

THE RELAY RACE

BY CALVIN JOHNSTON.

The snow was falling thickly in Barrow, and the great, soft-coated stove in Mr. Bliven's grocery, flowed like a friendly beacon to storm-beaten passers-by. The little old storekeeper, having sent out the day's orders and expecting no transient trade on so bleak an afternoon, settled himself on his stool and lighted his cheroot with the air of a club man. Presently he looked reproachfully at the cat, and then at the clock stupidly ticking out eternity without a notion of what it meant.

"A man alone, is a dead man," said Bliven, and set about firing in any chance wayfarer by opening the drafts in his beacon, and leaving wide its door. A broad ray moved through the dusk and beat so rosy upon the windows that two of Barrow's most prominent citizens broke through the drifts toward it immediately—Major Brownlow Clay, the celebrated wholesale grocer, and little old General Wampun, the town hero and oracle. Both reproached Bliven with kindling this wretched lure, but Bliven wagged his chin whisker in welcome, and presently the trio about the stove took up the affairs of the nation where a late unlamented congress had dropped them in disgust.

"Nearly everything had been adjusted when the rear door opened slowly and cautiously and a polar hurricane swept the store from end to end. There was a tremendous row and the slowness and caution with which the door was closed greatly incensed the general; when a very dark and apparently crippled old darky shuffled forward, he inquired what such a crowd meant by it.

The old darky raised his mittened hands and vowed that rheumatism alone had kept him from slipping in through a crack like a weasel.

"Take a cracker box and pull up to the stove Uncle Kinch," said Bliven. "The general was just saying that the black man should be given a show."

"I said blackmen" corrected the old general stiffly, "I repeat that having them on hand—through the misfortune of war—we should accept the job of civilizing them. In a sportsman-like spirit, isn't it so, Brownlow?"

Major Clay had been grinning in friendly fashion at Uncle Kinch, who after seating himself next to a spot on the stove which threatened to melt, sat with grizzled head nodding and red eyes rolling in solemn attention. But eyes rolling in solemn attention. But upon being appealed to in this manner, the major became cold and distant. He was now to consider Uncle Kinch, not as an amusing old neighbor at once fox and faithful, but as the member of a burlesque race.

"We must treat them in sportsman-like fashion," he agreed. "Generation after generation, we must educate and raise them up. Relay them, I may say—relay the race onward to civilization."

Bliven sniffed. "Sort of a relay race you want to enter 'em in, eh?" he remarked dryly. "Why don't you give 'em the chance to break away with the rest of us, right now?" His chin whisker bristled indignantly, for he had fought for four years in the federal army, and that reference to the "misfortune of war" made him tired. Both Clay and Wampun immediately began framing up a rejoinder which would crush Bliven to dust, but the latter forestalled them by relating the particulars of a certain relay race, conducted by true sportsmanly conduct, would serve as brilliant illustration of his attitude in the present discussion.

After it was found impossible to reinstate the profession with courteously: "Proceed, Bliven," and the narrator was not further interrupted.

Over in Klona County there used to be a supernatant preacher of the softshell Baptist named Wiley Pearn. Wiley wasn't supernatant on account of feebleness—he could still split a pulpit with his fat—but his voice blew out contradicting the Presbyterian doctrine during a camp meeting sermon.

Right then and there he said: "Now I've got to enter a profession where a man can make a living by keeping silent. And I'll naturally choose one which needs reform. Men in every line of business feel guilty and uneasy at this, but when Wiley said he'd picked on horse trading they agreed that he'd made the best choice from the missionary point of view. 'Hell starve at it, though,' they said, and there was a great deal of sympathy.

to Jim's jockey: "here comes my first relay." And here it came, scattering people with a whirlwind. The horse was stretched out like a great lizard, his belly almost grazing the road, and hunched up on his shoulders was a drier wider looking jockey than any one else in the crowd. You've seen a cannon ball ricochet? That's the way Wiley's horse was travelling, and now the other was after him. Then like two puffs of dust they ran into the woods.

Quite a party rode to the opposite side of the town to see the face come of the woods; the sheriff was laughing and yet uneasy. "Somehow I don't like the way that jockey of yours rode," he admitted.

"He's one of your own men," said Wiley. Well, gentlemen in about forty relays the race burst out of the woods. Wiley's horse three hundred yards in the lead and hitting it up to get in first, like a lawyer at the coronation. Almost abreast of the group, the wild jockey looked up the horse reared. And right then old Wiley jerking out a horse pistol, made for him.

"Ride," he thundered, in his old terrible pulpit voice, and after one look into the horse pistol the jockey blew down the road and never was seen covering the jockey, turned to the judge.

"I herewith surrender the accused to the officer of the court," he declared. Then Sheriff Jim recognized him and almost fainted.

Old Wiley had given out to the circuit judge for the toughest prisoner in the jail, an ex-cowpuncher accused of a hold-up. With outwitted mentioning this to the prisoner he paid a trusty to open his cell at a certain time, and to take the horse and describe the route where supposed friends had posted relays. The cowpuncher had ridden for dear life, taking the route for pursuit, and being a trusty to do that, thought he was making a clean get away till bursting out of the woods before the town.

