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A MINISTERIAL GROCER.

HOW HE HOPES TO GET A BICYCLE FOR 1897.

He is busy selling soap and collecting the wrappers. The possibilities of such a scheme and how they might be developed—a great chance for ministers.

A good story is told this week at the expense of a city clergyman who has been captured by the announcement of a foreign soap firm that has found a method to increase sales by means of giving away bicycles and other prizes won with the wrappers. The person who collects the most wrappers every month in each province gets a bicycle and then there are other incentives to this house to house industry. Such ideas for increasing sales are unusually productive of good but the people who inaugurate them, if they have a good article, look for their returns after the first burst of enthusiasm has worn off, and the prizes all been distributed. Then if the article is good the people who have used it for the wrapper may use it for their own sake.

But a number of grocery men in a certain section of the city have noticed of late that many of the people who bought soap from them are no longer doing so, and one of them curious to know the reason, inquired from a customer where he got his soap now. He was surprised to learn that his minister had supplied him with 25 cakes of a different soap and at a price slightly less than the grocer retails for.

There was food for thought in this and the groceryman began to inquire into the matter. He found the minister—a methodist persuasion—was an enthusiastic cyclist, and that in his anxiety to get a nice new wheel of the 1897 pattern he was in the business of collecting soap wrappers.

Now while the fact was astonishing at first, when he began to think it all over a certain glow of pleasure came over him because of the fact that a minister had seen fit to take up the grocery business as a side line to his more especial employment—that of saving souls. Every once in a while a groceryman, like those in other businesses, will think their the meanest and most disagreeable business on earth. This is apt to be the case when he has been called to the telephone seven times just before starting for his dinner, to learn that his delivery boy had not reached seven different quarters of the town within as many minutes. So the fact that a popular clergyman was in the grocery business, and, like any ordinary mortal, was taking soap round to his parishioners, and caring, as it were, for the cleanliness of their bodies as well as their souls was encouraging, and notwithstanding his loss of trade, the incentive to greater exertion from the fact that he had a distinguished associate in the business more than made up for any trifling reduction in sales.

Still his curiosity was aroused as to how a minister could carry out such a plan. It was true that the possibilities were immense for carrying on a brisk and energetic trade, and when he thought of the willing assistance that all the members of the church would give their pastor, of how enthusiastic the Sunday school children would be in the collection of soap wrappers, the chances of the minister selling a lot of soap, and anything else he was inclined to, seemed very good.

And the grocery man was right. A minister has exceptional chances in such a contest for a bicycle. In these days of soft coal and dust, everybody does, or at least everybody should, use soap, and the chances are that a personal request from one's own minister to use a certain kind of soap, while it might excite surprise, would be readily complied with. The fact is that church going people are always glad to oblige the minister in these small temporal matters. They cannot forget that "they have left undone the things they ought to have done" in a spiritual sense and they jump at the chance to oblige the minister especially when the request concerns their bodies more than their souls. So the power of the ministry to divert the soap trade can easily be imagined. Just think of what a commotion there would be if three or four hundred children were requested to collect as many "Sunstruck" wrappers as they could to give to their minister, why, that would settle the question. These are possibilities, and Progress does not insist for a moment that the minister in question has been driven to such straits. Perhaps he has enough wrappers without adopting such means. His method while a more laborious one for himself is much simpler. A friendly

wholesaler supplies him with the soap at the cost figure and each of those parishioners who wish their minister well have no hesitation in taking 25, or 50 or it may be a whole box from him. That would mean 100 wrappers! Just think of it!

While the minister is in the throes of this awful contest the soap trade has been diverted from the grocery stores to a certain degree, the users of soap are trying to get used to the new article the wholesalers find that there is a changed demand and they are selling more of a less profitable soap and all on account of a ministerial cyclist.

CAUGHT IN THE PEERING ACT.

A Young Man Who Could Not Pass an Undrawn Bolt.

For the past few days St. John has been the victim of an up-to-date ulster man scare of the most approved kind, with all its attendant horrors, in the way of Jack the Huggers, Jack the Peepers and other Jacks of the same kind. The recent alarms in this line have had the effect of making members of the fair sex more cautious as to how they go out at night. They have also made ladies whose husbands are obliged to leave home in the evening to attend to business or other matters, more careful in the way of securely fastening their doors and windows.

