MEERSCHAUM.

BY HENRY KINGSLEY.

"The foam of the sea, or if you prefer the "scum" of the sea, is the meaning of the name which poetical Germans gave to this singular substance before English sailors learned to call it "sea stone."

Forty years ago it was not much known in England; now, combined with amber, it is in the mouth of half the lawyers' clerks in London. It is a wondrous vehicle for tobacco; better even than the root of the *bruyère* or wooden pipe, which is made of the root of the Mediterranean heath, but the name of which has been vulgarized into "brier-root," and is derived, after all, from the Welsh "brwg," heather. We repeat that meerschaum is the best vehicle for tobacco. And now the question arises, what is the best tobacco to put in it? The milder, we should say, the better. Such tobacco as we have just lit will hurt no one. Puff! there goes the cloud. How it rolls up and obscures the prints which hang before me! the dead emperor, with the crucifix on his breast, is no longer visible; the woman looking for the piece of silver has her lamp put out. Lord Dufferin, Bishop Wilberforce, Sir Bartle Frere, Sir Gilbert Scott, have disappeared; Anne Boleyn was being arrested just now; we suppose they have carried her off. The smoke swells like storm clouds, and rolls about like ocean waves, with no obvious figure at first. Stay; there is one forming, growing more real every instant—now distinct as he was years ago.

A boy, large for his age, say about twelve, with very bold, fearless, courageous, handsome features, and most remarkable eyes; head well shaped and well set on, a curly crop of fine hair in want of the barber; dress, two garments only, a ragged shirt with no buttons, and an old pair of footman's breeches with but few buttons.

There he stands at the end of the bench, just come in, holding his breeches and shirt together by a clutch with his left hand on his left hip. We have never seen him before. On the tramp? No; his well-shaped feet show no signs of it. A thief? No; he would be better dressed. Tried with a hymn book upside down, he knows no difference, but says that he came there to see if the gentlemen would teach him something to get his living by. This demand for technical education being preternatural until the proper time, the boy is asked if he knows any thing; he replies that he learned some of the Catechism once. Here is an opening.

"What is your name?"

"Meerschaum."

"Who gave you that name?"

"Judas Iscariot."

This would not do by any means. There was a burst of laughter from the more bolsterous of the Field Lane boys, and the interrogator was about to suggest a more private interview, when Meerschaum explained further, with the most perfect amiability:

"It ain't his name, but they *give* him that name because it was wrote up similar over his shop after the gentleman give my mother her trouble because Akers wouldn't give his evidence; which I could have given the same evidence as what he did, but the magistrate wouldn't let me, 'cause he said I didn't know the nature of an oath. I ought to, for I have heard as many swore as ever he has. Know the nature of an oath! why, I could swear as many as a clever gentleman like you. But I don't do it, because Judas says that God will be angry with you for it, and—"

Meerschaum was proceeding into theological reasonings far beyond the farthest flight of his questioners, when the Evening Hymn was started, previous to the closing prayer, which was fortunate for one of the two parties in conversation, at all events. Before the boys were sent to bed the original interrogator of Meerschaum and the manager had an interview with the boy.

Father had been a sailor, drowned. Mother had been very kind to him, until the judge gave her six years about a bad half crown; they were always giving his mother bad money. Any relations? An aunt, married at Gravesend, but no good, at least not to *him*. He wanted to learn a trade. Would he be good? If he hadn't wanted to be good, he would not have come here; if he wanted to be bad, he might have gone to heaps of places. Wanted to be like his father; wanted to be like the good gentleman that old Judas told him about—Jesus Christ. What did he know about *Him*? Nothing, except that he was a good gentleman without any money; thought he would have helped him to learn a trade if he had been alive, but he was dead now, though Judas said that he was coming alive again. Wished he would come soon; thought he was very much wanted. Asked as to the character whom he had so often mentioned as Judas, he replied that he was a general cove who lived in Gravel Lane with a young girl the same age as he, Meerschaum, was. The boy was dismissed to bed.

The original interlocutor and the manager merely nodded their heads at one another. The former said, "Great Queen Street, of course;" and the latter said, "Of course." Then the interlocutor took his hymn-book and departed up Furrington street, past Coldbath Fields Prison, toward his home at Highgate praying for compulsory education, denominational or other, at any price.