"My idea is best, that a man running for his life will beat any horse ridden for a purse," explained Rev. Wiley. Later he paid a lawyer to defend the cowpuncher, and the jury refused to poll the joke of the race by hanging him.

By means of this story Bliven scored his point, uttering a roaring general and Major Brownlow Clay. After they had departed in the dusk, Uncle Kinch said triumphantly: "You done prove, Mister Bliven, that the black man is the same as he could and the white gentlemen let him out of jail and he start off mounted, and just as he escapes he find himself back in the same hole he ran out of."

"That's what I proved," replied Bliven with satisfaction. "Well, I think you done exactly right to fetch him back in here," said Uncle Kinch. "Whufor a fool nigger want to run away from a pool jail?"

Bliven surveyed with great chagrin the person whose uplift he had been advocating. "Fishes" taint no jail! Why his is home, I tell you, 'mong you white gentlemen," declared Uncle Kinch. "An' what's that folks keep sayin' that 'charity begins at home'—this is such a charity begins at home—'fishes' he studied the shelves intent, and inquired innocently: "What in that barrel?"

"That basket over there and help yourself. You've got more sense 'n' to invite the rest of the colored population to take me in relay, I reckon."

Under an order of the board of railway commissioners for Canada, the car service charges are increased from \$1.00 per car day to \$2.00 for the first 24 hours or any part thereof, and \$3.00 for each succeeding 24 hours or any part thereof, exclusive of Sundays and legal holidays, for delay beyond the free time heretofore allowed.

This order will take effect on the 1st of January, 1913.

Under the new regulation persons of fifteen years of age or over can act as an escort for children.

The case of Frank Quinn, charged with assaulting Daniel Mitchell, was resumed before Magistrate Ritchie in the police court yesterday morning. Quinn's story to the effect that he was merely parted Mitchell while he was fighting with another man was corroborated by several witnesses. The case was dismissed. Alphonso Savard, who was arrested several days ago on the charge of stealing liquor from the C. P. F. sheds at Sand Point, was sentenced to five months in jail with hard labor. Alexander Brayley, charged with being drunk and fighting on Mill street, was fined \$8 or thirty days in jail. Two prisoners charged with drunkenness were fined \$4 or ten days in jail, while another was fined \$3 or thirty days in jail. One other prisoner charged with drunkenness was remanded. Hearing in the case of Shore Captain McGiffin of the Allan Line Steamship Company, reported for staying goods in No. 6 shed at Sand Point contrary to the fire regulations, was postponed until Friday next on account of the illness of Captain McGiffin. The charge of obstructing the sidewalk on Princess street with a staging was allowed to stand until this morning.

The closing exercises in the St. John High School were held yesterday morning when a large number attended and enjoyed the programme. W. J. S. Myles presided. The feature of the programme was the presentation of the prizes. An interesting feature of the exercises was the expression of regret at the departure of Thomas E. Powers from the staff and also of appreciation of his efficient services and worth as a teacher. On behalf of the teaching staff, W. J. S. Myles presented him with a valuable pair of field glasses, while J. Wilfred Tait on behalf of the class of 1913 presented him with a solid leather travelling bag. Mr. Powers made a fitting reply to each address.

GENERAL. Oldest Human Skull. London, Dec. 20.—Portions of the oldest human skull that has yet been discovered have been laid before the fellows of the Geological Society by Charles Dawson and Dr. Arthur Smith, wood Museum of the Natural History Museum in Kensington.

Must Remarry. Chicago, Ill., Dec. 20.—A decision of the Illinois supreme court makes it necessary for scores of Chicago people

to remarry if they wish their union to be recognized as legal.

Will Carleton Dead. New York, N. Y., Dec. 20.—Will Carleton, poet, newspaper man and lecturer, died at his home in Brooklyn on Wednesday of pneumonia, after a short illness. In 1870 he became editor of the Detroit Tribune, and a year later published his first book of poems, "The Hills to the Poorhouse," was the best known of his earlier works. Mr. Carleton was married in 1881 to Miss Adora Niles.

Sussex Man Makes Good. Herbert A. Slinott, formerly of Sussex, has been elected a member of the council board on the same ticket.

City Employees Paid. Nearly \$15,000 was paid to the city employees yesterday. The officials received their salaries for the next month to provide for the Christmas expenses.

TORTURED FROM BABYHOOD

"Fruit-a-lives" Cures Constipation.



MISS E. A. GOODALL. Edmonton, Alta., Nov. 20th, 1911. "I have been a sufferer since baby-hood from that terrible complaint, Constipation. I have been treated by physicians, and have taken every medicine I heard of, but without the slightest benefit. I finally concluded that there was no remedy in the world that could cure Constipation. About this time I heard about 'Fruit-a-lives' and decided to try them. The effect was marvellous. The first box gave me great relief, and after I had used a few boxes, I found that I was entirely well. 'Fruit-a-lives' is the only medicine that ever did me any good and I want to say to all who suffer as I did, 'Try this fruit medicine and you will find—as I did—a perfect cure.'"

