

The Planet

S. STEPHENSON, Proprietor

A MERE STATEMENT OF FACT.

For fear reiterated untruths, made in kindergarten language, might be believed by some stray but verdant reader of our hallucinationally inclined neighbor, the Banner, this great family journal just wishes to take enough further notice of its childish prattle to say that the Red Cross returns published in The Planet were the correct ones, and that those published by the Banner were not. The reason our contemporary cooked its figures was this: It attempted to extort an over-charge for advertising from the ladies of the Red Cross, and, as a result, they withdrew their patronage from it altogether. Therefore, to gratify its petty spite it tried to belittle the Banner. The affair proved an unqualified success without the aid of the Banner's advertising columns, a fact advertisers in general should note, and in its chagrin the Banner has not yet been honest enough to publish the correct returns. As the Banner appears anxious to draw attention away from its own contemptible smallness towards these charitable ladies by abusing this journal, we are going to try, if possible, to make it for the mark and be honest for once if it can. At eleven o'clock, promptly, to-morrow (Saturday) morning The Planet will send a reporter to the President of the Red Cross Society, submit the articles the Banner refers to, and in an interview give just what that body has to say. We want the Banner to send a reporter there at the same time, so that both papers can get and publish exactly the same interview and thus settle the matter. Now, watch the Banner crawl.

THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF A GREAT FAKE.

Spiritualism all over the world will celebrate March 31st as the anniversary of the origin of modern spiritualism, and it was the pleasant little village of Hydesville, located in Arcadia township, Wayne County, New York, which gave it birth in 1848.

Though the Fox sisters, Margaretta and Catharine, through whom the first revelations of supposed spirit power were made, have recently admitted the fraud, and though they have stated that the so-called "spirit rappings," which created such an immense sensation so many years ago were produced by a voluntary cracking of their joints, the faith of believers in spiritualism is in no wise shaken.

The latter say that though the Fox sisters may be impostors, as they have declared themselves, yet the great truths and principles of modern spiritualism stand as firmly and shine as brightly as ever.

It was on the night of March 31, 1848, that the mysterious raps first gave evidence of being directed by some controlling intelligence. The family had retired during a brief lull in the mysterious rapping, when suddenly it began again, occurring this time near the bed occupied by the two little daughters, Margaretta and Catharine. The latter began to snap her fingers in imitation of the sounds, which immediately responded.

"Now do as I do," she cried. "Count 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6" at the same time striking her hands together. Mrs. Fox, the girl's mother, then desired the unseen agency to count 10, and that number of raps immediately followed.

"Tell us the age of Cathy"—the younger daughter—"by rapping once for each year," said the mother, and 10 distinct raps were heard. Startled by these manifestations, Mrs. Fox asked if it was a human being who was rapping, but no answering sound was heard. "If you are a spirit, make two distinct sounds," she said, and two loud raps responded.

Kate Fox, in her exposure of spiritualism, has declared that she and her sister were producing these mysterious raps, while lying in bed and almost choking with laughter at the clever imposition they were practicing on their mother.

The power of cracking the toe joints by which they produced their "spirit rappings," they had accidentally discovered, and had practiced until they had acquired great proficiency. Be that as it may, these supposed manifestations of spirit power created intense excitement. The family rose from their beds and searched every portion of the house, without result. The neighbors were called in and numerous questions asked, to which answers were received from the mysterious raps.

By sunrise the whole village was on the spot, and the little house was crowded in every part. Finally the spirit was asked to spell out his or her name by rapping at the correct letters as the alphabet was repeated. As the result the name of Charles B. Rosma was obtained, and the spirit said he was a peddler, who had been murdered in that house a few years before.

Soon afterward the Fox family removed to Rochester, N. Y., and the same spiritual manifestations continued in their new home, but only when Catherine or Margaretta was present. By using the letters in the alphabet in

PARIS EXPOSITION!

Messrs. Wright, Kay & Company, for many years Jewellers and Importers of Precious Stones and Art Wares, at D. 101, will shortly open an office in Paris.

at Nos. 24 and 26 Rue des Petits Hotels (Place de la Fayette) and offer their services for the purchase, packing and shipment to any point in the United States or Canada of the various articles on sale at THE EXPOSITION.

Exhibition, thus relieving their customers of all care and responsibility in these regards! A note addressed to Wright, Kay & Co., will receive careful attention. Please preserve the above address.