Before he was well past King's Cross, looking for an omnibus, the manager had gone in with his lamp to see if the boys were asleep. Meerschaum emphatically was; he had put on a clean shirt provided for him, and was lying on his back, a picture of innocence and beauty among the more squalid and meaner faces around him. The shirt he wore was too small for him, and he had pulled it up until his left fore-arm was bared. On it, done in gunpowder, probably by his sailor father, were the initials M. B.

Shortly after the manager slept the sleep of the just, and the next day Field Lane knew Meerschaum no more; he was absorbed into Great Queen Street, into the home for houseless boys, an institution which honors itself, while it disgraces the state which so feebly supports it.

After the revocation of the Edict of Nantes the French Protestants fled away, like storm-birds in a gale of wind in spring time, to find the nearest place in which they could make their nests. The nearest place for many of them was the East of London and in Spitalfields, where we may find them still, or, to be more correct, their descendants.

The Colliers came there at the Revocation; they were Dieppe people, and worked at ivory. Long after the revocation of the Edict, even after the Great Revolution itself had been forgotten, the name Coulier stood over the shop in the east, and in a part which was then a suburb. They were in their way what the Childs are in the banking way.

It was never known, and will never be known, exactly what money they made, but at the end of the first half of this century their business had utterly declined. There was a little dusty ivory-work still in the window, but no one went in to buy it, and if any one had, old Jerome Coulier would have asked him six times its price, and then have made faces at him; Jerome Coulier was supposed to be the last of the whole family. He was very old and morose. He lived wholly alone in his house, doing even his own house-work. He was deeply pitied by his neighbors, for the story of his life was too well known to be repeated about there, and had been more than once confirmed from his own mouth. In an evil hour, when pressed for money to pay a bad, for the sake of ten years more life, sold his soul to the devil in consideration for ten silver forks and fish slice, which he afterward discovered to be plated.

The neighbors were very sorry when the devil took him off one windy night, because the devil's money is better than nobody's money; and in spite of his bad bargain about the silver forks and fish slice, he had money in a secret somewhere, and instead of keeping it to himself, he used to give it to his neighbors when they had need of it. Mrs. Nym said that that was to try and save his soul from his most unfortunate bargain. Mrs. Brough would never believe a word about the whole story, but insisted that if old Jerome had sold himself to any one, it was to God and not to the devil. Neighbors, however, like to talk about neighbors, and as what they say is never true, it all comes to the same thing in the end.

Jerome died, and the next day a young gentleman from Albert Gate appeared; the solicitor of the French embassy accompanied him. Then the old man was buried, but the old house was only shut up for a few days; its new occupier was coming. He came full of life and put in possession. No sign of the name in the shop, except that over the window the name Jerome Coulier was rudely painted out, and the name J. Escriot painted in its place. Of this legend one of the wags of the neighborhood at once made Judas Iscariot, the more so as the new comer was a dark man with a large nose, in consequently he was voted a Jew, though, if his neighbors had looked a little more at his facial angle and his splendid gray eyes, they might have seen that he was no Jew. He was the nephew of Jerome Coulier by a sister; he was the last of a Huguenot family in Loraine, in a part where there was not another Protestant family of his way of thinking. He was so poor, and so lonely that he was at once glad to receive his uncle's money and to get some chance of attending the worship of his forefathers held in his native tongue. His uncle's money was all invested in London household property in the East End; it would have suited him to sell it, had he been allowed by the will, but he was debarred from doing so. He came and lived on it for the purpose of seeing after it.

To be continued.

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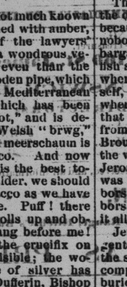

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GROCERIES, WINES, AND LIQUORS, of the very best quality, can be bought exceeding low at SWEENY & STAFFORD'S,

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10 cases Fuse Bundles;
1200 kegs Blasting Powder;
5 bbls Fuse;
2000 Striking Hammers.

Low, Wholesale.

dec8 W. H. THORNE.

CUSTOM TAILORING.