The scare has not been confined to any particular section of the city but is on the other hand decidedly general in its character. The obnoxious ulster man has been heard from in all parts North, South and even West ends as well as the more central part of the city being alike infested. Hazen street and vicinity has been visited by a peculiar bogie of its own; different in character from any heard of in other parts. This interesting gentleman's speciality is not hugging or otherwise insulting ladies on the street but one that merits a rich punishment—window peeping.

His particular delight is to find the bedroom window of some unsuspecting maiden where beneath the window blind or curtain he can watch the fair one's preparations for retiring, without fear of interruption. A certain family in the section referred to numbers among the members of its household a very pretty domestic servant whose beauty of face and form is often commented.

She occupies a bedroom in the basement of the house and as the windows look out on the yard no doubt considered herself safe from prying eyes at all times. A few evenings ago while the ulster man scare was at its height she forgot to lower her blind while she was retiring. A well known business man who chanced to be passing saw the light and looked in. The girl blissfully unconscious that she was being watched continued to prepare for sleep. All this time the young man remained with his face pressed close to the window pane; an interested observer of the whole scene. Finally the girl discovered that a pair of rude eyes belonging to a horrid man had been gazing at her for some minutes.

She at once alarmed the household and a young man who was in the house started out to find the unknown watcher. He rounded the corner of the house and entered the alleyway where he was surprised to find a prominent young merchant and Sunday school worker on his hands and knees gazing into the girls room. A stiff kick brought him to his feet only to find that he was in the hands of a very athletic young man who quickly landed him on the sidewalk. Explanations and apologies followed, and the offender promised not to do such a thing again but begged his captor to remain silent about the matter.

The joke was too good to keep however, and the young man's friends are guying him unmercifully on the matter.

THEIR STRANGE HIDING PLACE.

A Pair of Supposed Lost Gloves Found in a Tin Kettle.

Several week ago a lady purchased a pair of kid gloves while out shopping one afternoon and carried them along with her. She made several calls during the day (and when she arrived home was minus the gloves. Enquiries were made at the various shops and houses where she had called but no tidings could be had of the missing articles, though advertisements were inserted in several of the papers.

Two or three days ago the lady went into a store where cooking utensils are kept, for the purpose of buying a saucepan, and while waiting to be served looked over the various articles, removing covers, etc. Her surprise may be imagined when upon lifting the cover of a certain dish well on the back of the counter, a little parcel was revealed. It suddenly dawned upon her that she had visited this store on the day she lost her gloves and though later her daughter and the proprietor had made a careful search they had not found them.

When the parcel was unwrapped it proved to be the lady's property, though she is still wondering how they came into their strange hiding place.

LIQUOR IS NOT WANTED.

NOVA SCOTIANS WILL MAKE A BOLD PROHIBITION MOVE.

"Progress" Correspondent Thinks the Legislature Will Grant the Request of the Temperance People—The Law and Order Association has a Scheme too.

HALIFAX, Jan. 7.—Ald. Hamilton's temperance committee has succeeded in finding some one with whom they could confer regarding the liquor license law in Halifax. The Halifax law and order association has decided to talk over the council's proposed changes in the law, but the association gave their delegation no power to act. They are merely to listen and talk and then report back to the main body. Ald. Hamilton says he wishes to see a law that can be enforced; that is practicable, rather than one like the present, severe in its enactments that cannot, and certainly are not, put into effect. He wants the proximity clause to church, school or railway removed, he asks that a majority of names be sufficient to a license application and that when once these are obtained the license stand good till forfeited for misconduct by the holder. He asks that a mere majority and not three fifths of the rate-payers be all that is required for one of these applications. On the other hand he agrees that the city council will see that the new law is rigorously enforced; that the number of saloons will be very much reduced and that the license fee shall be increased.

Whatever may be the immediate outcome of this conference, and no one need be sanguine of it, for the temperance people will give up nothing of what they now have in the way of legislation, the committee's efforts will be all wasted breath. This will be evident when it is stated that the legislature of Nova Scotia at its next session, is to be asked to pass a prohibitory liquor law for this province. Prohibition is now the watchword of the temperance bodies here and they will make a dead-reckoning on the members of parliament in lobbying and pressing for such a law. No temperance legislation of an advanced kind has ever been refused by the local legislature, and it is argued that prohibition will not now be denied to those who ask it. Such being the case does it not seem, after all, like a waste of time for either the aldermen or the law and order people to spend much time talking about the law in Halifax. It goes without saying that a prohibitory law would not be one whit better enforced than the law we now have. But what matters that to people who seem to think that if the law is as they like it that completely ignoring it in Halifax is a matter of small consequence.

