

The Auctioneer's Story.

BY IMOGENE H. SYKES.

This is a strange world! And yet I never thought so until my attention was called to the fact by a little incident that befell me one day, and set me off thinking so hard that I seemed to grow out of my own head and reach a great height, and then look down on my other self with compassion. I don't know that it made me any wiser, but at least, it made me more attentive to my fellow-beings—more thoughtful of their joys and sorrows—and that accounts for some things, I reckon. I had cried dozens of parabrothers' sale in my time, and never thought anything about them, unless it was that old Two to One or Give and Take was doubling their money, and making a pretty penny, even with ten per cent. commission taken off. But I had never thought of the story connected with any one article of the sale—of the heartaches, and despair, and woman's tears. It was but a joke to me, who had known the time when to "spout" a watch, or pistol, or some light trinket, in order to carry on a frolic, or help a poorer chap than I was, was but the impulse of the moment, and carried no further weight than the relief from empty pockets at the moment. But, as I said before, something made me think, and ever since I have had the same heart to cry away the goods of the poor creatures that want and misery have driven into old Two to One's clutches. The city of B— is a splendid market for our business. The trade done there by one house alone would equal any banking, commission or other business in the place, and by the same token, the pawnbrokers equal us in power and profit, and give us some of our biggest sales. An odd lot came into the warehouse one day, consigned to us by Clutchem & Keep, a shrewd firm of new beginners, and as it fell to my duty to assort and label the goods, it thus also fell to my fate to have a part in the following story. The consignment consisted mainly of glass and silver-ware, pictures and bronzes, as Clutchem & Keep were rather first-class in their business, and did not yet condescend to clothes and family Bibles; but in the lot I came across a few pieces of furniture, which attracted my attention from the fact of our having an order from a Western house to pick up all the antiques and oddities alike, for a bric-a-brac firm. Here were about a dozen specimens of clawlegs, stiff-backs, and otherwise uncomfortable household articles, in the shape of chairs, dressing-glasses and cabinets, and I at once labelled them sold, that they might not get into next day's sale, but be forwarded at once to our Western house. One article alone I noticed with attention because to remember afterwards, and then only because I struck my hand roughly against it, and the pain made me stare hard at the cause of it. It was an old cedar cabinet, brass-bound and clamped, but rusty and forlorn looking even in its changed fortunes. I labelled it, as I thought, for our next day's sale, as there were two others to go West, and the home-market was then going crazy for everything odd, as either the West or North. But subsequent events discovered my mistake. Our Saturday sale was a big one—the rival house across on the corner hadn't a chance against us that day—and by noon every article put up was bid off lively and quick. The crowd had begun to thin, and I was busily mopping up the few faces with a fresh handkerchief—for it was warm work, I can tell you, to cry such sales from ten to one o'clock—when a lady came back in the store where I was standing and approached me eagerly. "Are you the proprietor, sir?" she asked, with nervous haste, and I saw she was trembling. "I am the auctioneer, madam," I said, wondering what was wrong. "I will call the firm, if you wish." She looked around, timidly but eagerly. "Perhaps you can attend to my business. I—I do—not—understand—these—matters—very—well," she faltered; and then, I saw she was poorly clad, although well-bred and timid. I drew an old chair up into the corner, and asked her to sit down, and as she did so gratefully—poor little woman—I took a good look at her. She was still young and pretty. Behind her hung a long mirror. It had grown dim hanging there, and had a misty shadow over it, and in the two angles of the corner stood a faded old Japanese screen and a tall chest of drawers. The store was now empty, and the light was now leaving it, as the sun was creeping away from the door—ill ad mounting up to the roof, as if he had only waited for the sale to be over. The lady had a face that touched me at once. She was pale and timid, but there was that in her face that made me take off my hat while I talked to her. I don't know how to express it; but it was as if I stood in the presence of death, and the natural reverence of that great mystery commanded my respect. "What can I do for you madam?" I asked. She had been looking all around her, as if seeking something. "You sell the goods, do you not?" she said, eagerly. "Yes, madam." "You would know the articles sent here?" "Probably."

