

CONVERSATION.

Did He Get an Answer?

A good story is told of Rev. Phillips Brooks, the new bishop of Massachusetts. He was walking through the streets of Boston, when he met an inebriated individual, who appealed to him to help him find his house. The good man took the befoiled brother in charge and saw him safely on the steps of his own home. The man thanked him profusely and said: "Oh, it doesn't matter; call me St. Paul, if you like."

Pet Superstitions.

How many of us are there who do not know a little of the superstitions of our forefathers? We find that we have not thirteen at the table, or have seen the moon over our left shoulder, or have done any of the thousand and one things that are supposed to portend evil? Not that old folk fear a momentary misfortune really will happen as a consequence of these acts, but the suggestions are not pleasant, and we wish our attention had not been called to them.

Of course, we all laugh at superstitions and think them silly, as they are, but nevertheless, we do not get away from the unpleasant feeling.

I knew an old lady who considered it positively wicked to mention to give up to "foolish superstitions," but she never would allow anyone to rock an empty chair in her presence. You will see people in the street who have been hurrying, as if anxious to lose no time, stop at a corner and wait five minutes for a long funeral procession to pass. They have not the courage to cross through it when an opportunity is offered, although they may waste moments that are golden to them.

The most sensible and practical people in the world often take particular pains to keep off a patch of bubbles that has risen to the top of their tea, because someone in jest has said it is a "sure sign of money."

It always requires a distinct effort for me to pass a pin that is lying on the sidewalk, because of that absurdly bad rhyme, which, of course, I consider nonsense.

"See a pin and pick it up,
All day you'll have good luck."

Sometimes these omens do not go well together, and even contradict each other. For instance, one will tell you that the only lucky way to find a pin is with the head toward you; and just as you have the habit of going around looking for pins with their heads toward you, another man will tell you: "It is very unlucky to pick up a pin with the head toward you. The only right way is to have the point toward you, for then the luck will be sharp."

As the tables turn, it is split between two people, the way to avoid a quarrel in each to take a pinch and throw it over his left shoulder. Salt always has seemed a wonderfully powerful mineral from the time when we were children, and we, who are old now, do not firmly believe in that old joke about putting salt on a bird's tail. I remember a curly-headed little boy in kilts who went out into the garden with a handful of salt, resolved upon catching a bird. He was very patient, and cautiously tiptoed around for a long while. Finally, a little discouraged, he went in to his mother and said, mournfully, "Mamma, they all flew away." His mother said, "Why, what?"

When we stop to think, we wonder how real these silly superstitions, in which nobody believes, are in their influence upon our actions. We hesitate to start on a journey on Friday, we wear a red ribbon, and run rather than go under a ladder; we don't give knives or sharp instruments to our friends; and we don't do a hundred things that we might, all because, though we are not superstitious, we are rather not do what suggests anything disagreeable.

Absent-mindedness.

Daniel Reid was a very absent-minded man. Once he started for the Erie train and thought he had left his watch at home. First he thought he would go back after it. In an absent-minded way he took out his watch, looked at it and exclaimed:

"What's 5 o'clock, and the train goes out at 5:10; I won't have time."

Then he put his watch back in his pocket and telegraphed his wife to send it to Albany by express.

"But Horace Greeley," said Dewey, "was absent-minded than I." "Do you remember the instance?" I asked.

"Yes," Whitlaw Reid said when Greeley left the Tribune office one day he put a note on his office door, "Will return at 3 o'clock."

"Happening to return at 1:30, and seeing the sign, he sat down in the hall and waited for himself till 3 o'clock. Greeley was absent-minded!" [Ed Perkins' "Twenty Years of Wit."

A Beautiful Songster.