Wright, Kay & Co., 44 Rue de Cligny, or 24 Rue des Petits Hotels, will receive careful attention. Please preserve the above address.

the manner already indicated, the Fox sisters said that they found a great number of departed spirits who desired to converse with them and to use them as a medium of communication with their departed friends.

At length the alleged spirits communicated to the Fox girls their desire that there should be held a public meeting, at which a committee of investigation, chosen by the audience, should determine whether they were genuine spirits and produced their so-called manifestations without human aid.

Such a meeting was accordingly held at Corinthian hall, Rochester, in November, 1848. The Fox sisters appeared, on the stage and the spiritual phenomena, being freely manifested, were investigated by a committee of prominent gentlemen, who, after continuing their researches for several days, reported their inability to trace them to any human agency.

The fame of the Fox sisters was now national and when they appeared in New York in the following May, announcing themselves as "spiritual mediums," a phrase which originated with them, they created an intense furor. These two young girls had thus founded a new faith, to which they gave the name of spiritualism.

Humble as was its origin and insignificant as was the character of its first manifestations, it soon found a multitude of believers in both hemispheres. Spiritual mediums soon sprang up all over the country and were soon multiplied by hundreds and even by thousands.

No better evidence of the power of the new faith over the minds of men and its perpetually could possibly be desired than the fact that even its denouncement as the shallowest, flimsiest humbuggery by those who founded it, and that their statement that it is an out and out fraud, originated by two little girls solely in a spirit of mischief, have been powerless to overthrow or even to shake it.

A BISHOP ON THE BOERS.

Bishop Hartzell, who has been in charge of the Methodist mission work in South Africa for four years, is spending a fortnight in London before sailing for America to attend the Mission and General Conference at New York and Chicago. He has been studying race and political questions during a series of journeys in the Dutch, English and Portuguese possessions, and has met Sir Alfred Milner, Cecil Rhodes, President Kruger, ex-President Steyn, Dr. Leyds, Dr. Jameson and other conspicuous men in South Africa. He has had exceptional facilities for forming a correct judgment of the moral questions involved in the struggle now in progress, and as an American Bishop he is without prejudice or partisanship. He talks about the war in a most temperate way; gives the Dutch leaders and people credit for many excellent traits and robust virtues, but does not hesitate to express the deliberate conviction that the English cause is just and commands his sympathies.

Bishop Hartzell bases his opinion that England is in the right on three grounds. First, there is the broad argument from the interests of general civilization. England, with her ideas of civil liberty, honest administration and common justice, stands against the Dutch country, with their inferior progress, their retrograde ideas and their stagnant conservatism. Secondly, there is the overshadowing importance of the native problem. He describes the increase of the black races in Africa as something almost incredible, and he considers that the overwhelming problem of the whole continent is the development of the black races under the tutelage of the white men. He believes that under English rule the black men will have a better chance of improvement and progress than under Dutch rule.

He asserts that the Boers do not

begin to measure with the English in their relations with the negro race. President Kruger's "doppers" have never conducted any missionary work among the natives, and the average Boer hardly admits that the negro has a soul. The great Dutch trek northward in 1835 was made because the English had abolished slavery in Cape Colony and put the negro in a position for testifying as a witness in court. The Boers have relaxed somewhat their harsh methods of dealing with the blacks, but are not as well prepared as the English to take up the problem of the development of the inferior race. The third ground upon which the Bishop hopes for English success in this war is the welfare of the Boers themselves. Proud, robust and patriotic as they are, they are also narrow-minded, superstitious and ignorant. Shut in upon their own resources, they have fallen behind the Boers in the matter of education and the progress of civilization. The best thing that can happen is for them to be overwhelmed by the superior numbers of the British and be brought under the broadening influence of education and English ideas of liberty.

The Bishop draws a striking parallel between the American civil war and the Boer struggle against England. There were in 1861, he says, twelve millions in the Southern States who rightly believed that they were in the right, and yet were fighting on the wrong side to break up the American Union and to preserve slavery. The defeat of the south by superior numbers was necessary in order to save the Union and to effect its deliverance from the evils of slavery. The triumph of British arms will be best for the world, best for England and best for the Boers.

There is now a struggle of Britain against Boer, but when it is over Boer and Britain will stand together with schools and liberty everywhere in South Africa, and with a better chance for just and enlightened treatment of the blacks. For these reasons Bishop Hartzell considers that England is in the right in the war with the Boers, and that her triumph will be a distinct gain for civilization.

