

BRANIGAN'S CHRONICLES AND CURIOSITIES

Nothing extenuate, nor set down any in malice.—Shak.

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HAMILTON, C. W., THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1859.

PRICE, TWO PENCE

BILL.

An act for the Reform and Regulation of Female Apparel, and to amend and reform the Customs relating to Crinoline and other Artificial Superfluities and the Professor of 'em, with the Powers, Provisions, Clauses, Regulations and Directions, Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties to be observed, applied, practised, and put in execution for securing the proper observance of the same.

[1st April 1859.]

WHEREAS, in times past, Parliament in its wisdom found it necessary to enact certain Sumptuary Laws to regulate divers expenses; and also to interfere with the subjects of this Province in the choice and arrangement of their Apparel and Dress. And whereas the good sense of Her Majesty's subjects in general and the modest demeanour and chaste judgement of the Ladies of this Province in particular, in the matters aforesaid, and in all other matters pertaining to their vocation, both in public and private, have rendered it unnecessary for the Legislature of this Province to interfere in the private arrangements of families and individuals. And whereas evidence hath been produced, and it hath been shown, to the satisfaction of His Honourable House, that in the Year of our Grace one thousand eight hundred and fifty nine the Ladies of this Province have degenerated in their ideas of beauty and propriety, have deserted the wise and modest apparel of their ancestors, and adopted in lieu thereof the flowing and elaborate Skirts, supported and sustained in their amplitude by certain contrivances of Springs, Ladders, Hinges, &c. and a certain other Apparatus known by the name of Crinoline, and the gaudy and expensive Trimmings, Fashions and Appurtenances which evil and designing persons have introduced into this country from the neighboring Republic, whose people, in the excess of their unbridled sarcasm, have been in the habit of stigmatizing Her Majesty's Loyal Subjects in this Province as "Tarnal Britishers." And whereas it hath now become necessary for the securing of the Public Thoroughfares for the protection of Her Majesty's Subjects in general, and for divers others cogent reasons quite unnecessary to mention, that the said Customs and Fashions, together with the use of the said article known by the name and cognomen of Crinoline should be regulated and reformed. Wherefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows

I. From and after the passing of this Act, no Female shall, under any pretence whatever, appear in any Public Street, Way, Thoroughfare or Path, nor be appear in any Church, Theatre, Doorway, Railroad, Private Carriage, Steamboat, Railroad, or in any Private Apartments, dressed or enveloped in any artificial frame or framework which shall be of the same be fashioned out of Steel, Whirlbone, Cord, Wickwork, India rubber, Gutta percha, or any other material, and whether or not the same be screwed together or fitted with langes or other apparatus to render the same collapsible or contractible. And any person offending against this enactment shall be adjudged by any Magistrate before whom she may be brought, to earn the sum of five dollars, either at plain needlework or shirtmaking, at the usual charges for slopwork.

II. From and after the passing of this Act, certain Rights, Powers, Privileges, &c., now held by the Female Sex of this Province, by virtue of which they have hitherto chosen and determined the shape and dimensions of their exterior habiliments, shall respectively cease and determine, and the same are hereby repealed.

III. No female above the age of forty shall wear, deck, or bedizen herself in any Underskirt or Petticoat, the pattern of which shall be red and black-striped, tub or barrel pattern, or any other pattern, approaching to chess or draught-board pattern, or any other pattern or color which shall be likely to cause the taking fright of any horse, ox, or ass, or shall be calculated to cause the unnecessary barking of puppies, or draw forth the precocious remarks of any small boys or girls of the present generation who may spy the same, although the same may be gratuitously delivered.

IV. In any case where a female is a married woman and under the age of fifty years, or has not been married thirty years, and a new article of Dress is required (the necessity of which new dress shall be determined by the husband), a pattern or piece of the material shall be first obtained by her, or in case of illness, by some person duly authorized by her, from the Shop Keeper or person having the selling of the same, which pattern together with a certificate

stating the quantity to be purchased and the price thereof, shall be submitted to the husband for approval within two days after the same shall have been so obtained, and the husband shall signify his approval of such pattern by a certificate in writing, and such certificate shall be delivered to the party selling such goods or materials at the time of such purchase.

FORM OF CERTIFICATE.

I, Theophilus Brick, husband of Jemima Brick, hereby consent to the purchase of ten yards of silk (single width), for a dress, at three yoke shillings per yard, such silk to be of the same color and quality as pattern hereto annexed.

(Signed)

To Messrs MERRAY & Co.,

TROPNIER'S BRICK.

King street, Hamilton.

V. That from and after the passing of this Act, no female shall carry on the trade or calling of a milliner or Dressmaker, under the penalty, if a single woman, of being married to a colored "pusson" and, if married, of being compelled to hold her tongue for one calendar month.