Of the song of the wren, says Olive Thorne Miller in her paper on "The Wren" in the June Atlantic:

This wretched, carol, one of nature's most stirring bits of music, fell upon my ear for the first time one memorable morning in June. It was a true siren-strain. We forgot, my comrades and I, what we were seeking in the woods. The juncos family, in their song gave among the roots, and interesting to us but not, in the least, flyaway; the oven-bird, in the little hollow beside the path, might finish her line-lined dominion, and the shy thrasher conclude to occupy the nest on the living arch from which he had frightened her all without our being there to see. For the moment we cared for but one thing—that to follow that "wandering voice," to see that singer.

We were not to find that to be fascinated by this marvelous melody. "Dull indeed must be the ear that thrills not on hearing it," says Audubon, and its effect upon him is worth telling. He was traveling through a swamp, where he had reason to expect the presence of venomous snakes and other reptiles. While moving with great circumspection, looking out for these unwelcome neighbors, the captivating little aria burst upon his ear. Instantly snakes were forgotten, his absorbing passion took full possession, and he crashed recklessly through the briars and laurels in pursuit. It is pleasant to know, therefore, that he not only the singer, but his nest, which was the first he had ever seen, and gave him a delight known only to enthusiastic bird-lovers.

Blood poisoned by diphtheria, the grip, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, etc., is made pure and healthy by Huxley's Sarsaparilla.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

BRUCE.

W. F. Jennings, of Warton, peacefully succumbed to a lingering illness the other day. Mr. Jennings was in his 57th year, and was a country constable for Bruce at the time of his death. He leaves a widow, one son and four daughters to mourn for him.

Mrs. Black, of Clover Valley, a very feeble old lady, fell out of bed and broke her leg. There is very little hope of her recovery.

There is a rather novel butchering establishment in Brant township. Twenty farmers have banded together and kill a beef every week, each member taking one-twentieth of it. Thus, in twenty weeks, they will each have consumed one animal, always having fresh beef.

BRANT.

The tramp Henderson, convicted of stealing a watch and chain at Brantford, was sentenced to two months in jail by Deputy Judge Jones.

John Miller, farmer, who lives about one mile south of Paris, was in the act of taking a cow out to the barnyard with a rope around its neck, when something frightened the animal, causing it to run around the yard, and in so doing the animal pulled Mr. Miller down, dragging him a considerable distance, and when he got up he found the rope torn from above his knee cap, and the knee cap hung down, exposing the whole top of his knee.

The hardware store of J. B. Crawford at Dutton was broken into by some parties, who stole a safe, which had been left unlocked the night before, remained. The thieves cut a hole in the cellar door by means of a brace and bit, large enough to admit the hand, and then removed the bar which fastened the door. The safe contained \$28 65 in cash, which was taken, besides a number of pocket knives from the show case.

DUFFERIN.

The bylaw to raise \$20,000 for improving the leading roads of Dufferin county was defeated on its third reading. The cause of the defeat was due to the backdown of the Mono representatives who supported the bylaw in January. Five public meetings were held in the county last week, and as these the ratemakers declared almost unanimously against the bylaw.

Dufferin will have uniform examination papers in the rural public schools after this, the county having granted the request of the petitioners.

ELGIN.

The St. Thomas Council has appointed a committee to confer with one from the Elgin Council on the question of the abolition of toll gates.

A Sabbath school picnic will be held at Port Bruce on June 21.

Oliver Mould, a young Englishman just returned from St. Thomas, Ontario, and boards with Mr. Musselman, mourns the loss of \$67. It was taken from the pocket of his coat, left in his room.

The Elgin County Council has decided to grant a grant to the Elgin schools in the county: Alymer, from \$2,000 to \$3,100; Dutton, from \$1,800 to \$2,700; Vienna, from \$900 to \$1,200. This is evidently to offset the loss from \$1,400 to \$2,157 to St. Thomas required by Judge Hughes' award. It was also decided that the county would pay half the cost of purchasing roads in Yarmouth, Southwold and other places.

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at Chatham on the 28th, 29th and 30th inst. Dresden school will furnish 20 candidates. The primary examinations will commence on July 11 and close on the 14th.

YARINGTON.

Superintendent Stiff, of the G. T. R., has consented to allow the weekly excursion train to stop at Bayview Park, Sarnia, every Wednesday morning and evening for the accommodation of excursionists.