THE GIRLS GOT THEIR BOARD.

But Cash Was Scarce When They Left the Queen Hotel.

HALIFAX, Jan. 7.—Manager (Sheraton) of the Queen hotel is away for his health, and the hotel is having a hard time of it. The day that Mr. Sheraton left, the sheriff put in an appearance, and two or three days later the waitresses in the dining room struck for two months wages. The girls were allowed to go in peace, if their penniless condition could be considered peaceful, and others were engaged, it is hoped on better terms for them. While this trouble has come on the Queen, there is none who does not praise Harry Cole, the head-clerk. He is a tower of strength to the Queen, and if it can be pulled through he is the man to do it. By the way, it is said the company that owns the building is preparing for emergencies by having a liquor license taken out on their behalf, independent of any license that may be secured by the hotel management, whatever comes they will thus be sure of the bar.

Has Been a Melting Week.

This has been a melting week for the ice rinks and the managers have been in tears too over the lost time and the quarters that they will not see again. It is a favorite saying with dry goods merchants that they never see the money that is not spent on a wet Saturday night. Rink managers can claim with far greater certainty that they never see the cash lost during a soft week. But all the same the young people have had a lot of open air skating this season and the rest will make them more eager for the sport when it does begin. The senior hockey league was to begin in the Singer rink last night, ice permitting.

Hockey teams are all over the province now and the winter ice sport seems to be as popular as ever. No doubt matches will be arranged between St. John and some of the outside crack teams.

PERHAPS IMPOSED UPON.

The Armenians Who Came to St. John are Called into Question.

It appears that in this city there dwells a Turk—a man who is not altogether unknown, a man who speaks several languages and who has acted as interpreter on many important occasions. It is told that this Turk succeeded in effecting an interview with some of the Armenians brought here later by the salvationists and that from them he learned several circumstances that when told were not a little bit surprising, to say the least, in view of the statement that had gone forth to the public about them. Through this Turk (who in appearance is not by any means a "sick man") it is learned that two at least of the Armenians are not influenced by any consideration of a religious character in their connection with the party. One of them is a shoemaker by trade who was working at his trade in England and wanting to come to America joined the party. Another is a tailor and one of the little girls is shortly going to join her parents who are in Boston, Mass. at present. There is no doubt if these men told the real facts to this interpreter then the Army is being imposed upon to that extent at least and the executive of that Army should learn it, because they are being utilized as a medium for imposing upon the public. The Salvation Army, it is admitted on all sides, has done not inconsiderable good here in St. John and no one desires to entertain the idea that in holding the meetings at which these Armenians are present, there is the slightest idea of speculation. The officials of the Army should however in justice to themselves make inquiry into these circumstances so conflicting in character and remove those of the Armenians who are not bona fide sufferers by the alleged Turkish cruelties.

DANGERS ON THE RIVER ICE.

Reckless People Pay the Price of Their Temerity—Providential Escape.

The ice about the head of "The Reach" on the St. John River is not the safest at any time and there is open water at certain points all the winter through. In spite of that, adventurous spirits will drive in places where the ice may or may not be good and they often find that it is not. W. B. Ganong of the Cedars, but of the Barker House, Fredericton, during the winter season found a watery grave for Jen M. one of the fast Fredericton trotters near Oak Point this week, and had a hard time saving his own life. Mr. Orr who drove Jen M. in the race here last summer was with him. Farmers along the river tell strange stories of the teams that have lost their course on the broad stream and passed over ice in safety that was never known to carry a team. Sometimes a team will lose its way in a thick snow storm and have much difficulty in getting into safety though they can hardly fail to strike one of the bushes roads if they are not away out of their course. One story of this is told of a strange driver with a big load of lumber who came down the main river and instead of turning into Kingston creek drove to an opposite bluff over ice that had never been considered safe enough for a man to cross. The young man who on the second or third days freezing thought he could drive down the Kannebecasis to Torryburn, by a special dispensation got as far as Bay View and then found out how large a hole his horse and wagon (for there was no sleighing inland) could make in the ice. He saved his horse but lost his produce which was a sufficient price for his experience.