VI. Any female who may have in her possession, prior to the passing of this Act, any Frames, Skeletons, Gratings or Wickwork, or other Machinery, shall be at liberty, with the consent of her nearest relative, to deposit the same at the nearest Session House, Orphan's Home or House of Industry, in order that the same may be distributed to and be used by the poor as Fireguards, Door Mats, Bird Cages or Clothes' Bags, and it shall be the duty of the Mayor or Chief Magistrate to cause the same to be distributed to deserving persons, and the Petticoats or Underskirts may be devoted to Agricultural purposes by tearing the same into Ribbons for the scarfing of birds, or presented to the Royal Canadian Yacht Club for flags.

VII. No female under sixteen or over forty shall wear any Boots with military or high heels, which shall exceed three inches in height, nor any India-rubber Boots, nor any Mocassins, nor any Boots with Brass or German silver eye-bolts, nor any Boots with leather laces, or Black Boots with pink, red or green binding, nor any Boots which, for color or configuration, shall draw attention to the large size or expressively elegantly shaped foot of the wearer, under a penalty of ten shillings, to be earned at the Washtub in a Laundry, at the usual rate of payment; which fine may be remitted by the nearest Police Magistrate, provided the offender have a bona fide offer of marriage while so employed.

VIII. No female above the age of ten, whether married or single, shall wear or cause to be worn any Bonnet which shall be more than ten inches off the forehead or pinned on to the back hair, or the curtain of which shall sit or rest on the back of the neck, or shall be fastened up by steel springs or otherwise, so as to sit entirely behind the ears, under the same penalty as provided in section seven. Provided that this section shall not apply to servant maids.

IX. Any female of common sense and discretion, properly accomplished, and of an average standard of beauty, may wear under certain restrictions (to be determined by herself) Heavy Dog kin Cloaks, Bearskin Mittles, or embroideries, Petticoats (if the actual work of the wearer), or ugly Sunshades, Pinkstays, Colored Stockings, or Garters, or Gauntlet Gloves, without any let, hindrance, or interference from any person or persons whatever.

X. This Act shall apply to Upper and Lower Canada, and shall be deemed a Public Act, and shall come into force as soon as it is passed.

"Charles, son!" exclaimed Mrs. Hubbs, as she patiently endeavored to thread a pin

"take down the dictionary and read your mother some nannygoats while she sows a row of soger buttons on the seat of your pants for fourth of July—endeavor, Charles," she continued, while an affectionate smile beamed upon her good old countenance, "to learn all you impossible can, for Sodom, the wisest man, said knollocks is powder, and if you wish to make anything in this world you must use your knollocks." And the old lady lay down her pin, and listened to Charles while he commenced at the Smith's.

At a marriage ceremony, which is of the most valce, the bride or the bridegroom? The bridegroom: for the bride is given away, and the bridegroom is sold.

To the Editor of the Chronicle.

My DEAR SIR,—There's a certain young gent on James St., and all the girls in our school think him a perfect jewel(er). We call him the "jewel," and consequently can speak of him as ~~an object of veneration~~, before the old 'un, and of course, ~~she~~ don't know who we mean from Adam; indeed, at all events she has'n't perception enough to discover the difference between a "jewel" and a frying-pan, so we have very few fears ~~of~~ that score. We would'n't throw hot water on Billy, "the jewel," for all the world. No indeed! Why it would spoil all his pretty curly hair!

KITTY AND SALLY.

P. S.—You ought to have seen the passion the old 'un flew into one evening, just because she heard Patty Place singin', "Oh all I want is Billy Mu-r, and then I'm off for Baltimore." I tell you what poor persecuted poetical Patty had to toe the mark all that week. Oh dear, I felt so sorry. Was'n't it mean!

KITTY, SALLY, & Co.

Hamilton, May, 1859.

(For Hamilton's Chronicle & Curiosity.)

SIR,—A short time ago—I happened to stroll into our Police office, and in a case which was then before the court, a Jew was about being sworn as a witness; but judge of my surprise to find that our venerable looking stipendiary did not know how to administer the oath. I would therefore for his information, through your columns, give the proper form, which is the following:—

You swear by the five books of Moses and the Great God, and Father of Israel, that the evidence you shall give to the court—shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth—so help you Jehovah.

The above oath is administered with the Bible open at the five Books of Moses, and the witness puts on his hat when taking the oath.

JUSTICE.

Oh happy's the soldier
Who lives on his pay,
Who spends half a crown
Out of sixpence a day.

OLD SONG.

When thou art buying a horse or choosing a wife, says the Tuscan proverb, shut thine eyes; and commend thyself to God.

Cream may be frozen by simply putting it into a glass vessel, and then playing the whole into an old bachelor's bosom.