PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA

THE CLOCK

SAYINGS AND

SAMUEL SLICK

BY THOMAS CHANDLER

'So I did,' he replied, 'the last one I had to sell to him, but I've got a few left for other folks yet. Now there is a man on this road, one Zeb Allen, a rael genuine skinflint, a proper close-fisted customer as you'll a' most see anywhere, and one that's not altogether the straight thing in his dealin' neither. He don't want no one to live but himself; and he's mighty handsum to me, —sayin' my clocks are all a cheat, and that we ruinate the country, a drainin' every drop of money out of it, a callin' me a Yankee broom, and what not. But it ain't all jist gospel that he says. Now I'll put a clock on him afore he knows it; I'll go right into him as slick as a whistle, and play him to the end of my line like a trout. I'll have a hook in his gills, while he's a thinkin' he's only smellin' at the bait. There he is now. I'll be darned if he ain't, standin' afore his shop lookin' as strong as high proof Jamaiky; I guess I'll whip out of the bung while he's a lookin' arter the spicket, and p'raps he'll be none o' the wiser till he finds it out, neither.'

'Well, 'Squire, how do you do,' said he; 'how's all at home?'

'Reasonable well, I give you thanks, won'. you alight?'

'Can't to day,' said Mr. Slick, 'I'm in a considerable of a hurry to ketch the packet; have you any commands for Sou'west? I'm gain' to the Island, and across the Bay to Windsor. Any word that way?'

'No,' says Mr. Allen, 'none that I can think on, unless it be to inquire how butter's goin'; they tell me cheese is down, and produce of all kinds particular dull this fall.'

'Well, I'm glad I can tell you that question,' said Slick, 'for I don't calculate to return to these parts; butter is risin' a cent or two; I put mine on mind at tenpence.'

'Don't return! possible! why, how you talk! Have you done with the clock trade?'

'I guess I have; it ain't worth follerin' now.'

'Most time,' said the other, laughing, 'for by all accounts the clocks warn't worth havin', and most infarnal dear too; folks begin to get their eyes open.'

'It warn't needed in your case,' said Mr. Slick, peculiarly composed manner that indicates suppressed feeling, 'for you were always wide awake: if all the folks had cut their eyeteeth assarily as you did, there'd be plagny few clocks sold in these parts, I reckon; but you are right, 'Squire, you may say that, they actilly were not worth havin', and that's the truth. The fact is,' said he, throwing down his reins, and affecting a most confidential tone, 'I felt almost ashamed of them myself, I tell you. The long and short of the matter is jist this: they don't make no good ones nowadays, no more, for they calculate 'em for shippin' and not for home use. I was all stuck up of a heap, when I seed the last lot I got from the States; I was properly bit by them, you may depend—they didn't pay cost; for I couldn't recommend them with a clear conscience, and I must say I do like a fair deal, for I'm straight up and down, and love to go right ahead, that's a fact. Did you ever see them I fetched when I first came, them I sold over the Bay?'

'No,' said Mr. Allen, 'I can't say I did.'

'Well,' continued he, 'they were a prime article, I tell you—no mistake there—fit for any market; it's generally allowed there ain't the best of them to be found anywhere. If you want a clock, and can lay your hands on one of them, I advise you not to let go the chance; you'll know 'em by the 'Lowell' mark, for they were all made at Judge Beler's factory. 'Squire Shepody, down to Five Islands, axed me to get him one, and a special job I had of it, near about more sarch arter it than it was worth; but I did get him one, and a particular handsum one it is, copal'd and gilt superior, I guess it's worth

...n the parts, let t'others ...may. If I could a got ...he like o' them, I could ...and spec out of them, for ...at once, and went off quick.'

'Have you got it with you?' said Mr. Allen, 'I should like to see it.'

'Yes, I have it here, all done up in tow, as snug as a bird's egg, to keep it from jarrin', for it hurts 'em consumedly to jolt 'em over them 'ere eternal wooden bridges. But it's no use to take it out, it ain't for sale; it's bespoke, and it wouldn't take the same trouble to get another for twenty dollars. The only one that I know off that there's any chance of gettin', is one that Increase Crane has up to Wilmot; they say he's a selin' off.'

After a good deal of persuasion, Mr. Slick unpacked the clock, but protested against his asking for it, for it was not for sale. It was then exhibited, every part explained and praised, as new in invention and perfect in workmanship. Now Mr. Allen had a very exalted opinion of 'Squire Shepody's taste, judgement, and saving knowledge; and, as it was the last and only chance of getting a clock of such superior quality, he offered to take it at the price the 'Squire was to have it, at seven pounds ten shillings. But Mr. Slick vowed he couldn't part with it at no rate, he didn't know where he could get the like again (for he warn't quite sure about Increase Crane's), and the 'Squire would be confounded disappointed; he couldn't think of it. In proportion to the difficulties, rose the ardour of Mr. Allen; his offers advanced to £8, to £8. 10s., to £9.