MISS E. A. GOODALL. "Fruit-a-lives" is the only medicine in the world made of fruit and the only one that will positively and completely cure you of Constipation. 50¢ boxes, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25¢. At all dealers or sent on receipt of price by Fruit-a-lives Limited, Ottawa.

NEWS IN SHORT METRE

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Yarmouth Fire Loss. C. E. L. Jarvis and P. S. Whittaker, who acted as adjusters for the insurance companies interested in the Yarmouth fire, have completed their report. It shows that the total loss was less than \$50,000, while the insurance loss is \$36,000. The loss is split among forty companies some of the shares being as low as \$10.

High School Closing. The closing exercises in the St. John High School were held yesterday morning when a large number attended and enjoyed the programme. W. J. S. Myles presided. The feature of the programme was the presentation of the prizes. An interesting feature of the exercises was the expression of regret at the departure of Thomas E. Powers from the staff and also of appreciation of his efficient services and worth as a teacher. On behalf of the teaching staff, W. J. S. Myles presented him with a valuable pair of field glasses, while J. Wilfred Tait on behalf of the class of 1913 presented him with a solid leather travelling bag. Mr. Powers made a fitting reply to each address.

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JAPANESE STUDY POSSIBILITIES OF SOUTH AMERICA

Nippon Anxious to Become Independent of the European Market - May Emigrate on Large Scale.

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 18.—Considerable interest is being taken here in the activities of the Japanese commissioner, Dr. Jehagi, who has the chair of political economy at the University of Tokio, and who is travelling in South America in order to study the commercial possibilities in the various republics from the Japanese standpoint.

In a recent interview with the minister of foreign affairs, Senor Bosch, the professor explained that Japan was anxious to become independent of the European market, especially in regard to wool and leather, and plans to get these two articles in South America.

The Japanese government, it appears, has the intention of subsidizing a new steamship line to the South American coast, including the Argentine, Uruguay and Brazil, both via Panama and Magellan.

It is also understood that Japanese immigration, on a large scale, is one of the main problems Dr. Jehagi is commissioned to investigate thoroughly, from an economic as well as an international standpoint.

Public opinion here, while fully alive to the growing importance of trans-Pacific commerce, is as adverse as ever to Asiatic immigration or to the cultivation of relations that would bring on a Mongolian influx.

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WILL GIVE \$500 TO SICK READERS OF STANDARD

Famous Scientist Who Originated the Now Wonderful "Home Treatment" Offers \$1.00 Package Free to Sick and Ailing

In order that every reader of The Standard who may not have heard of this wonderful "Home Treatment" may have an opportunity to test this celebrated medicine, the now famous scientist, Dr. James W. Kidd, offers to give absolutely free a full size \$1.00 package to five hundred readers of this paper, to prove the wonderful claims which have been made for it. In making this offer the scientist said: "I know that there are many people who have been suffering for years with some chronic disease and many of them have spent large sums of money seeking a cure. I know that these people hesitate about investing money in medicine because they have despaired of ever getting well. 'Thousands have told me that story and many thousands of the same people have told me afterwards that my treatment had cured them after doctors and everything else had failed. I want to prove to a limited number, no matter what the disease, no matter how long they may have suffered, no matter how blue and discouraged they are, that my treatment really and actually does accomplish the wonderful results that have been reported."

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Dr. Jas. W. Kidd, Toronto, Canada. Please send me a Full \$1.00 Course of Treatment for my case, free of postage paid, just as you promise. Name: _____ Post Office: _____ Province: _____ Street and No.: _____ Age: _____ How long afflicted?: _____ Make cross (X) before diseases you have. Two crosses (XX) before the one from which you suffer most. Rheumatism, Weak Lungs, Headache, Catarrh, Chronic Cough, Dizziness, Malaria, Asthma, Hay Fever, Heart Trouble, Nervousness, Poor Circulation, Ovarian Trouble, Indigestion, Anemia, Painful Periods, Stomach Trouble, Pimples, Hot Flashes, Bleeding Down Pains, Leucorrhoea. Give any other symptoms on a separate sheet. Correspondence in all languages.

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Dr. Hamilton's Pills. A year ago I returned home after a long trip, completely worn out. I was so badly affected by chronic biliousness, so much overcome by constant headaches, dizziness, that I despaired of ever getting well. It was a blessing that I used Dr. Hamilton's Pills. In one week I felt like a new man. The feeling of weight and nausea in my stomach disappeared. My eyes looked brighter, color grew better, and best of all, I began to enjoy my meals. The dizzy, nervous, and feeling of depression passed away, and I fast regained my old-time vigor and spirits. Today I cheerfully thank Dr. Hamilton's Pills. For health, strength, comfort and good spirits there is no medicine like Dr. Hamilton's Pills. 25c. per box, 6 boxes for \$1.00, at all druggists and storekeepers, or by mail from The Catarhoez Co., Buffalo, N. Y., and Kingston, Canada.

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