The poor old Banner is getting worse every day. Formerly its crazy fits only used to come on when the moon was at its full. Now the outbreaks are occurring between times as well.

There is an editor down South who proposes to edit his paper for one day as the devil would. If he means the printer's devil he should make it a fac-simile of our esteemed local contemporary the Banner.

Roberts is not willing to make an advance except on the best security. It isn't a new thing for him to give a check to a Boer, either.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Yet the Boers would much prefer to draw on him at sight.

A reduction in taxation has brought an increase in revenue, and there is nothing magical about it. Under the old regime the taxation was so levied as to go into private coffers, but now it is so levied as to go into the public purse. The people pay less but the government collects more.—The Globe.

What nonsense! Would the Globe kindly name the articles the people are paying less for, now than formerly?

A SOLDIER POET.

Pte. Alfred Roberts, of the Royal Irish Lancers, sent home some lines which a soldier comrade had written. They are remarkable both in sentiment and as possessing a real poetic fire:

IF I SHOULD FALL!

If I should fall among the dead and dying, Amid the strife upon the blood-stained field, My spirit, Lord, upon Thy love rely, To Thee I yield.

I do not ask respite from the grave; When duty calls I'll hasten to my place, But when my hour should come, one boon I crave, To see Thy face.

For Thou hast been my friend and brother, And thro' sweet nature all my joys I've known; No earthly bond unites me to another, I stand alone.

For I despise the cant and double-dealing Which serves mankind, the humble and the proud; How hard to find one heart with genuine feeling In all the crowd.

To Thee, to Thee, O Father, I surrender, This early gift when'er I hear Thy call, But let my death be swift, the pang be tender, Yet like a soldier fall.

NOT A QUACK DOCTOR.

Merrill's System Tonic does not emanate from quackery, but is a scientifically prepared and valuable prescription, curing all diseases having their origin in Constipation and weak or vitiated blood. It purifies the blood, builds up the system, strengthens the nerves and regulates the bowels. Sold in 50c bottles containing 50 doses, at the Central Drug Store. Descriptive pamphlet free.

Change of toll is toll's sufficient cure.

Merrill's Liniment Cures Garget in Cows.



NORTH AMERICAN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

Head Offices: 112-118 King Street West TORONTO.

For the year ended December 31st, 1899.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE		RECEIPTS.	
Dec. 31, 1899.	To net Ledger Assets.....	\$2,977,451.64	
Dec. 30, 1899.	To Cash for Premiums.....	\$744,865.68	
	To Cash Income on Investments.....	148,606.81	
		893,472.49	
		\$3,870,924.03	
DISBURSEMENTS.		ASSETS.	
Dec. 30, 1899.	By payments for Death Claims, Profits, etc.....	\$303,081.50	
	By all other payments.....	291,182.32	
		594,263.82	
		\$3,336,710.21	
Dec. 30, 1899.	By Mortgages, etc.....	\$1,416,932.68	
	Debitors (market value \$308,935.65).....	579,939.37	
	"Stocks and Bonds (market value \$587,391.50).....	559,993.62	
	"Real Estate, including Company's building.....	334,651.79	
	"Loans on Policies, etc.....	221,663.37	
	"Cash in Banks and on hand.....	194,821.42	
		28,705.06	
		\$3,336,710.21	
	"Premiums Outstanding, etc. (less cost of collection).....	137,498.24	
	"Interest and Rents, due and accrued.....	35,074.78	
	"Market value of Debtors and Stocks over cost.....	16,394.16	
		\$3,565,477.36	
LIABILITIES.		Net Surplus.....	
Dec. 30, 1899.	To Guarantee Fund.....	\$60,000.00	
	To Assurance and Annuity Reserve Fund.....	2,929,552.00	
	To Death Losses awaiting proofs, etc.....	51,507.31	
		\$3,641,059.35	
		\$524,418.01	

The financial position of the Company is unexcelled—its percentage of net surplus to liabilities exceeds that of any other Home Company.

New Insurance issued during 1899..... \$4,929,140.00

Exceeding the best previous year by nearly one million.

Insurance in force at end of 1899 (net)..... \$22,045,403.00

HON. G. W. ALLAN.

HON. SIR FRANK SMITH, K.C.M.G.

