

Then the heralds lifted up their voices and the gates were thrown wide open, and the men from the north, and the south, from the east, and the west arrayed their lines in battle array. And lo, the tribunes approached, and they made obeisance unto the flocks, and stooped and spread out their hands and embraced them, then they opened their raiment and searched as though prospecting for gold, then they fell upon their knees, even as to worshipping them, and I said, "What seek they?" Then the centurion answered and said, "Begorra, it is black wool and blue skies they are after." Then replied I, in a gentle voice (for I was much afraid, after the manner of my kind), because of the rough voice of the centurion, "Thy servant has just arrived from the caravansary of the tribe of Jerseys, and should they not find that for which they seek, beseech them to fetch a compass and sail hence; when thy servant left it was both black and blue and smelt of brimstone."

After searching many moments the tribunes arose, and, after many words, did deliver judgment. Then were the ribbons distributed to the conquerors, and some lifted up their voices in a mighty shout of victory, and others wailed and said, "Lo, we forgive the tribunes, for they have passed us by."

Again the heralds called forth another lot of contestants. And I spake and said, "What are these?" "They are Southdowns," replied the guard. Nero, when he was burning Rome, ordered a Southdown chop to be cooked on the embers while he tuned his stringed instrument. They go back in unbroken descent to the ark, and only princes and rulers are allowed to partake of the saddles and cutlets thereof. Then one Jackson, a "canny chiel," put on his armor and cried aloud, "I am ready," for he was cunning of hand, and he had arranged his flock in colors of gala, yet, of old gold, and his skill is recognized to the uttermost parts of the continent. And one Teller, of fair speech, said, "I am not afraid," and he girded up his loins and came out of the encounter with much credit.

And again the heralds announced the appearance of other candidates, and upon their foreheads were to be found these words, "Oxford Downs." These were monsters in size, even approaching the ox in stature. But the warriors themselves were only of medium size, but very earnest in their endeavors, and the battle waxed furiously, and the names of the winners were placed on the rolls, which are carefully preserved in the archives, and they were emblazoned in large letters: Smith Evans, R. J. Jull and J. H. Hine.

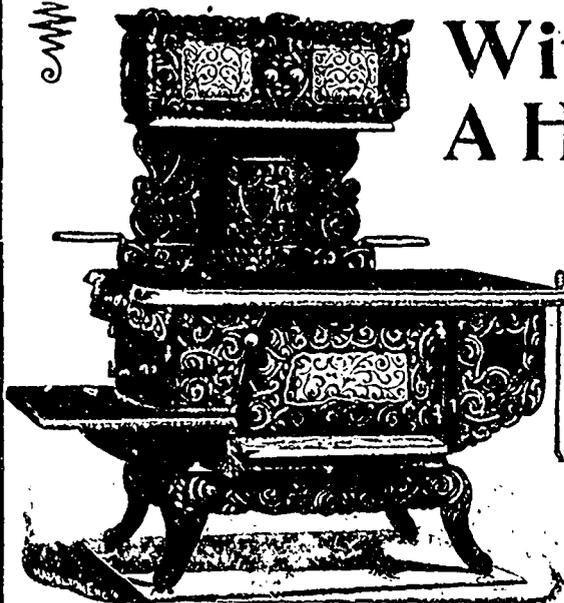
Again the heralds lifted up their voices, and Cotswolds, Lincolns and Leicesters were the cabalistic words. These were of white complexion, fair to the eye and beloved of women, for from their fleeces are woven garments that fill their hearts with gladness, and it has ever been found that it is good for man to make glad the heart of woman, for doth he not thereby get his reward?

Thy servant is not qualified to place upon his tablets the results of the combat within the arena, as he has been called as one without the knowledge, and he would have his paths "paths of peace." Are not the records to be found in the chronicle of the Industrial? and inscribed in letters of red, blue and yellow, will be found the names of Gibson and Walker, the son of "Kit," with whom a "bonnie blue heeded yan" was once held in great favor. Then there was the Patrick of the green flag; his voice is heard from the east to beyond the Mississippi.

The Cotswolds had for champions, Allen and Park and Watson, and in Leicesters the names appear of Gardhouse, renowned of horses and of cattle, of Whitelaw the Scot, whose stature is even like unto those who go down to the races, and with whose names are attached those of "The Darby" and "T' Ledger." Yea, verily, he would be as an Alexander upon a Bucephalus. And the Anak was there whose voice has been lifted up to proclaim, "The land of the Maple Leaf is the home of the Leicester and we fear no foe, not even from the land of brown heath."

The horned rams and the lambs that visited this city time will not permit to describe them; suffice they had horns to burn. The genial McGilliverry and the great Harding will sustain their reputations. But are not

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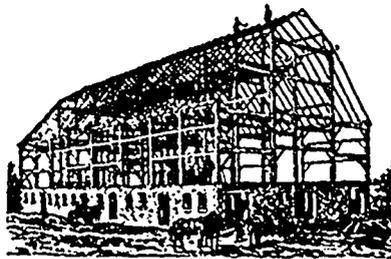
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