The fifteenth public meeting of the East Lambton Farmers' Institute will be held at Camlachie on Tuesday, June 14. Addresses will be given and papers read on live agricultural subjects. At the evening session Nicholas Avey, M.F.P., and others will speak.

MIDDLESEX.

The Lambeth mill is in operation after a month's repairing.

Wednesday next, 15th inst., is the day on which the strictly cattle fair will be held in Belmont.

Councillor McCallum has tendered his resignation for Ward No. 3, North Dorchester, owing to continued illness. He has not participated in several deliberations. A new election will be held on the 17th.

The Gladstone school ranks among the foremost in East Middlesex under the efficient management of Mr. Fox.

The following are the officers of the Belmont Mechanics' Institute: President, J. Boyd; vice-president, J. Potts; secretary, T. W. Strachan; treasurer, George McKellar; directors, Rev. S. W. Mackworth, Messrs. H. Pettit, J. Cousins, J. Empey, James Campbell; auditors, J. G. Fawcett and James McCallum. It was decided to issue 300 catalogues as soon as possible.

The little son of James Henderson, West Nisour, who received a wound from a long hair pin just above the knee, which caused blood poisoning, is recovering. The little fellow has suffered great pain, but bore it manfully.

An unsuccessful attempt at highway robbery was made in Mossa the other night. While one of the men employed unloading stone at Pratt's Sliding was returning by the G. T. R. track he observed two men approaching him from the west. Becoming suspicious he picked up a railroad bolt, which his foot fortunately struck against in the dark. When the men came quite close one of them shouted to throw up his hands, which was done with a quickness that no doubt surprised the highwayman, for one hand came down with the bolt with such force on his head as to fall him to the ground. The other ruffian then struck the workman with a club that felled him, but failed to stun him. When the ruffian went to seize hold of him he slipped away and started for home, outcries and assassins, who followed him some distance.

Maudie Duncan, Maudie Pearson and Effie Byers, Nisour, were playing at the culvert by J. G. McClary's, Hamilton road, when Maudie Duncan, who was carrying a bag into the water. Two little boys, Edna and Fred Pearson and Reynolds, who were close at hand at the time, grabbed a piece of board, and when Maudie came up the first time reached it to her, and had her safely landed before any other help could arrive.

James McCallum, councillor for Ward No. 3, Dorchester has recently resigned his seat. His reason for this step is ill-health, which compels him to seek a change of climate. He leaves for the Northwest on the 21st inst., and intends going somewhere near Regina.

OXFORD.

Christopher Carey, a farm laborer employed by James Lewis, 6th con. of East Oxford, was kicked on the head by a colt, resulting in a fractured skull. The young man is in a precarious condition.

Peter Irving, Woodstock, received a telegram, stating that he lost everything by fire Wednesday night. The family were saved. Mr. Irving has been a jailer at Sudbury for eight years, and a very good one, which was burnt down. His loss will be heavy.

An alarm of fire was given at 6 o'clock Wednesday night, occasioned by a small blaze in the boiler room at D. W. Kern & Co.'s organ factory, Woodstock. It is supposed the fire originated from shavings that had been heated by a steam pipe. Fortunately the blaze was noticed as the men were leaving work, and about 100 pails of water drenched the incipient blaze.

At a meeting of the North Oxford License Commissioners Tuesday several transfers were made. The license held by J. E. Thompson, Woodstock, was transferred to his brother Ralph; another from the executors of the late Caleb Calster to Mrs. Calster, and a transfer in Plattsville from the Jones House to the Westminster.

SENIOR.

J. D. Riddell has left Stratford for Trenton to enter upon his duties as superintendent of the Central Ontario Railway.

Miss Emily Coleman, second daughter of Rev. John Mills, Mitchell, was married to Herbert N. Morley, a young barrister of Minneapolis, on Thursday.