A Kindly Charitable Deed.

The late holiday season seems to have been marked by an unusually generous distribution of gifts and necessities to the various charities and deserving poor. It is related of a needy family on City Road, that, as a member of the family was entering the house late Christmas eve he found a barrel in the porch, which upon investigation was found to contain besides other useful things, everything necessary for a good Christmas dinner. There was no means by which they could find out who their benefactor was. This seems to be one of the cases where one hand was not allowed to know what the other did, and such kindly, tactful acts are to be highly commended, and will certainly not go unrewarded.

DIGBY COURT AT WORK.

MRS. TROOP AFTER THE OBJECT OF HER HUSBAND'S AFFECTION.

Emma Dakin Remanded Until June—A Hotel Keeper and a Druggist Have a Scrap and a Woman Is the Cause of All the Fuss.

Digby seems to be having its share of sensation these last few months. People have talked about Troop and his wife and their difficulties in and out of court until they are weary but the latest phase of the case was the arrest of Emma Dakin, housekeeper at the Myrtle House, for unlawfully living with the proprietor Wm. I. Troop. The case was heard before Justice White, C. S. Harrington of Halifax appearing for the complainant, Mrs. Wm. I. Troop, and J. H. Ritchie of Annapolis for the defendant, Emma Dakin. After a good deal of sensational testimony plainly showing the existing relations between Troop and Emma Dakin, also that her post name for him was 'Troop' the Dakin woman was remanded to appear for trial at the supreme court in June furnishing bail to the amount of a thousand dollars for her appearance.

Troop came here from the states several years ago, leaving his wife in the states and when she came here last fall he threw her out of the house, telling her it is alleged that Emma Dakin had more right there than she had.

It is said that in June more testimony will be produced in the shape of a number of snap shot photos taken by a United States detective who visited the Myrtle House in Mrs. Troop's interest, during the past summer.

At the police court this week an interesting trial took place before stipendiary Holdsworth, a prominent druggist and a hotel-keeper being the parties most interested.

It seems that one evening last week the druggist in company with the hotel-keeper, visited the stable of the latter for the purpose of looking at a horse that he (the hotel-keeper) wanted to sell at a bargain, when suddenly and without warning, it is claimed, the druggist received a heavy blow from a stick or some weapon in the hands of the other, followed by other and more severe blows; certainly it is that the druggist's face presents a very marked, cut and swollen appearance.

It is claimed by the hotel-keeper that the druggist was the cause of his domestic trouble and unhappiness. Of course there is a woman in the case; The pretty wife of the hotel man (claiming to have just cause in doing so,) left his bed and board some weeks ago, going to Boston and not acquainting her lord and master with her intentions at the time. The irate husband thinks he has discovered the cause of his unhappiness and given the right man a pounding. The trial being postponed it is impossible to tell the outcome, but it is thought that it may be another case for the June term of Supreme Court to settle.

WHO WANTS TO BE MAYOR.

Three Candidates in the Field—The Aldermen are Quiet yet.

Mayor Robertson has not made any sign as to what he intends to do at the civic election, whether he proposes to offer himself again for chief magistrate's chair, or whether he will retire to private life and watch the errors of others.

But if the mayor has made no sign there are no lack of candidates so it is said. Progress has heard of three in the field and two of them at least are old friends. With hope perpetual Dr. D. E. Barryman has aspirations in that direction that can only be quenched by votes while Mr. Charles McLaughlan, though absent in England, has left himself in the hands of his friends to do as they please with him. They propose, Progress understands to start a requisition in his favor and when he returns to surprise him with a huge nomination. Then the chairman of finance, Dr. J. W. Daniel, is not averse to being in the field and is looking the battle ground over with a view to a choice position. If he thinks he can get commanding ground and rally a majority about him he may be depended upon to be one of the candidates.

The aldermen are not busy as yet and the only man who has been spoken of apart from the aldermen at present on the board is a Mr. Flowelling who is "brought out by his friends." There is plenty of time yet and the battle will be lively enough before it is fought and won.