

Carleton Place.

VOL. XXII.

CARLETON PLACE, ONTARIO, JANUARY 24, 1872.

NO. 16.

TO NEIGHBOR GREEN:

"It's just as you say, Neighbor Green,
A treasure indeed is my wife,
Such another for battle and work
But then she's a little more than a wife,
As busy as a bee, and as true as steel,
She is a treasure indeed to me."
"She makes the best bread in the town,
Her place is a perfect delight,
Her coffee is rich and golden brown,
Her crullers and puddings just right.
But then while I eat them, she tells
Of the care and worry they bring;
Of the many-like tale she endures;
Oh, she's such a daisy thing!"

"Her house is as neat as a pin;
You should see the neat window shades,
And all of the soft cushioned chairs,
And nicely swept carpets are mine.
But then she sits at the window,
At a fly at a star, or a cat,
That I stay out doors all I can;
She is such a daisy thing!"

"She doctors the neighbors? Oh yes;
If the child has a fever or cold,
She is there with her soft hand and smile,
Her dainty maid and nurse.
But then she sits at the window,
At a fly at a star, or a cat,
That I stay out doors all I can;
She is such a daisy thing!"

GRIPPER'S MISTAKE.

A TRUE STORY OF THE WILD RIVER MILLS.

BY SYLVANUS COBB, JR.

One of the first settlers in the Wild River region was David Somerby. He was a quiet, well-meaning man, content to live upon the results of honest toil, and anxious to render unto every man his due. He bought his land when it was very cheap, in fact, when the price had been merely nominal, and he had been hunting, and fishing, and cultivating such land as he was inclined to clear, he managed to live very comfortably.

Another of the early settlers was Jasper Gripper. But Gripper was a different sort of a man from Somerby. He was a quiet, well-meaning man, content to live upon the results of honest toil, and anxious to render unto every man his due. He bought his land when it was very cheap, in fact, when the price had been merely nominal, and he had been hunting, and fishing, and cultivating such land as he was inclined to clear, he managed to live very comfortably.

One day in early spring a gentleman came up from the distant city and looked up and down the river on Jasper Gripper's land; and on the following day he was joined by two other gentlemen. Gripper owned on both sides of the river, and at the extreme upper boundary of his lot was a fall in the stream of twenty or thirty feet in many rods. Gripper had often thought what a splendid place that would be for a dam, and he had been firm that the power would be enormous. There was only one trouble: the extreme freshness to which the river was subject in spring and autumn would render it difficult to fix the dam. But then there were engineers who could overcome all such difficulties.

Finally the gentleman who had first visited the fall introduced himself to Mr. Gripper as Mr. James Bates, and frankly stated that he had been commissioned to examine the fall, and if he thought proper, to purchase it.

Jasper Gripper was keenly and sharply alive. His eye-teeth were out. He knew that for several years the attention of lumbermen had been directed to the Wild River pines, and that, lately, people had discovered that the land was of the very best quality. And, moreover, he knew that the fall upon the river, anywhere in that region, where a dam could be safely erected. There was another fall six miles below, upon Daniel Somerby's estate; but it was wild, roaring, turbulent, and locked in jaws of towering granite, where no mills could be possibly built.

"Of course," said Mr. Bates, "we cannot think of paying much for the water privilege, and but very little for the land which would be required for our buildings. The expense of erecting a suitable dam will be very great, and at the best we can get great risk. You will be the gainer in every way. Not only will it open a ready market for your lumber, but the value of all your surrounding land will be greatly enhanced."

Mr. Gripper winked and nodded. He had his own interests to look after. If he did not look after them he was sure nobody else would. After a deal of thinking he said he would sell the water privilege, together with ten acres of land adjacent, for two thousand dollars.

The agent was astonished. He considered the price ridiculous. He said, "Why," said he, "you did not pay so much for your whole territory."

It made no odds what he (Gripper) had paid. His price had been named, and the company could take it, or let it be.

quadrupled the moment our wheels were set in motion. We had supposed you would freely give the water power to a responsible company who would improve it."

"Mr. Gripper, we would like your final offer to remain open to our acceptance three days, at the end of which time you shall have our answer. Will you accommodate us?"

"When I said three thousand dollars," replied Mr. Gripper, "I meant to include only ten acres of land. If you want ten acres more, I must call it thirty-five hundred."

And with this monstrous proposition, which was to be open for three days, the parties separated.

"Yes," answered Bates, "but you will find it utterly impracticable." Still McIntosh desired to look at it, and thither the party bent their steps.

The fall was found to be a tumbling, dashing, foaming, pouring down a declivity of at least seventy feet in a distance of twenty rods—leaping and surging over jagged shelves of rock into a boiling chasm below, while on both sides rose perpendicular walls of solid granite, showing that at some period far remote the mountain torrent had literally cut its way through the adamantine ledge.

McIntosh examined the lay of the land below the fall, and at a point not far distant in that direction he found a grassy swell, or gully, overgrown with grass and shrubbery, and with a deposit of river sand upon its bottom. The appearance of the place attracted his attention.

"Probably," said Mr. Bates, "it is where the melted snow and heavy rains find course from the hills."