superstitious, too; for it seemed to me as if a ghostly pageant was crossing and recrossing that dim mirror, and the old screen shook as if sighs or sobs were coming from it. "Thank you! I am looking for a cedar cabinet," said the lady, gently, "which was among the articles I parted with to Clutchem & Keep, and the lot it was sent here for sale. I wish to redeem it at any price." She stopped suddenly as my face changed. A cedar cabinet! I remembered it at once. The hurt on my hand recalled it, also that it had been labelled for that day's sale. She grew frightened at my hesitation. "Do not say it is gone!" she cried, rising quickly, and grasping my arm. "Oh, God would not so afflict me! Look, look everywhere for it, I beg, I pray you!" Her hands shook so on my arm that I could feel the quivering of the thin fingers. I tried to think to whom I had sold a cabinet that day; then it flashed on me that there had not been one in the catalogue. Had I made a mistake and sent it West with the bric-a-brac lot? If so, it could be recovered. I felt glad for my error, but the poor little woman mistook my silence, and broke down completely, sobbing so pitifully that I knew then that some great cause was hidden beneath her desire to reclaim the old cabinet. "It is more to me than life or death!" she cried out, passionately, looking straight before her. "It means my children's honor! Listen, and you may be influenced by my great need to find the cabinet for me. I believe it contains the certificate of my marriage and my children's baptism, without which I cannot lay claim to my husband's interest in the above business, I shall continue the same on my own account, and shall, until further notice, make Good Photographs, at the Unprecedented Low Price of \$1.00 Per Dozen. Pictures framed to order. Call and see for yourselves. E. H. THOMSON, Duke Street, Near Canada House. Chatham, N. B., Aug. 23rd, 1881. SEWING MACHINE. I respectfully inform my friends and patrons, that I have by no means given up handling the celebrated WAZNER SEWING MACHINES, and may be found at the Studio above named, where all orders shall receive prompt attention. Dispensing attended to as usual. J. Y. MERRILL. Chatham, April 30, '81. SUGAR, FRUIT, ONIONS, &c. LOGAN, LINDSAY & CO. Have Received— 45 BBLs EXTRA C SUGAR 20 do ORANGE 10 do LEMONS 10 BBLs ASTRAL OIL 10 do SUGAR 100 Boxes London Layer, Loose Macaroni and Cheese 200 Boxes BROWN'S EXTRACTS; New Warrants, Almonds, Quinces, &c. 25 BBLs ASTRAL OIL 75 and 80 King Street, St. John. R. C. PRAYER BOOKS. A varied assortment of ROMAN CATHOLIC PRAYER BOOKS, just received at the MIRAMICHI BOOKSTORE, WILL BE SOLD AT MODERATE PRICES. Chatham, June 14, 1881. THE ROCKFORD MERCHANT SHIPPING AND TRADING CO. OF LONDON & LIVERPOOL. Business Established 1841. UNDERTAKES THE EXECUTION OF INDENTS for British Merchantmen. Also, the CONTRACTS FOR DELIVERY OF STEAM, HOULDER, GEAR, C. I. E., & any Port Allowed. RECEIVES CONSIGNMENTS OF PRODUCE for Sale, and makes advance thereon if required. CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING AND FITTING out of all classes of Steam and Sailing Vessels. Address the Manager, Thomas Brocklebank, London. Telegraphic address, "Brocklebank," London. Dec. 1. CUSTOM HOUSE FORMS. The New Forms coming into use, July 1st, ARE FOR SALE AT STEAM MILL FOR SALE! The Rotary Steam Saw Mill, situated at the lower end of Chatham, opposite Middle Island, known as the "Perry Mill," with all the machinery belonging thereto, including Planer and Box Machines. To an active enterprising man, this offers a splendid opportunity for investment, as it will be sold at a bargain. Terms easy. For particulars apply to G. STOTHART, Chatham, Sept. 23, '81. \$5 Outfit sent free to those who wish to engage in the most pleasant and profitable business known. Everything new. Capital not required. We will furnish you everything. \$10 a day and you are easily made without staying away from home over night. No risk whatever. Many new workers wanted at once. Many are making fortunes at the business. Those who engage at once will be willing to work full time to make money every day that can be made in a week at any ordinary business. Those who engage at once will find a short road to fortune. Address H. HALEY & Co., Portland, Maine. JUST THE THING!! The Monitor Oil Stove. No more ashes, smoke, dust or trouble. This is a compact and durable stove burning ordinary oil. Perfectly safe, and free from smell. Can easily be carried from one room to another in a few seconds, handy for ironing, baking or preparing meals in hot weather. Just the thing for Hotels and Restaurants—12,000 of these stoves have been sold in the United States. Single Stove, \$8.00 Double Stove, \$10.00 H. P. MARQUIS, Currier Street, Chatham, June 25, 1881. Law. A. H. JOHNSON, BARRISTER-AT-LAW, SOLICITOR, NOTARY PUBLIC, ETC., ETC. Chatham, N. B. E. P. Williston, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Notary Public, Conveyancer, &c., Office—Over Mr. John Braddon's Store; Entrance Side Door. Newcastle, Miramichi, N. B. R. B. ADAMS, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, NOTARY PUBLIC, &c. Office up stairs, Noonan's Building, Water Street, Chatham. WM. A. PARK, Attorney-at-Law, Solicitor, NOTARY PUBLIC, CONVEYANCER, &c. OFFICE—OVER THE STORE OF W. PARK, 209 CASTLE STREET, NEWCASTLE, N. B. THEOPH. S. DESBRISAY, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, CONVEYANCER, &c., &c. BATHURST, N. B. LAW BLANKS At the MIRAMICHI BOOKSTORE. J. B. SNOWBALL.