T. EDGECOMBE & CO.,

PRACTICAL TAILORS,

Cor. Waterloo and Princess Sts.

FALL STOCK OF CLOTHS.

In all the colors, Beavers, Pilots, Whitneys, Bannock Burn Tweeds, West of England Tweeds, and Canadian Tweeds, suitable for the present season.

N. B.—A varied assortment of Ready-made Clothing, suitable for the coming season. Also, Gents' Underclothing, of all prices. oct9

Hoods, Mitts, etc.

JUST RECEIVED:

25 BBLS Choice Winter Apples;
75 pairs Country Knit Drawers;
240 bush P. E. I. Oats.

For sale very low by

W. M. McLEAN,

oct30 105 Union street.

35 Dock Street.

Just received:

1 CASE Flavoring Extracts;
10 cases Sauces;
2 kegs Malaga Grapes.

dec17 JOSHUA S. TURNER

T. YOUNGCLAUS,

MERCHANT TAILOR

3 Charlotte Street,

(Next door to A. McRobert & Son, Grocers.)

ST. JOHN, N. B.

CLOTHING MADE TO ORDER.

Gents' Furnishing Goods

OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.

The best of material used and satisfaction guaranteed.

All order promptly attended to.

Ready-Made Clothing,

SHIRTS,

Homespun Frocks,

Horse Blankets,

Camp Spreads & Blanketings,

Of our own manufacture.

Unequalled in the Dominion for quality and lowness of price.

Lumbermen, Millmen and others

Are requested to examine before purchasing elsewhere.

Terms Liberal.

sep7 tf T. R. JONES & CO.

FOREIGN FIRE PROSPECTUS.

NORTHERN

ASSURANCE COM'Y

OF

London and Aberdeen.

ESTABLISHED A. D. 1836.

Fire Assurance of Every Description ON MOST REASONABLE TERMS.

DEPOSITED AT OTTAWA $100,000

FINANCIAL POSITION 31st Dec. 1870:

Subscribed Capital £2,000,000
Accumulated Funds 1,154,257
Annual Revenue from Fire Premiums 283,000

Office No. 4 (Street Range) Ritchie's Building

LEWIS J. ALMON,

may 8 Agent.

Wedding and Visiting Cards

ENGRAVED AND PRINTED

In First-Class Style,

and on the

MOST REASONABLE TERMS

R. H. GREEN

Engraver,

79 Germain street.

N. B.—Stencil Cutting of every description done in first-rate style. d oct47

APPLES.

Just received:

50 BBLS No. 1 Bishop Pippin Apples;
20 bbls No. 1 Greening do;
100 bbls Cheap Cooking Apples.

For sale cheap by

ARMSTRONG & McPHERSON,

ec3 No. 99 Union street.

Agents

Business for Sale by Daily TRIBUNE.

H. Chase & Co., Prince William street.
J. & A. McMillan, do.
Barnes & Co., do.
H. R. Smith, do.
W. K. Crawford, do.
Reed Dock street.
Roger Hunter, do.
W. Hawker, Reed's Point.
John Steadman, Coburg street.
J. Morey, Union street.
McRoberts & Son, Charlotte street.
Emery & Son, Golden Ball.
H. C. Frost, Brussels street.
J. McArthur & Co., do.
White, City Road.
Usher, do.
James McKinney, Main street.
Mrs. Perkins, corner Carmarthen and Mecklenburg.
L. Currie, corner Carmarthen and St. Andrews.
R. Pitchell, corner Carmarthen and Britain.
C. F. Burns, corner Westworth and Main.
J. King, Princess street.
J. B. Lorrimer, corner Orange and Carmarthen.
J. D. McAvity, Bustin's Corner.
W. G. Brown, Indiantown.
W. J. Hazelwood, near Portland Church.
S. J. Forrest, corner Main street and Paradise Row.
Smith, Paradise Row.

Brandy. Brandy.

Landing ex British Queen, from Charente,

14 Q 10 cases Brandy;
10 octaves do;
60 cases do;
70 " pints do;
70 " hf-pints do.

For sale very low, in bond or duty paid.

ANDREW J. ARMSTRONG,

dec15 40 Charlotte street

Just Received:

Barrels and half barrels.