"I think not," said McIntosh. "This sand is from the river—not from the hills—and you will observe that it could not have been backed up here by any force of the water below. Let us follow it."

And they struck into the evident waterpath, and followed it up around the ledge, by an easy and gradual ascent, until it led them out upon the river's bank nearly a quarter of a mile above the fall.

"Eureka!" cried McIntosh, clapping his hands exultantly. "Here we have a watercourse, marked out and graded by Nature herself, which will yield a power immeasurably superior to the one above. And, moreover, all danger from floods is obviated."

The others quickly comprehended the value of the discovery. They saw that by cutting a canal along the old watercourse—a course over which the river had poured a stream at its highest floods—they would be able to control the water, and to use it over and over again, for the consumption by mills set one below the other along its gracefully curving track. And two things more: The sites here were more favorable for building than were those above, with better timber land surrounding; and, moreover, the water was not so turbulent, and the dam would be of easier construction.

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of the company's part of the contract. And yet he liked the second offer best, though before accepting it he must confer with his head-quarters.

Mr. Somerby informed him that the offer was opened to him for as long as he desired.

On their way back Mr. Bates and his companions called upon Jasper Gripper. "Gentlemen," said Mr. Gripper, "as soon as mutual salutations had been exchanged, 'you will understand that when I offered you the twenty acres of land I did not intend, for the price named, to include the timber standing thereon.'"

"It makes no difference," returned Mr. Bates, with a smile. "He would take the land, and he would take the timber, and he would take the water privilege."

"How?—not purchase?" gasped Gripper.

"No. We do not want it."—Mr. Bates did not think it necessary to tell McIntosh that the power which they had discovered.

"But—gentlemen!—There must be some mistake." They assured him there was no mistake at all.

Mr. Gripper was in agony. He would take the land, and he would take the timber, and he would take the water privilege.

The company, before whom Bates and McIntosh laid their report, appointed a commission, with full powers to decide and negotiate; and upon visiting David Somerby's section, and carefully surveying his territory, they concluded to accept his second proposition. So he surrendered his land into the stock of the company, and became one of them; and we may here remark that six months later he was not a little surprised upon being appointed superintendent of the lumbering gang, with a salary such as his wild dreams of wealth had never grasped.

The water power was developed under the engineering of Benton McIntosh, and it proved even greater than he had anticipated. The mills were erected on first mills for sawing lumber, and then mills for grinding grain; and in time other mills went up—mills for making cloth, and for fabricating various other articles necessary to the comfort of man.

The land of Jasper Gripper was of course a great success; but it was not the sight of David Somerby, wealthy and respected, and honored with offices of profit and of trust, while he was shunned and shunned from the public confidence, and shut out from the public confidence, which had overreached himself in his narrowness and selfishness of spirit.

To-day a flourishing town upon the site of David Somerby's section, and the hum of thousands of busy spindles makes cheerful music for the prosperous and happy operatives; and from his tireless hands and skilful fingers flows out wealth to the nation.

And this, dear readers, is the true story of Wild River Mills.

THE BEST COW.
A pretty trick, which occurred at the homestead of Skimwater, not long since. Skimwater used to be a milkman, and we attribute to him a great measure of our loss of confidence in humanity generally, and in milkmen in particular. Mike Walsh had been recommended to Skimwater as an excellent gardener, and also as a fit man to assist in taking care of horses and cows; so Mike was hired, and placed in charge of his department.

A RAILROAD JOKE.
The Bridgeport (Conn.) Standard says that on Tuesday last, the officers of duty at the depot at that place received a telegram dated at New York, requesting him to have a minister to the depot on the arrival of the Boston express, as there was a couple on the train who wanted to get married. The telegram was signed by a gentleman who called at the depot, and upon the receipt of it at once set to work to locate the presence of a clergyman at the depot previously to the arrival of the train. It was nearly dark when the train was to arrive, and the officers were busy with the passengers.

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QUEEN VICTORIA AND HER PEOPLE.
The Queen's birthday, which is celebrated every year on the 24th of January, is the most important day in the life of the British Empire. The Queen's birthday is celebrated with great pomp and ceremony throughout the country. The Queen's birthday is celebrated with great pomp and ceremony throughout the country.

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A murderer possessing money and influential friends may spend a tolerably comfortable life in an United States prison. The off-ends in the United States are sentenced to life in prison, and the off-ends in the United States are sentenced to life in prison.

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A disaster occurred on the Annapolis and Windsor Railway on Wednesday morning. The train for Annapolis was thrown off, owing to a broken rail, at Three Mile Plains, near Windsor, and five cars were reported smashed up, the first class passenger car being among the number. Several of the passengers were bruised and otherwise slightly injured, and Mr. Blanchard, of Truro, is seriously injured.

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Streeterville 12th.—John Brown, a hotel keeper and Division Court Bailiff, committed suicide this morning. It appears that he had breakfast with his family as usual, and afterwards went to the stable, procuring a strap; proceeded to a bed-room upstairs, and fastening the strap to a ladder, sprang from a bed-post and strangled himself. His wife found him in this fearful position and held him up for some time until assistance arrived, but life was quite extinct. Business troubles and intemperate habits are supposed to have been the cause.

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