GENERAL BUSINESS. Dissolution. Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing under the name of MERSEREAU & THOMSON has been dissolved this day by mutual consent and the business of Photographing and Picture Framing will be continued by Mr. E. H. Thomson, at the old stand, and all bills due the late firm are payable to him, and all debts owing by him will be paid by him. J. Y. MERRILL. Chatham, N. B., Aug. 23rd, 1881. LOOK THIS WAY! And learn that having bought Mr. Merseureau's interest in the above business, I shall continue the same on my own account, and shall, until further notice, make Good Photographs, at the Unprecedented Low Price of \$1.00 Per Dozen. Pictures framed to order. Call and see for yourselves. E. H. THOMSON, Duke Street, Near Canada House. Chatham, N. B., Aug. 23rd, 1881. SEWING MACHINE. I respectfully inform my friends and patrons, that I have by no means given up handling the celebrated WAZNER SEWING MACHINES, and may be found at the Studio above named, where all orders shall receive prompt attention. Dispensing attended to as usual. J. Y. MERRILL. Chatham, April 30, '81. SUGAR, FRUIT, ONIONS, &c. LOGAN, LINDSAY & CO. Have Received— 45 BBLs EXTRA C SUGAR 20 do ORANGE 10 do LEMONS 10 BBLs ASTRAL OIL 10 do SUGAR 100 Boxes London Layer, Loose Macaroni and Cheese 200 Boxes BROWN'S EXTRACTS; New Warrants, Almonds, Quinces, &c. 25 BBLs ASTRAL OIL 75 and 80 King Street, St. John. R. C. PRAYER BOOKS. A varied assortment of ROMAN CATHOLIC PRAYER BOOKS, just received at the MIRAMICHI BOOKSTORE, WILL BE SOLD AT MODERATE PRICES. Chatham, June 14, 1881. THE ROCKFORD MERCHANT SHIPPING AND TRADING CO. OF LONDON & LIVERPOOL. Business Established 1841. UNDERTAKES THE EXECUTION OF INDENTS for British Merchantmen. Also, the CONTRACTS FOR DELIVERY OF STEAM, HOULDER, GEAR, C. I. E., & any Port Allowed. RECEIVES CONSIGNMENTS OF PRODUCE for Sale, and makes advance thereon if required. CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING AND FITTING out of all classes of Steam and Sailing Vessels. Address the Manager, Thomas Brocklebank, London. Telegraphic address, "Brocklebank," London. Dec. 1. CUSTOM HOUSE FORMS. The New Forms coming into use, July 1st, ARE FOR SALE AT STEAM MILL FOR SALE! The Rotary Steam Saw Mill, situated at the lower end of Chatham, opposite Middle Island, known as the "Perry Mill," with all the machinery belonging thereto, including Planer and Box Machines. To an active enterprising man, this offers a splendid opportunity for investment, as it will be sold at a bargain. Terms easy. For particulars apply to G. STOTHART, Chatham, Sept. 23, '81. \$5 Outfit sent free to those who wish to engage in the most pleasant and profitable business known. Everything new. Capital not required. We will furnish you everything. \$10 a day and you are easily made without staying away from home over night. No risk whatever. Many new workers wanted at once. Many are making fortunes at the business. Those who engage at once will be willing to work full time to make money every day that can be made in a week at any ordinary business. Those who engage at once will find a short road to fortune. Address H. HALEY & Co., Portland, Maine. JUST THE THING!! The Monitor Oil Stove. No more ashes, smoke, dust