NO. 1 MACKEREL.

100 Hf-bbls Split Herring,
100 Tbls Split Herring.

For sale low at No. 5 South Wharf.

oct9 E. A. DeWOLF.

Scotch Refined Sugars.

Now landing ex SS Assyria:

25 Hogsheads

BRIGHT

Scotch Refined Sugars.

For sale by

JAMES DONVILLE & CO.,

sept5 Nos. 9 and 10 North Wharf.

Bay View Hotel,

PRINCE WM STREET.

WILLIAM WILSON, - - Proprietor.

THE Subscriber, having refitted the above well known House on Prince William Street, and furnished it throughout, is now prepared to accommodate Transient and Permanent Boarders, on the most favorable terms.

This House is finely situated—being near the International Steamboat Landing, and convenient to the leading public and business offices, churches and places of amusement with a full view of the Bay and Harbor, and is eminently adapted for a first-class Hotel. A few Permanent Boarders can now obtain board with choice rooms.

feb21 tf WILLIAM WILSON.

Common & Refined Iron, Metal, Cordage, Duck, Spikes, &c.

Per steamer Minnos, from Liverpool, and vessels from United States:

1500 BARS BEST REFINED IRON, 10 " well assorted.
1576 bars Common Iron, well assorted.
81 coils Tale of Man Hemp Rope, 2 to 7½ in.
101 " English & American Manilla, 2 to 6 in.
13 " B. B. Charred Wire Rope, 2½ & 4 in.
219 " YELLOW METAL, ¾ to 1¼.
8 Chain Cables and Anchors.
2000 yards Cotton Duck.

To arrive per ships Ruby and Evina, and steamers from Liverpool

Outfits for vessels completed, COMMON and REFINED IRON, Yellow Metal, SPIKES, Oakum, Lead, &c., &c.

For sale at lowest market rate.

ap 13 JAMES L. DUNN & CO.

CIGARS!

IN STORE:

The Largest and Best Selected Stock

In the market, including favorite brands of

Havana, German and Canadian Goods,

WHOLESALE ONLY.

An inspection solicited.

H. R. DUNCAN,

june1 21 Water street.

ALCOHOL.

50 PER cent Overproof, in bond at No. 2 Warehouse. Will be sold at Lowest Market Rates, in Bond or Duty Paid, by

nov13 frm SWEENY & STAFFOD, 4 South Wharf.

NEW STORE.

ARMSTRONG & McPHERSON,

99 UNION STREET.

ARE now receiving a choice assortment of Teas, Sugars, Coffees, Spices, Fruits, etc., etc., suitable for the season.

All warranted fresh and good.

Also—5 bbls Cranberries, choice.

oct6 99 UNION STREET.

Apples. Apples.

Ex stmr New Brunswick:

100 BBLS No. 1 American Baldwins. For sale low to close consignment.

W. A. SPENCE,

nov9 North Slip.

GIN. GIN,

Landing ex Lulu, from Liverpool:

10 HHDS Henker Gin;
10 qr-casks do;
50 cases do.

For sale low ANDREW J. ARMSTRONG

dec10 nws 40 Charlotte street.

Perfumerie des Trois Freres

Paris, West End, White Rose, Frangipane, Esc. Bouquet, Jockey Club, Hlle Fleurs,

THE finest perfumes made. If not sold by your druggist, may be obtained at retail of the Wholesale Agency,

H. L. SPENCER,

june 8 20 Nelson street.

PRESSED HOPS—One ton—crop of 1873—fresh and good. For sale by

H. L. SPENCER,

june 8 20 Nelson street.

FINE TOILET SOAPS—Five cases Brown Windsor, Glycerine, Honey, Rose and Almond.

H. L. SPENCER,

une 8 20 Nelson street.

CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE, and other preparations—A Stock received ex Caspian, by the Wholesale Agent.

H. L. SPENCER,

june 8 20 Nelson street.

TAYLOR'S CREAM YEAST.—If not sold by your grocer, may be obtained at Retail of the Wholesale Agent.

H. L. SPENCER,

une 8 20 Nelson street

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CHARLOTTE STREET.