'I vow,' said Mr. Slick, 'I wish I hadn't let on that I had it at all. I don't like to refuse you, but where am I to get the like?' After much discussion of a similar nature, he consented to part with the clock, though with great apparent reluctance, and pocketed the money with a protest that, cost what it would, he should have to procure another, for he couldn't think of putting the 'Squire's pipe out arter that fashion, for he was a very clever man, and as fair as a foal jack.

'Now,' said Mr. Slick, as we proceeded on our way, 'that 'ere feller is properly carved; he got the most inferior article I had, and I jist doubled the price on him. It's a pity he should be a tellin' of lies of the Yankees all the time; this will help him now to a little grain of truth.' Then mimicking his voice and manner, he repeated Allen's words with a strong nasal twang, 'Most time for you to give over the clock trade, I guess, for by all accounts they ain't worth havin', and most infarnal dear too; folks begin to get their eyes open.' Better for you, if you'd a had your'n open, I reckon; a joke is a joke, but I consait you'll find that no joke.'

(To be continued.)

Health-Giving Perfumes.

The art of perfuming in all its refinement comes to us from the Italians, and it has remained for an Italian to discover also that perfumes are actually healthy. It is a very old theory, but there is no reason in the world to doubt the correctness of the theorist's conclusions. He confines his theorizing largely to the domain of the vegetable kingdom, including the old-fashioned, sweet-smelling herbs that the grandmothers loved to have about them.

Among these are cherry, laurel, cloves, lavender, mint, juniper, benous, fennel and bergamot. He says that these exercise a healthy influence upon humanity by converting the oxygen into ozone and thus increasing its oxydizing influence. In the perfumes just mentioned there is a large quantity of ozone. Among those which he also favors as of aid in this manner, but in a lesser degree, are anise, nutmeg, and thyme. Among the flowers that are medicinally qualified are the hyacinth, mignonette, heliotrope, and lily of the valley, all of which have ozone inclosed vessels.

He is of the opinion that flowers without perfume are destitute of those health giving qualities, and, on the contrary, absorb the ozone to the detriment of health. He recommends the cultivation of flowers in marshy districts and all places invested with animal odours on account of the powerful oxydizing influences of their ozone. The inhabitants of unhealthy regions should, he thinks, surround their homes with growing, sweet bearing flowers, and the more odorous the better.—Washington Star.

What She Really Needs.

A cynical observer remarks in The Rochester Post Express that what woman needs nowadays is "not so much a higher grade of education as a higher grade of husband."

Some Horse Sense.

The size of a horse's stomach is small in proportion to that of his frame.

Hence he requires to be fed frequently.

While a horse is at grass he is almost always browsing; still he does not gorge himself.

Horses should not be fed while heated.

The stomach is not in a proper state to digest the food.

A small quantity of gruel is good at such a time and the stomach has had time to regain its tone.

Regularity in feeding is of the utmost consequence.

Long fasting is very injurious, and the mischief is often aggravated by the animal eating too much when he has his food.

An over-feed is hurtful at any time, but more so when the stomach is depleted by long fasts.

Such produce indigestion, gastritis, colic, etc.

At least, the horse should be fed three times aday.

Horses should be watered before being fed.

Water, unlike food does not lodge in the stomach, but passes on to the small intestines on its way to the cecum.

Horses that have access to water never drink too much and they should always have a bucket of clean water in the manger.

The nature of the food that they may be partaking of, in part, if of a succulent nature, supplies the place or want of water.

Except in such cases, as being excessively heated or exhausted, or from having been kept from water for a length of time, a horse may be allowed to drink freely as much as he likes.

Sound Sense.

Do not use poor stationery, and do not economize space in letters by crossing your writing.

Do not ask even an intimate friend to do some shopping for you, unless she should offer to do so.

Do not be continually asking people to come and see you. Perhaps they had rather not.

Do not delay when you are ready to leave after a call or a visit. Do not linger at the door in saying good bye.

When in doubt as to the propriety of an act a little out of the ordinary, do not do it; be conventional.

Do not allude to your poverty. One should be as reticent in regard to it as to their riches.

Do not force into your conversation the names of noted personages you may have chanced to meet.

Do not dress inappropriately or conspicuously. It is better to be undressed than overdressed. Women of refinement give attention to the shoes first, the gloves next, while the dress and bonnet are later considerations.

Do not be one minute late at a lunch or dinner.

Do not forget that well-bred people are always thoughtful and polite.

The Best Medicine

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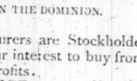

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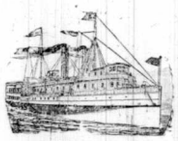

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