or trouble. This is a compact and durable stove burning ordinary oil. Perfectly safe, and free from smell. Can easily be carried from one room to another in a few seconds, handy for ironing, baking or preparing meals in hot weather. Just the thing for Hotels and Restaurants—12,000 of these stoves have been sold in the United States. Single Stove, \$8.00 Double Stove, \$10.00 H. P. MARQUIS, Currier Street, Chatham, June 25, 1881. Law. A. H. JOHNSON, BARRISTER-AT-LAW, SOLICITOR, NOTARY PUBLIC, ETC., ETC. Chatham, N. B. E. P. Williston, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Notary Public, Conveyancer, &c., Office—Over Mr. John Braddon's Store; Entrance Side Door. Newcastle, Miramichi, N. B. R. B. ADAMS, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, NOTARY PUBLIC, &c. Office up stairs, Noonan's Building, Water Street, Chatham. WM. A. PARK, Attorney-at-Law, Solicitor, NOTARY PUBLIC, CONVEYANCER, &c. OFFICE—OVER THE STORE OF W. PARK, 209 CASTLE STREET, NEWCASTLE, N. B. THEOPH. S. DESBRISAY, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, CONVEYANCER, &c., &c. BATHURST, N. B. LAW BLANKS At the MIRAMICHI BOOKSTORE. J. B. SNOWBALL.

GENERAL BUSINESS. The Comet of 1881. JAMES C. FAIREY'S DRY GOODS HOUSE FURNISHING STORE. Received for the Fall and winter Trade. Golden Ball, Shoe Store. FURNITURE EMPORIUM. A Few Splendid Parlor Suites, in Raw silk and in Hair Cloth. A. & R. LOGGIE, BLACK BROOK. Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, MEN'S YOUTH'S AND BOYS' READY-MADE CLOTHING. Boots, Shoes, Gaiters, etc. CROCKERY, GLASS, AND EARTHENWARE, SHELF AND HEAVY HARDWARE. GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS. MIRAMICHI BOOKSTORE. Bibles and Church Services SELLING AT COST. ROMAN CATHOLIC PRAYER BOOKS, IN VARIETY AT MODERATE PRICES. INK STANDS! INK STANDS! BUSINESS AND ORNAMENTAL, FROM 20c. to \$5.00. LADIES' CARD CASES. STAFFORDS' MARKING INK, requires no preparation, any pen may be used. STAFFORDS' CARMINE INK, STAFFORDS' VIOLET INK. CARTER'S and STEVENSON'S INK, COMMON BLUE and RED INKS, PENRACKS, INDIA RUBBER BALLS, from 12 to 35 cts. ACCOUNT BOOKS, MINUTE BOOKS, MEMORANDUM BOOKS, & GENERAL STATIONERY. D. G. SMITH. MECHANICAL ORGUNETTE. An Automatic Reed Organ. THE ORGUNETTE may now be called a celebrated instrument. In tone it is akin to the Cabinet Organ, but the organ must be manipulated by an artist in order to produce music; the ORGUNETTE is on the other hand entirely mechanical in its action, and at trifling expense it can be made to furnish an unlimited supply of all kinds of music. THE ORGUNETTE is indeed a musical wonder. It is a miniature reed organ, with as strong and melodious a tone as the Cabinet Organ. It surpasses the Cabinet Organ, for the reason that the ignorant in music can play it as well as the most accomplished professor. The ORGUNETTE is strong and accurate in its mechanism, and consequently not liable to get out of order. THE ORGUNETTE is the most perfect automatic musical instrument yet invented, its repertoire is unlimited, the tone is remarkably good. Sent for Illustrated W. F. ABBOT & Co., 1 TO 21 VOLTIGEURS STREET. SOLE MANUFACTURERS AND PATENTEES, MONTREAL. Dressmaking. VELVET Photograph Frames, AT THE MIRAMICHI BOOK STORE.

