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**Mr. JOHN MORLEY** on the  
advantages of possessing  
an Encyclopædia.

"We may all agree in lamenting that  
there are so many houses—even some of  
considerable social pretension—where  
you will not find a good atlas, a good  
dictionary, or a good cyclopædia of  
reference. What is still more lament-  
able, in a good many more houses where  
these books are, they are never referred  
to or opened. That is a very discredit-  
able fact, because I defy anybody to take  
up a single copy of the 'Times' news-  
paper and not come upon something in it  
upon which, if his interest in the affairs  
of the day were as active, intelligent, and  
alert as it ought to be, he would consult  
an atlas, dictionary, or cyclopædia of  
reference."

**WILLIAM BRIGGS**

29-33 Richmond Street West  
TORONTO

### Bed Slippers

An army officer in South Africa, says  
a writer in *Answers*, presented to the  
Kaffir boy who acted as his particular  
servant a pair of strong, heavily nailed  
army boots. The boy was delighted, and  
for several days he strutted proudly about  
the camp with them. But at the end of  
the week he appeared as usual with bare  
feet, and the boots tied round his neck.

"Hello!" said his master. "Why don't  
you wear your boots? Are they too small  
for you?"

"Oh, no, sah," replied the Kaffir,  
"they plenty big. Berry nice boots, sah,  
but no good for walking or running.  
Make um fellah too much slow, sah. Keep  
boots now for wear in bed."

### Hard on the Mule

A gentleman owning a sugar estate in  
Demerara went out to visit it for the  
first time. The day after his arrival he  
stood watching the punts bringing the  
cane home. A young negro boy who was  
driving the mules, wishing to increase  
the speed of these, struck one of them  
with his whip. The mule promptly re-  
sponded by launching out with his heels  
and dealt the boy a kick on the head,  
which stretched him on the ground,  
where he lay rubbing his woolly pate on  
the spot where the kick had been re-  
ceived.

"Is he hurt? Is he hurt?" cried the  
planter in alarm. A full-grown negro,  
hearing the expressions of concern,  
sprang forward hastily, and, raising the  
mule's heels, shouted out:

"No, boss! That mule him walk ten-  
dah fo' a day or two, but him no hurt."

### Poor Land

"Once," he said, "a Kansas farmer met  
on the hot, dusty road a homesteader  
pushing on excitedly towards the Chero-  
kee Strip.

"'What ye bound?' said the farmer.  
"'For a hundred and sixty acres of free  
land in the Strip,' was the reply. And  
the man vanished in the glitter of dust  
and sunshine.

"Well, a month or two went by, and  
on the same dusty road the Kansas far-  
mer met the homesteader returning.

"'Hello,' he said, 'what ye done with  
them hundred and sixty acres?'"

"The homesteader pointed his whip  
proudly towards his mule team.

"'See them mules?' said he. 'Wall, I  
traded eighty acres of my claim fer 'em.'"

"'What ye do with the other eighty?'"

"'Don't gimme away,' was the reply,  
'but the feller was a tenderfoot, and I  
run in the other eighty acres on him  
without his knowin' it.'"

### A Thrashing from the Minister

A serious war of words had taken place  
between the minister and the leading  
elder of a Scottish kirk.

Whether it was about a knotty theo-  
logical point or the sale of a horse was  
not quite clear to the parishioners who  
looked on, but the elder waxed so very  
wroth as to forget the respect due to his  
spiritual head.

"Man," he roared, "if it wassna' for  
the black coat on yer back an' the Re-  
verend afore yer name I wud lick ye whaur  
ye stann'!"

Making a half-turn to the left, the  
minister planted his stick in the ground,  
hung his black coat on the stick, and  
crowned the garment with his hat.

"Stann' ye there, Reverend Alexander  
Sandison," he admonished the figure,  
"till plain Sandy Sandison gies this  
man a guid thrashing."

This he did, and the man afterwards  
respected the minister the more be-  
cause he was a "muscular" Christian.

## Rally Day

In the Sunday School has been fixed for  
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untechnical language, and their practical  
bearing upon work in the home and  
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