HON. SENATOR COWAN, Q. C.,

L. L. D., C. M. G.

L. W. SMITH, ESQ., Q. C., D. C. C. L.

D. McCRAE, ESQ., Q. C.

HON. SIR WM. R. MERKIDITH, Chief Justice of Ontario.

MANAGING DIRECTOR:

WM. MCCABE, L. L. B., F. I. A., F. S. S.

SECRETARY:

L. GOLDMAN, A. I. A.

The report containing the proceedings of the Annual Meeting, held on January 30th, last showing a record of the greatest progress and solid prosperity of the Company, will be sent to the policyholders. Pamphlets explanatory of the attractive investment plans of the Company and a copy of the annual report, showing its unexcelled financial position, will be furnished on application to the Head Office or any of the Company's agencies.

SMITH & SMITH, Local Agents, One-ham.

R. B. HUNGERFORD, Inspector, London Ont.

HEARD THE BETROTHAL KISS.

First Boarder—Did you hear the report of the engagement of our land-lady's daughter?

Second Boarder—I should say I did. I was sitting in the next room at the time, and it was a pretty loud report, let me tell you.

TENDERS WANTED

Sealed Tenders, marked "Tender for Church," will be received by the undersigned up to March 30th, 1900, for the several works required for the erection of a new Presbyterian Church at Thamesville. The plans and specifications can be seen at my office. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

S. STEWART, M.D., Sec'y Building Committee.

Thamesville, March 16th, 1900. d&w

Notice to Contractors.

Bulk or separate tenders will be received up to 12 o'clock, noon, Wednesday, April 4th, 1900, for the erection and completion of three veneered brick residences and one veneered brick convent. On each of these buildings there will be stone work, brick work, plumbing and slating. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Tenders to be left at the Architect's office by the time specified above.

JAMES W. CARSWELL, Architect, Market Building, Chatham, Ont.

March 24th, 1900. d&w

Just Received

A new selection of Sterling Silver Hearts and Brooches, of the latest styles.

We also have a new line of Solid Gold and Gold Filled Hearts at

SIGN OF THE BIG CLOCK

A. A. JORDAN

Minard's Liniment Cures Diarrhoea.

Money to Lend on Mortgages—Farmers and others wanting to borrow money on mortgages at best rates and save expense and time, and secure other advantages, should apply personally to the Chatham Loan & Savings Company. d&w lat.

Now is the time to buy your Blankets. We have 125 pair, which we will sell at reduced prices. These Blankets will advance in price after the first of April next, at least 25 per cent, so NOW IS THE TIME to procure them.

We have one dozen \$3.00 Ladies' Dressing Jackets left for \$1.75

We have also one dozen \$1.50 Ladies' Dressing Jackets for \$1.25

We have the latest in Ladies' Dress Goods, plain grays, fawns and blacks, and blue homespun, also plaid and check effects. By seeing OUR GOODS you will see the advantage of buying the newest and latest Spring and Fall designs before they are placed on the market.

Blankets

In Our Tailoring Dept.

We have just in a stock of the most complete range of English, Scotch and Irish Tweeds and Worsted to be found in any tailoring establishment in Ontario, also a vast range of our own make. Try US this Spring for a Suit and Spring Overcoat. We can Save You Money and give you the best of trimmings and a Perfect Fit, or we will gladly return your money.

BEAVER FLOUR IS THE BEST TO BUY

THE T. H. TAYLOR CO., Ltd. Phone 1.

Flour and Woolen Mills William St.

Jas. W. Carswell

ARCHITECT AND SUPERINTENDENT

Plans, specifications and estimates for all kinds of building furnished on short notice. Box 101, Chatham, Ont.

Office Phone 2. Residence Phone 226

Important Auction Sale

Of Valuable Farm Stock and Implements

On MONDAY, APRIL 2

Lot 22, Con. 3, Eastern Boundary, Raleigh Township, 1 1/2 miles from the City of Chatham, commencing at one o'clock:

Good work team Horses; team matched road horses, 3 and 4 yrs. old; good work mare, 7 yrs. old; 2 brood mares in foal; yearling colt; 3 good milch cows in calf; 2 cows coming in soon; 4 two yr. old heifers; 2 two yr. old steers; 10 yearling steers; 3 yearling heifers, 4 good calves; 4 thoroughbred Poland China sows due to farrow in April; 2 Tamworth sows in pig; Thoroughbred 1/2 and China bear pig; 30 good sheep; Fresh & Wood binder, do, mow, heavily new; Sharp horse rake; Wisner seed drill; new American corn and bean cultivator and bean cutter; fanning mill and bager; 2 set bolabags; 2 lumber wagons; Chatham stock rack; top buggy; open buggy; cutter; 2 set harrows; Duo harrows; set spring tooth harrows; 2 scrapers; 2 walking plows; 2 small corn cultivators; bean planter; 35 grain bags; grind stone; feed cooker, new; corn sheller; 2 set heavy double harrow; set light double driving harness; set single harness, a quantity of chopped feed, forks, chains, and many other useful articles too numerous to mention.

