcoe.

The candidates for school trustees in the municipal election of 1858 were Northwood Ward—A. F. Salter and R. K. Payne.

Eberts Ward—Dr. Askin and John L. Dolsen.

Chrysler Ward—D. R. VanAllen, D. McNaughton and D. Pratt.

Religious News—The nuns of the Holy Virgin at Jerusalem have purchased the ruins of the Proscorium in which Christ was sentenced. The Turkish Government have sanctioned the purchase. The intention of the nuns is to build near to it a convent with a large wall, which is to include the ruins, which they intend to keep in their present state.

Married, on the 31st ult., by Rev. A. Campbell, John Bookie to Mrs. Angelina Ellison, both of the Township of Chatham.

On the 10th inst., by the same, Henry Brown to Agnes Mason, both of Chatham.

On the 14th inst., by the same, Mr. Robert Blythe, of the village of Fergus, Wellington County, to Miss Theresa Chrysler, of this town.

What a commentary on the world's vain glory says the Protestant Churchman, is such a modest, humble Christian apostolic title as this, "Right Reverend Father of God, Lord Bishop of Oxford, Lord High Almoner to the Queen, and Chancellor of the most noble order of the garter," successor perhaps to one Peter, a fisherman, or one a tent maker.

Long speeches—"In the English House of Commons they will not hear a man speak at length who is not known before hand to have something to say. They cheer him down, clap him down, stamp him down, or go down themselves to dinner. Long speeches are an abomination."

This is a good hint for some of the present members of the City Council.

Victoria's children—The Queen's children are rapidly growing up. The Princess Royal, who is about to be married, is now aged 17. The Princess of Wales is 19; the Princess Alice, whose hand is to be demanded in marriage by the Prince of Orange, is 14, and the Prince Alfred, whose residence at Alverbank, his mamma graciously visited, is 13. Besides these four eldest the family includes Helen, aged 11; Louisa, aged 9; Arthur, aged 7, and Leopold, 4.

On Friday night Joseph St. Luke, of Big Point, had a very narrow

escape from losing his life. He was sitting in the house mending his shoes when a shot whistled through the window from an unknown hand, the ball striking Mr. St. Luke just under the ear, passing through the fleshy portion of the cheek and coming out near the nose, making altogether a frightful wound, though not a dangerous one. No clue has been found as to the whereabouts of the perpetrator of the deed.

WHAT IT COSTS TO HEAR WARD BEECHER.

The pews in Henry Ward Beecher's church, New York, were rented Tuesday night. A fixed price was put upon each pew in the house. The auctioneer took bids for a choice until all were sold. The premiums paid for the best seats were \$30 to \$50, thus making the rent of the best pews on the lower floor \$100 to \$270.

EXAMINATION.

On Friday last the Board of Public Instruction—or rather the following members of that Board, viz., Dr. Cross, Mr. Mills, Rev. Mr. King and Mr. Young, for the purpose of granting certificates of qualifications to such persons as passed a creditable examination. About 30 certificates were granted and the examination passed off in every respect satisfactorily. After the business of the Board had been concluded those teachers present resolved upon forming a teachers' association for mutual improvement. Accordingly, Mr. Geo. Jamieson was elected president, Mr. Mills vice-president, and Mr. McSweeney secretary. The object of this association is that conveyed in its cognomen, for which purpose its members will regularly meet in this town at stated periods of the year.

DEDICATED.

We have neglected until the present time to notice the dedication of the Rev. Wm. Clark's church at Dresden, which took place upon the 1st inst. In the morning Rev. Wm. Walker, pastor of the United Presbyterian church, of this town, addressed the congregation. In the afternoon Rev. Mr. King of Buxton, delivered an able sermon. This church was erected by Mr. Clark's own personal exertions, and is, we understand, the only building expressly devoted to the service of the Almighty in that vicinity. It is a very creditable structure, is pleasantly situated, and is capable, we should judge, of seating about 400 persons. Its cost is at present nearly \$900. About \$100 more will finish it. This is the fifth house of worship that has been erected in Canada through the instrumentality of Mr. Clark.

TRUDGED 10 MILES.

Zero weather and a northwest hurricane could not cool the affection nor still the ardor of little Olive Palmer, 14 years old, and Andrew Finner, 16 years old, of Palmerville, N. J.

These children a few days ago, tramped eight miles over mountainous roads, through snow drifts, to a minister at Mount Freedom and asked him to marry them.

They arrived nearly frozen. Rev. A. C. Covey glanced at the girl, whose dress reached barely to her shoe tops; then he looked at the bare, less face of the youth, and advised them to return home and wait three or four years.

They were obdurate and said they would be married that day if they had to walk to New York. They then tramped to the home of Rev. John Hillman, two miles further on, and were just explaining the longing of their hearts when Mrs. Palmer arrived. To the surprise of the clergyman she consented to the marriage, and it was performed. Mrs. Palmer had followed the children on foot, and so it was necessary for all three of them to tramp back ten miles through the snow and storm.

Mrs. Wm. Simpson, of Leamington, died on Sunday morning at about 4.30, after being bed-ridden for some three or four weeks as the result of liver and other troubles. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon at 2.30. Mrs. Simpson was a cousin of Mrs. Thos. Burley, of the Middle Road, Raleigh, and also Mr. Isaac Simpson and the Simpsons at the lake. Messrs. John and Hugh Shanks, at Port Alma, are uncles of deceased.—Merlin Mirror.

The fast Ridgetown hockey club is having a quiet time. Blenheim refuses to play the locals either at Blenheim or here for fear of a Waterloo, and Chatham cannot be induced to take Ridgetown on either at the Maple City or on the home rink.—Ridgetown Plaindealer.