GENERAL BUSINESS. NEW GOODS!! J.B. SNOWBALL'S. Just received per late Steamers from the Manufacturers. New Ulster Cloths, For Gents Ladies and Children: Boys' Woollen Knickerbocker Hose, Very Heavy. A very large stock of German and Canadian Clouds and Promenade Scarfs. Ladies' Berlin Wool Shawls, Ladies' Berlin Wool Jackets, Ladies' and Children's Wool Scarfs. Irish Frieze, For Heavy Overcoats. Irish and Scotch Tweeds, Newest Styles. Moscow Homespun, Costume Cloths, Wool Serges, French Cashmeres, French Merinoes, Black Scicillians, Black Grecian Cords, Colored Cloth Debeiges, 100 pairs Best White ENGLISH BLANKETS, 50 pairs Best Twilled Canadian White Blankets. A few pairs of Super Extra BATH BLANKETS, at reduced price. ALL CHEAP FOR CASH! Chatham, Oct. 18, 1881. \$36,000.00 WORTH OF FALL AND WINTER GOODS TO BE SACRIFICED!!! Sutherland & Creaghan, Newcastle. Received ex "Nova Scotia," "Australia," and other Steamships from London, Manchester and Glasgow, Great Britain: 400 pieces Plain and Fancy WINCEYS, 20 dozen SHAWLS and SEATLES, 200 pieces RICH, STYLISH DRESS GOODS, 425 pairs GREY and WHITE HATS and CAPS, 150 dozen MEN'S and YOUTH'S FUR and FELT HATS and CAPS, 250 pieces GREY and WHITE COTTONS and SHEETINGS, 85 pieces GREY, WHITE, SCARLET and PINK FLANNELS, 37 pairs RICH TAFFETAY and DUREL CARPETS, 300 dozen Men's SHIRTS, DRAWERS, TUMPER and OVERALLS, 180 suits MEN'S and YOUTH'S CLOTHING, 75 pieces TICKETS, HESSLIANS, KOWLEINGS and TABLES, 50 pieces RICH DARK FINE-COLOURED FURS, 60 pieces COUNTRY HOME-SPUN, also SOCKS and MITTS. An endless variety of TRIMMED HATS, MILLINERY, TRIMMINGS, FLOWERS, FEATHERS AND ORNAMENTS. Tremendous Assortment of Hosiery, Gloves, Haberdashery, Notions, Smallwares, NICK-SACKS, &c., AT PRICES BELOW THE LOWEST. WHOLESALE AND RETAIL. SUTHERLAND & CREAGHAN. CHRISTMAS CARDS. NEW-YEAR CARDS. THE MIRAMICHI BOOKSTORE. The Largest and Cheapest Assortment of CHRISTMAS AND NEW-YEAR CARDS! ever seen on the Miramichi. They consist of PRANG'S, DE LA RUE'S, CANTON'S, MARCUS WARD'S and leading German makes which, being directly imported, will be offered at about twenty per cent below the prices charged by the Grocers, Haberdashers and Provision Dealers.

Manufacturers, Builders, etc. CHAMPION PORTABLE SAW MILLS. MIRAMICHI STONE WORKS. NORTHESK, MIRAMICHI New Brunswick. Joseph Goodfellow - Proprietor. THE CHATHAM UNDERTAKER. CASKETS & COFFINS. T. S. SIMMS & Co., St. John, N. B. All Kinds of Brushes, CORN BROOMS, REMINGTON FIRE ARMS. REMINGTON GREEDMOOR RIFLE. REMINGTON AGRICULTURAL CO., ILLION, N. Y. LOWMAN PATENT CAST STEEL SHOVELS, SCOOPS, SPADES, PLOWS, HOES, GARDEN & HORSE RAKES, MOWING MACHINES, AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, NEW YORK OFFICE, 57 BRAD STREET. ELECTRO-PLATING. KNIVES, FORKS, SPOONS, TEA-SETS, TRAYS, CAKE and BREAD BASKETS, SLEIGH BELLS, and other articles. I. MATHESON & Co. Engineers & Boiler Makers New Glasgow, N. S. Estimates Furnished for Engines and Boilers, Mill and other Machinery. Notice to Mill Owners. THRESHING MACHINES & WOOD CUTTERS. MUSIC.