There will be a good-natured contest at Sebringville on July 1 for a lady's gold watch. The fair contest will be between Misses Collison, Mitchell, and Minnie Thompson, of Arvinton, two popular young school teachers. The voting will likely be keen and the interest intense.

Rev. Robert H. Motherwell, who has arrived from his trip through Egypt, Palestine, Greece and Britain. His many friends will be pleased to learn that his health has been greatly benefited by his trip. He was accompanied by Rev. Daniel Cavan, of Knox College, at Cairo they were joined by Rev. W. A. Wilson, formerly pastor of Knox Church, St. Marys, and Mrs. Wilson, of the Central India Mission staff of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and together the party traveled through the east.

WORTH A GUINEA A BOX.

SPECIAL NOTICE

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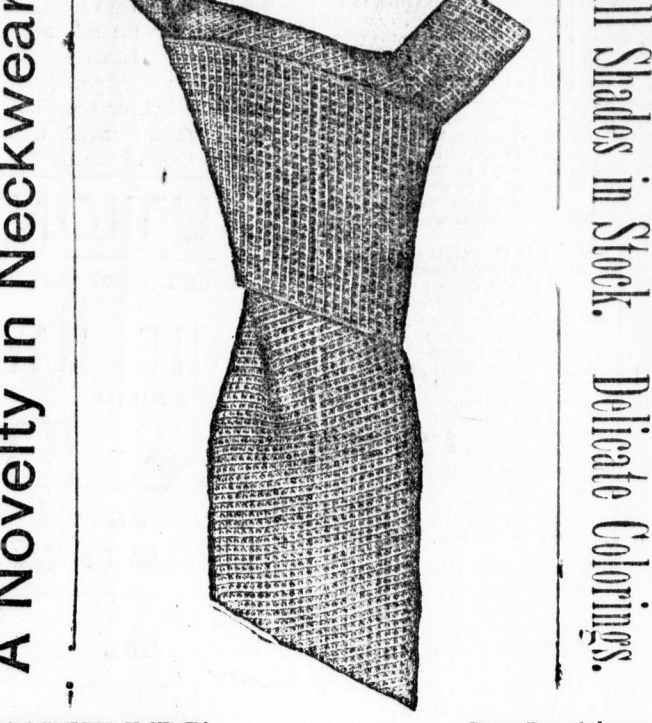
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POSITIVELY CURES

Rheumatism, Sexual Weakness, Solitary Habits, Female Complaints, General Debility, Impotency, Lumbago, Kidney Diseases, Nervous Diseases, Liver Complaint, Dyspepsia, Lame Back, Varicose Veins, RHEUMATISM.

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MENTION THIS PAPER.

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Good to return until July 21.

ON—JUNE 21, 1892.

Good to return until July 31.

ON—JUNE 28, 1892.

Good to return until Aug. 7.

ON—JULY 18 AND 19, 1892.

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EDMONTON \$40.

The Winnipeg Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition will be held from July 25 to 31, inclusive, and July 15 and 16 have been fixed upon for excursion to the exhibition.

An excellent Canadian Pacific Railway train will be held at Edmonton on July 3. Passengers taking advantage of the excursion of the train will reach Edmonton in time to attend the exhibition.

For further particulars apply to any agent of the company.

THOS. E. PARKER, City Ticket Agent, No. 1, Main Street, Montreal, or to City Hall, City ticket office open 7:30 a.m.

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"GERMANIC".....June 29

"TITONIC".....July 6

"BRITANNIC".....July 13

"MAJESTIC".....July 20

"GERMANIC".....July 27

"TITONIC".....August 3

"BRITANNIC".....August 10

"MAJESTIC".....August 17

"GERMANIC".....August 24

"TITONIC".....August 31

"BRITANNIC".....September 7

"MAJESTIC".....September 14

"GERMANIC".....September 21

"TITONIC".....September 28

"BRITANNIC".....October 5

"MAJESTIC".....October 12

"GERMANIC".....October 19

"TITONIC".....October 26

"BRITANNIC".....November 2

"MAJESTIC".....November 9