Everything will absolutely be sold without reserve, as the Proprietor has rented his farm.

TERMS—All sums of \$10 and under, cash, over that amount 6 months credit will be given on the usual approved joint notes. A discount of 5 per cent per annum will be allowed for cash on all sums entitled to credit.

Accommodation will be given to parties coming from a distance, as the sale will go on regardless of the weather.

McCabe & HARRINGTON, Auctioneers. J. J. PAYNE, Proprietor. 22-26 29 31

Auction Sale

Thoroughbred Stock

W. J. Cryderman, Auctioneer, has received instructions from J. W. M. Thompson, Esq., 10, Lou. A. Cameron Township, one and a half miles west of Thamesville, to sell by Public Auction, on

Tuesday, April 3rd, 1900

At 10 o'clock a.m. sharp, the following Desirable Stock and Implements:

1 heavy draught colt, 4 years old; 1 carriage horse, 5 years old; 1 carriage horse, 9 years old; 1 horse, 9 years old; yearling colt; 1 colt; 6 thoroughbred Jersey cows, registered; 4 grade Jersey cows; 1 two year old Durham, heifer, fat; 2 grade heifers in calf; 5 calves, thoroughbred Jersey; 1 suckling calf, eligible; 2 registered Jersey bulls; 10 Oxford Down ewes, lambs by side; 7 yearling Oxford Down ewes; 1 Oxford Down ram, registered; 2 yearling Oxford Down rams, eligible; 36 sheep; 1 sow and pig, Berk; 1 Berk sow with pig; 1 Tamworth sow, registered, in pig; 100 chickens; 5 Brox turkey hens; 1 Bronze gobbler; 1500 us. oats, and oats and hulls barley mixed; 200 bus. headless barley; 4 thoroughbred Tamworth sows, 5 mos.; 400 bus. corn in ear; a quantity of new variety seed corn, Golden Scepter; 80 bus. seed potatoes; quantity of hay; 1 Naxon binder, new; 1 mower; 1 Naxon drill; 1 hay tedder; 1 revolving hay rake; 1 gang plow; 1 Biddell disc; 2 plows; 2 set iron harrows; 4 corn cultivators; 1 root pulper and slicer, new; 1 cutting box, and horse power; 1 roller; 1 scraper; 1 iron butter; 1 lumber wagon; 1 stock platform; 1 rack and sheep rack; 1 phaeton, 2 seated, new; 1 open buggy; 1 demora; 1 cutter; 1 pair bob sleighs; 1 wheelbarrow; 3 set double harness, 1 set new; 1 set single harness; horse blankets, curry combs, etc.; 2 robes; 3 sets double trees; 1 neck yoke; 1 fanning mill; 10 grain bags; 2 scoop shovels, forks, rakes, hoes and other articles; 1 set saddle, 1,200 lbs.; 1 bal. beam; pair ice togs; bridge knife; hay fork car; grind stone; 1 heavy churn; and some articles of furniture.

Podagres or statements of above Stock produced on day of sale. The stock have been Prize Winners at the Leading Agricultural Shows during the past four years.

Free Lunch will be served at noon.

Business will meet early train on G. T. Ry.

TERMS OF SALE—All sums of \$10 or under, cash, on sums over \$10 eleven months credit given purchasers furnishing approved joint notes. A discount of 5 per cent per annum allowed for cash on sums over \$10.

W. J. CRYDERMAN, Auctioneer.

J. M. THOMPSON, Proprietor, Thamesville, P. O. Box 25.

N. B.—Having sold my farm to Norman Scriver, the above sale is a bona fide one.—J. M. Thompson.

FREEMAN'S SARSAPARILLA.

The Great Blood Purifier and Nerve Remedy, cures Bilious Headache, Dyspepsia, Constipation and all diseases of the blood, liver, kidneys and stomach. Sold at all druggists. Ask for Freeman's and take no other.