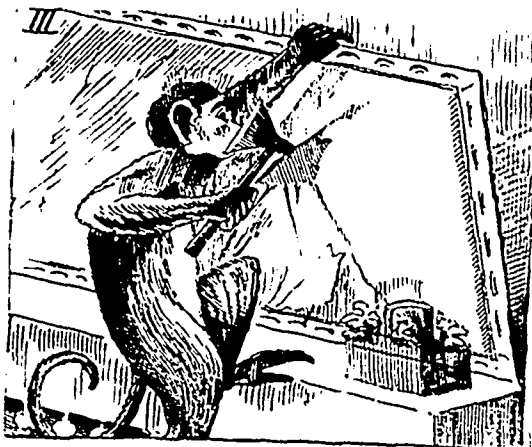


JACKO DISCOVERS A FELLOW-COUNTRYMAN.



"YOU'RE GOING TO HIDE, ARE YOU?"



LOSES HIS TEMPER



REPENTANCE AT LEISURE.



[Owing to the increasing work of the Post Bag, and its demands upon our space, I am compelled to ask my young inquisitives to be satisfied with my replies only. The enquiries, however, shall continue to command my fullest sympathy, and to receive my very best attention. It is always a genuine pleasure for me to hear from my young friends on any point on which they have anything to ask.—Ed. Post Bag.]

M. E. H.—I must answer your questions in two parts. 1. The Heading for the series of Papers on "How We Got our Bible" is taken from a combination of two pictorial ideas, namely, the lantern from Holman Hunt's Light of the World, and the star is from the Star of Bethlehem; and 2. The motto is from a beautiful story of an Indian dignitary who came to our own good Queen to ask her what was the secret of England's Greatness. Her Majesty replied by holding out to him a Bible, which the dignitary knelt to reverence. The combination of the two ideas makes an apt title to our Series.

JAMES B.—The expression "to set the Thames on fire," indicates one very able to do anything that is expected of him, and not to be able to set the Thames on fire, of course, means that he is something of a failure. But the expression has nothing to do with the Thames, nor indeed with any river. It arose in this way:—In olden times, when hand-flour mills were made of wood, they were apt to catch fire when turned very rapidly. The name for that kind of mill was the "thamnis," and you can easily see that when the thamnis was set on fire the miller must have put a good deal of elbow grease into his work. The corruption into setting the Thames instead of the thamnis on fire is one of those gradual liberties which our language takes with itself.

J. B.—The railway from Toronto to Bradford was the first in Upper Canada on which locomotives were used. That between Queenstown and Chippewa, built by the Erie and Ontario Company, and opened in 1839, was a horse railway.

R. C.—The Halifax "Post" was the first daily newspaper in Nova Scotia.

A. F. H.—One of our largest bee farmers tells me that it takes 19,000,000 good bees, and a favourable year, to produce 75,000 lbs of honey. Our Canadian honey stands high in the markets of the world, although there is a flavour to be got from the heather which places the Scotch article at the top of the tree.

S. F.—The confections called jujubes, which are such favourites with our young folks, are, it is sad to have to confess, merely preparations of common glue, flavoured and sweetened to taste.

Thomas A. Edison, who may be called the Prince of modern invention, has taken out his 500th invention. There's an example for you to spur you on. Edison has not only "set the Thames on fire," he seems to keep it ablaze.

MARY A. "The Pilgrim's Progress" has been translated into almost every language under the sun. I think it has been recently translated into Abyssinian, which makes up, if I remember, between eighty and ninety different languages in which it may be read. I believe Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" comes next in fame in this respect.

SERGEANT W. W.—We have schools of instruction in military drill at Quebec, Kingston, Victoria, Fredericton, St. John's, Toronto, London, and Winnipeg. For information about the Royal Military College, Kingston, apply to Major D. R. Cameron, commandant. The Cartridge Factory is at Quebec. Last year I believe we turned out one million and a half of small arm ammunition.

M. K. Chinese junks have flatly covered bottoms, and are built in the shape of an oriental slipper, the rudder and sternpost doing for the keel the forepost for the toe turned down when it is a little out of repair. They have two or three masts and a short bowsprit to the starboard of the stem. The sails are made of mat, stiffened with bamboo battens.

Ed. Post Bag.